



# NORTHERN MORAIN WASTEWATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT

113 Timber Trail, Island Lake, Illinois 60042

## REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

December 12, 2023

Present in person: Trustees: Timothy Brunn, John Ragland, Caretina Tellez, Donald Ashley, Ken Michaels  
District Manager: Mohammed Haque; District Clerk: Elisa Fisher; District Attorney Robert Pickrell

Guest Present: Senator Dan McConchie

President Michaels called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

### 1. CALL TO ORDER:

Roll Call: Timothy Brunn – Present  
John Ragland – Present  
Caretina Tellez – Present  
Donald Ashley – Present  
Ken Michaels – Present

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Those present stood and pledged allegiance to the flag.

*At this time, District President Michaels asked the Board if any Trustees objected to skipping to Agenda Item 10D so that Senator Dan McConchie could shed light on the proposed Senate Bill 1099. With no objections, Senator Dan McConchie addressed the board.*

### 10. d. Review and Discuss Senate Bill 1099 sponsored by Senator Dan McConchie

District President Michaels asked Senator Dan McConchie if there was anything that the District could do to improve as the District was named in Senate Bill 1099. The Senator stated that a few years ago the General Assembly introduced a similar bill that changed the way Board members were appointed to the Fox River Water Reclamation District (FRWRD). He stated that at first, he wasn't familiar with the procedures that government entities follow for adding Board members, when they cross multiple county lines. However, he was made aware that the responsibility of the appointments of the board members fall on the members of the General Assembly that overlay those Districts. In this District specifically, there are 5 members. Senator McConchie stated that he spoke to these five General Assembly members, who stated that they do not have any expertise in this field nor do they live within this District. He stated that they are removed from this process. He stated that the process is vague by statute. They receive resumes that are sent by the District for review and the legislators approve the appointments without much knowledge about the persons being appointed. He stated that this should be left to the people that are serviced by the District and the surrounding government agencies. President Michaels asked if the Legislative members are on board with this Bill, and Senator McConchie stated that they haven't expressed any opposition to it. Senator McConchie stated that Senate Bill 1099 follows the same process as the FRWRD. President Michaels discussed how other elected Board members have different benefits and have actual salaries over \$70,000 per Trustee including benefits such as health insurance, pensions and vehicle allowances, etc. In this District the Board members are all doing this as volunteer and get paid the minimum amount allotted, not exceeding \$500 per month. President Michaels emphasized that if the trustees are elected it will cost our taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars to provide benefits to elected trustees because the elector process requires expending vast sums of money just to get elected. Additionally, because of election costs, the board which presently operates in a bipartisan manner for the good of the communities in general will be elected by special interest groups or politicians with personal agendas other than the good of the District and people served. President Michaels also stated this Board serves the District because they have an interest in serving the communities to the best of their abilities.



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Senator McConchie advised the Board that the reason he was attending this meeting was because of numerous complaints. He discussed how these complaints have been brought to the attention of the General Assembly members and himself. The complaints are from area leaders stating that they are having issues with the District. The Senator stated that he was tired of this and so were the members of the General Assembly. He discussed that they are spending a lot of time trying to remedy these issues, when they shouldn't have too. President Michaels responded that the complaints are all generated by one Village president using the District as a scapegoat as his Village has suffered tremendous setbacks in loss of businesses. Meanwhile other Villages in the District are prospering. Lakemoor is booming with commercial development. Also, one irate citizen and his wife, who have had an agenda against the District for over a decade, are churning up the complaints. Senator McConchie stated that he felt ignored when he advised the parties involved to fix this, make peace, and move on as both government entities represent the same people. Senator McConchie stated Representative McLaughlin is ready to propose a corresponding bill in the House. The Senator wants this to be a local issue as so much time is being wasted. Senator McConchie reiterated that he wants the voters to choose the people on the board, President Michaels advised that this wouldn't help the community as some people don't want to invest to run on a Board. Board members discussed the many reasons that this Board was doing well and the many projects that have come in and been completed by the District. Board President again reiterated asking if there was anything else that this Board could do to improve the District. Senator McConchie stated that his door is open for discussion and ideas however, he doesn't have enough time to manage the issues that are happening with the government entities.

*After Senator Dan McConchie's talk, the Board resumed the meeting with Agenda Item 3.*

**3. PUBLIC COMMENTS: None**

**4. PRESENTATION & APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

a. Regular Meeting, November 14, 2023

Motion by Trustee Ragland to approve the Regular Meeting minutes of November 14, 2023, as presented.  
2nd by Trustee Brunn

5 ayes 0 nays 0 absent

**MOTION CARRIED**

**5. TREASURER'S REPORT:**

a. Approval of the Monthly Treasurer's Report for month ending October 31, 2023

The Treasurer's Report was presented by Trustee Tellez.

Motion by Trustee Ragland to approve the Treasurer's Report for the month ending October 31, 2023, as presented.

2nd by Trustee Ashley

Roll Call: Timothy Brunn – Aye  
John Ragland – Aye  
Caretina Tellez – Aye  
Donald Ashley – Aye  
Ken Michaels – Aye

5 ayes 0 nays 0 absent

**MOTION CARRIED**

**6. MANAGER'S REPORT:** District Manager Haque stated that the District's administrative staff was going to have a luncheon and had invited Lakemoor and Island Lake's administrative staff to attend.



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**7. TRUSTEE REPORTS: None**

**8. LEGAL BUSINESS: None**

**9. OLD BUSINESS: None**

**10. NEW BUSINESS:**

a. Approval of 2024 NMWRD Board Meeting Dates

Motion by Trustee Brunn to adopt the Calendar Year 2024 Regular Meeting Schedule for the Northern Moraine Wastewater Reclamation District Board of Trustees.

2nd by Trustee Tellez

Roll Call: Timothy Brunn – Aye  
John Ragland – Aye  
Caretina Tellez – Aye  
Donald Ashley – Aye  
Ken Michaels – Aye

5 ayes 0 nays 0 absent

**MOTION CARRIED**

b. Approval of 2024 Holiday Schedule

Motion by Trustee Brunn to adopt the Calendar Year 2024 Holiday Schedule for the Northern Moraine Wastewater Reclamation District.

2nd by Trustee Ragland

Roll Call: Timothy Brunn – Aye  
John Ragland – Aye  
Caretina Tellez – Aye  
Donald Ashley – Aye  
Ken Michaels – Aye

5 ayes 0 nays 0 absent

**MOTION CARRIED**

c. Approve Ordinance Regarding Paid Leaves of Absences

Motion by Trustee Tellez Approve Ordinance Regarding Paid Leaves of Absence of District Employees.

2nd by Trustee Ragland

Roll Call: Timothy Brunn – Aye  
John Ragland – Aye  
Caretina Tellez – Aye  
Donald Ashley – Aye  
Ken Michaels – Aye

5 ayes 0 nays 0 absent

**MOTION CARRIED**

d. Review and Discuss Senate Bill 1099 sponsored by Senator Dan McConchie

See notes above.

e. Approve and Ratify Holiday Hills Resident Loan Documents

Motion by Trustee Ragland to approve Resolution Approving and Ratifying Documentation for Financing Connection Fees for New System Users in Holiday Hills.



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2nd by Trustee Brunn

Roll Call: Timothy Brunn – Aye  
John Ragland – Aye  
Caretina Tellez – Aye  
Donald Ashley – Aye  
Ken Michaels – Aye

5 ayes 0 nays 0 absent

**MOTION CARRIED**

f. Semi-Annual Review and Approval of the District’s Strategic Plan

Motion by Trustee Tellez to approve Semi-Annual Review and Approval of the District’s Strategic Plan.

2nd by Trustee Ragland

Roll Call: Timothy Brunn – Aye  
John Ragland – Aye  
Caretina Tellez – Aye  
Donald Ashley – Aye  
Ken Michaels – Aye

5 ayes 0 nays 0 absent

**MOTION CARRIED**

g. Approve Pay Request #6 for the Lakemoor Lift Station Upgrades

Motion by Trustee Ragland to approve Pay Request #6 to Boller Construction in the amount of \$116,158.75 for the Lakemoor Lift Station.

2nd by Trustee Tellez

Roll Call: Timothy Brunn – Aye  
John Ragland – Aye  
Caretina Tellez – Aye  
Donald Ashley – Aye  
Ken Michaels – Aye

5 ayes 0 nays 0 absent

**MOTION CARRIED**

**11. MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE:**

a. NMWRD Staff Holiday Party – Dock’s – Wauconda, IL - Friday, December 15, 2023

**12. APPROVAL OF BILLS**

Motion by Trustee Brunn to approve payment of bills for December 12, 2023, as presented, in the amount of \$336,453.37.

2nd by Trustee Tellez

Roll Call: Timothy Brunn – Aye  
John Ragland – Aye  
Caretina Tellez – Aye  
Donald Ashley – Aye  
Ken Michaels – Aye

5 ayes 0 nays 0 absent

**MOTION CARRIED**



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**13. OTHER BUSINESS:**

a. Executive Session

Motion by President Michaels to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel issues and contract updates.  
2nd by Mr. Ragland  
Unanimously approved on a voice vote.

**MOTION CARRIED**

***Regular Session ended at 8:04 pm  
Executive Session began at 8:04 pm  
Executive Session ended at 8:31 pm  
Regular Session reconvened at 8:31 pm***

President Michaels stated that no Board action was taken in the Executive Session concerning the renewal of District Manager Haque's contract and bonuses for Northern Moraine staff.

Motion by President Michaels to approve District Manager's employment contract with the terms and conditions discussed for four years along with defined salary increments.

2nd Trustee Brunn

Roll Call Vote: Timothy Brunn – Aye  
John Ragland – Aye  
Caretina Tellez – Aye  
Donald Ashley – Aye  
Ken Michaels – Aye

5 ayes 0 nay 0 abstain

**MOTION CARRIED**

Motion by President Michaels to approve the bonus for the District Manager at the rate discussed.

2nd by Ms. Tellez

Roll Call: Timothy Brunn – Aye  
John Ragland – Aye  
Caretina Tellez – Aye  
Donald Ashley – Aye  
Ken Michaels – Aye

5 ayes 0 nays 0 absent

**MOTION CARRIED**

Motion by President Michaels to authorize the District Manager to make decisions on end of year performance bonuses for staff up to the amount of \$5000.

2nd by Trustee Brunn

Roll Call: Timothy Brunn – Aye  
John Ragland – Aye  
Caretina Tellez – Aye  
Donald Ashley – Aye  
Ken Michaels – Aye

5 ayes 0 nays 0 absent

**MOTION CARRIED**

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Mr. Ragland to adjourn the meeting at 8:36 p.m.  
Unanimously approved on a voice vote