

Fox River Study Group
December 13, 2018 minutes

In attendance:

Board Members Kyla Jacobsen, Cindy Skrukud, Robert Trueblood, Tom Muth, Mark Phipps, Art Malm, Rob Linke, Megan Andrews

Others Karen Clementi, Karoline Qasem, Keith Powell, Jack Russell, Carl Fischer, Eric Weiss, Megan Miklosic, Deanna Doohaluk, Ken Krueger, Bob Morris

The meeting started at 9:36 am

Everyone introduced themselves.

Minutes of the November 15 meeting were approved unanimously on a motion by Kyla Jacobsen, seconded by Mark Phipps.

Treasurer's Report – Tom Muth reported that at the end of November there was \$131,200.09 in the checking account and \$415,921.00 in the CD.

He requested approval to pay two bills: Geosyntec-\$5728.75, Hoag Communications-\$500. Approval was granted unanimously on a motion by Bob Trueblood, seconded by Kyla Jacobsen.

Karen Clementi will work on an update letter to the Fox River communities to include with invoices for their 2019 contributions. It will include info on the 2018 work that FRSG undertook with IEPA and USEPA to put together the special conditions for NPDES permits and a summary of the ISWS trends report.

Modeling/Monitoring Committee

- ISWS Trends Report final review - The committee had a call with the ISWS regarding the final draft of the trends report. It was also sent to the board for review via email and is currently going through the review process at the ISWS. Cindy asked for any additional comments by Dec. 14. Creating a summary for distribution will be on out to-do list for February.
- QUAL2K model calibration – The Modeling Committee had a call with Geosyntec on the calibration, and Geosyntec is working on addressing the additional information the committee requested which they will complete in early 2019. They are also working on the validation run. Karen Clementi and Karoline Qasem will get together to confirm that Geosyntec has all the data discussed on the call.

Communications Committee

- Bluestem Communications held three focus groups yesterday. They will report back at a training session 12:30 pm today.
- PCBs in Fox River fish - Art Malm and Karen Clementi have done some research that indicates that it may be appropriate to now remove the health warning listing for PCBs

regarding consumption of Fox River fish. Art put together a letter to go to Dr. Shah at the Illinois Dept of Public Health that will get sent out.

- Indian Creek (Aurora) Watershed-Based Plan: Holly Hudson of CMAP is looking for a letter of support for funding from the IEPA for a project to begin in 2019. Kane County and the City of Aurora have sent letters of support. The board agreed to send a letter of support. Mark Phipps noted that Fox Metro has a lot of data on Indian Creek. Karen Clementi will send the Fox Metro data to Holly. Karen commented that there are also mussel and fish data available.

Fox River Summit – The board reviewed an invitation going out to the governors elect from both Wisconsin and Illinois, and everyone approved of FRSG signing on to this letter.

Kane County fairgrounds rain garden - Chris Walton on behalf of the Illinois Section of the American Water Works Association Sourcewater Protection Committee requested FRSG help fund a bioswale to be installed near the Kane County fairgrounds at the Extension, ISAWWA and 4H offices. The total project will be \$10,000, not including volunteer labor. The group discussed whether this work would help achieve the FRIP and serve as a demonstration site. It was decided we support this project, but we are not funding construction projects at this time. We could provide a letter of support and solicit/provide volunteers to help complete the project.

- Adrienne Nemura from Geosyntec passed on a paper *Private provision of public goods by environmental groups* that found that watershed groups resulted in lower dissolved oxygen deficiency and higher proportions of swimmable and fishable water bodies. It shows that groups like ours do in fact impact water quality for the good.

Next meeting & 2019 meeting schedule- We schedule our next meeting for January 24, 9:30 am at Fox Metro. The board agreed that the 4th Thursday of the month will continue being our monthly meeting day, changing to the 3rd Thursday in November and December.

The meeting adjourned at 10:28 am.