

Fox River Study Group
Board of Directors Meeting MINUTES
9:30 AM May 23, 2019
held via conference call

Introductions

Board members: Cindy Skrukrud, Bob Trueblood, Mark Phipps, Tom Muth, Megan Andrews, Eric Weiss

Attendees: Beth Vogt, Jack Russell, Chris Walton, Tim Holdeman, Mike Casper, Dan Langguth, Holly Hudson, Faye Sinnott, Kyla Jacobsen, Laura Marcasciano, Rishab Mahajen, John Stein, Karen Clementi

Minutes

Approval of the April meeting minutes. Motion by Bob, seconded by Mark. Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report – Tom

- Mark and Tom set up CDs per last meeting.
- No bills to pay this month.
- Tom to get a quote for the audit.
- Request for small equipment purchases for monitoring teams for conductivity and pH. Cindy to purchase and request reimbursement. Motion by Bob and second by Tom to purchase up to 5 meters. Motion passed unanimously.
- One Earth Film Fest next year March 9, 2020 -\$100 sponsorship. Motion by Bob and second by Mark. Motion passed unanimously.

Modeling/Monitoring Committee -- Sestonic chlorophyll *a* data discussion

- The committee had discussed that First Environmental Labs (FEL) chlorophyll *a* data are consistently lower than the data from our own testing and IEPA. With investigation we found that First Environmental Labs (FEL) has been using a method to break open the chloroplast that deviates from standard methods. Standard methods is tissue grinder at 500 rpm which FRWRD uses for FRSG monitoring, while FEL uses a metal spoon. IEPA uses ultrasonic grinding. IEPA and FRWRD methods are more similar to each other than the FEL method. To investigate further, FRWRD performed a split sample on May 17 with these results:

Corrected Chlorophyll A:

FRWRD method: 48 mg/m³

First Environmental method: 36 mg/m³

The committee will meet after the board meeting to discuss next steps.

Communications Committee -- RFQ discussion

- Committee call occurred on Friday, May 3 to discuss development of an RFQ. Mark and Karen created a draft RFQ that was sent out to the board members thereafter. Feedback

from the board requested by June 7. Holly suggested choosing a primary firm and secondary firm. The committed requested board approval to finalize and publicize upon completion. Motion by Bob and second by Mark. Motion passed unanimously.

General Updates

- IDNR/Corps dam study -- Cindy has been advocating this with IDNR. Governors capital plan funding is proposed for ecosystem restoration for USACOE-IDNR partnership so that looks hopeful. FRSG has offered to fund remaining local cost-share which we have been told is \$209,000.
- Fox River Flood Commission -- next meeting is June 19, 2019 in Aurora. Mark spoke with Rita Lee at IDNR yesterday -- needs assessment survey is going out right after Memorial Day to municipalities and counties in the watershed. Mark to share with FRSG membership once it is available online.
- Clean Water Infrastructure Needs -- IAWA and Sierra Club working on together to support state funding. Rebuild Illinois (Gov's capital plan) proposal includes some of the items but not all. Specific funding for nutrient capture projects is missing but still working on it; they are seeking to add a Nutrient Loss Reduction Projects Fund for loans and cost-share funding for wastewater facilities and ag BMPs. FRIP has old information on phosphorus removal cost limits of 1.0, 0.5, and 0.1 mg/l. Beth trying to consolidate information for getting funding and a future FRIP update. FRSG will send out a request for information.

Upcoming Events/Other announcements

- FREP noon network on Campton Township regarding Kane County bioreactor
- Love Our River Day Elgin cleanup
- FOF cleanup event in September for the entire river
- Mill Creek watershed planning updates: Possible to use Forest preserve land for saturated buffers demonstration sites, HSPF modeling update and impact of BMPs
- IEPA TMDL on Chain of Lakes meeting was May 14. Comments due mid-June. Another presentation is scheduled by IEPA at September FREP meeting.

Next meeting- June 27, 9:30 a.m. at Fox Metro
Meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.