

**Fox River Study Group
Board of Directors Meeting
Fox Metro Water Reclamation District
July 25, 2019**

Introductions

Board members: Cindy Skrukruud, Bob Trueblood, Mark Phipps, Tom Muth, Eric Weiss, Art Malm, Megan Andrews

Attendees: Matt Bardol, Rishab Mahajan, Jack Russell, Karen Clementi, Holly Hudson, Carl Fischer, Ted Penesis, Leonard Dane, Mike Casper, Bob Morris, Bob VanGyseghem, Megan Miklosik, Chris Walton, Ken Krueger, Trish Beckjord

via phone Faye Sinnott

Minutes

Approval of the June 27, 2019 meeting minutes. Motion by Bob, seconded by Mark. Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report – Tom

Tom reported City of Elgin contribution received. He gave a recap of how FRSG funds are invested. Auditors are getting ready to start so 2018 in-kind time needed by July 15. Karen to help Tom with the two communities that haven't paid their latest invoices. Motion by Bob, second by Megan to pay Invoice \$1,094.00 from of Geosyntec. Passed unanimously.

Tom reported that Fox Metro's south plant went online last week, and BPR is functioning at both North and South plants. Fox Metro will be working out issues during optimization period.

Model update -- Rishab

FRSG and IEPA data only being used for chlorophyll a data as decided at last meeting. Revised dataset is helping DO simulation match reality better than the original data set. Geosyntec will schedule a meeting with modeling subcommittee in August to go over the details of the revised results. There was discussion on the upstream boundary gage results which Clint will report on at August meeting.

Mill Creek watershed plan -- Holly

July 1 draft plan was submitted to IEPA: including HSPF modeling calibration, stream inventory maps, watershed protection measures in process. Meetings with stakeholders to determine site specific BMPs will be soon. Holly reported there is very little data on Mill Cr. They have made recommendation to include Mill Cr. in basin studies. There was discussing on the possibility of the FRSG to include a station at Mill Cr. in their monthly monitoring program. It was discussed to recruit and equip a volunteer with monitoring probes who would need to deliver the samples to one of the sample pickup sites. It was agreed there is capacity in the partner lab for sample analysis. There was also discussion that Macroinvertebrate sampling is needed on the creek.

BMP optimization framework by Geosyntec. It was discussed that the communities within the Mill Cr. watershed that want to use the tool should provide primary funding. This tool can now be used by

other watershed groups which feeds back into the framework of the FRIP so that different groups are doing the same thing. What FRSG should be funding will be part of our long range spending plan discussion.

General Updates

- Communication RFP -Will send to 5 firms this week or next. Becky Hoag to post on website.
- IDNR/Corps dam study- Cindy spoke with Steve Price at USACOE Rock Island this morning. The Corps has finished financial analysis and requested approval to restart the project with the Fox River Report as the priority project. Rock Island staff are meeting with Chicago District staff to reestablish the project team. They may have enough money to fund the project without the \$209,000 FRSG is holding in reserve to cover remaining local cost-share. Cindy will make sure appropriate IDNR staff have the most recent FRSG support letter. Cindy to send various past materials to board to refamiliarize them with where we left off with the study.
- Dam safety fund- Ted Penesis, IDNR Director Office of Community Outreach said IDNR is working with North Aurora and Kane Co Forest Preserve Dist. (Carpenter Dam) on their dam removal plans.
- Fox River Flood Commission- Next meeting is after Labor Day 2019 at Bartlett IDNR office. Ted said the seats now filled. Open to public and anyone is invited. Bob is going to fill a legislative seat. Folks were reminded to fill out the survey.
- FREP- Next meeting is August 14 tour of Stearns Fen in Crystal Lake.
- WEF integrated Planning Guide- Rishab will share.
- ILMA upcoming workshops- Reminder went out in email.

Short-term and Long-term Funding Discussion -- All

A discussion was started on development of a policy for spending that aligns with our longterm plans for the role that the FRSG should play in the study and implementation of projects within the watershed.

- We discussed known upcoming funding needs: Modeling work with Geosyntec; Update to FRIP that is due in 2022; Ongoing communications work and the appropriate annual budget; Additional monitoring work needs; Possible need to help fund Army Corps study; Future modeling updates and efforts
- Dam removal funding -- We discussed whether our contribution should be education and support, as an information source vs. as an actual construction funding source.
- We discussed whether FRSG role is to work on projects that benefit whole watershed vs. certain stakeholders.
- There was discussion on nonpoint source pollution impacts and mechanism for reductions.
- Other potential funding needs:
 - Using biological studies to document improvement? E.g. Carpenter Dam pre and post-construction studies.
 - Partnership with ag groups and drainage district to study and fund farming BMPs for the lower end/ outlying areas of the watershed.

- The Bulletin 70 update has impacts. We discussed impervious area issues and runoff studies on conventional lawn vs. native plantings.
- Chloride levels trends analysis by ISWS. There was discussion on how there are already other groups focussing on the chloride issue who we would want to work with.
- Cindy to email previous budget to group. Art, Mark Bob, Eric, Karen, Cindy are willing to work on this. We will create a doodle poll for a committee of the whole meeting between August 15-Sept. 26

Next meeting at Fox Metro WRD -- Wastewater treatment plant tour and potluck after brief regular meeting on Thursday, August 15 at 9:30 am.

Motion to adjourn at 10:45 a.m. by Bob, second by Rob. Motion passed unanimously.