

**Fox River Study Group
Board of Directors Meeting
Fox Metro Water Reclamation District
June 28, 2018**

In attendance: Art Malm, Cindy Skrukud, Bob Trueblood, Megan Andrews, Mark Phipps, Rob Linke, Byron Ritchason, Tom Muth, Kyla Jacobsen

Guests: Jack Russell, Karen Clementi, Amy Underwood, Beth Vogt, Robert Yoder, Deanna Doohaluk, Holly Hudson, Chris Walton, Mike Ott, Ken Krueger, Rishab Mahajan, Jillian Kiss, Bob Morris, Matt Bardol, Clint Bailey

Meeting called to order at 9:36 am. Everyone present introduced themselves.

May 24, 2018 Minutes - Motion to approve by Bob Trueblood, seconded by Mark Phipps. Approved unanimously

Treasurer's Report – Tom Muth

- Financial report – money is now in 2 different banks. Total in the bank is \$599,394.13 as of the end of May.
- Bills to pay-
 - ▪ DEI for May \$1,417.50
 - ▪ Geosyntec for April (\$12,766.25) and May (\$6,647.10)
 - ▪ ISWS: \$4137
 - Bob suggested that prior to further “presentations” by Geosyntec (which we have to pay for), they should get approval. A motion to approve Geosyntec, Deuchler and ISWS was made by Bob, Seconded by Art and approved unanimously
- 2017 audit/In-Kind Services reminder - working with auditor on a date. Probably in July. Cindy will compile the in-kind information and get that to Tom.

WWTP data gathering update- Karen Clementi – A lot more data has come in and is being processed by Bob Morris and new volunteers from the Sierra Club. Thanks to Batavia, McHenry, IL American (Terra Cotta and River Grange) for providing their data. Gilberts data is forthcoming. Cindy has two new Sierra Club volunteers. Art indicated that FOFR has a volunteer that might be available for data input, if there is a need.

Modeling work- Rishab Mahajan, Geosyntec

Update

1. Tasked with update to the HSPF model to simulate 2011 - 2016. Completed all the hydrology modeling for the subwatersheds. Received all the supporting files from the ISWS
2. Currently does not contain the point sources. This will be added once the processing is complete.
3. BlackBerry Creek watershed was presented. 28 subwatersheds are part of that. The model does capture the variations in daily flow data.
4. Tyler Creek watershed was also presented. 20 subwatersheds are part of it. The model underestimates the flow (only 30% correlation).
5. Identified the various watersheds that have measured USGS gauges. Poplar, Mill, BlackBerry, Tyler and how the model predicts the actual flow.
6. We discussed why the HSPF model underestimates flow in general. The land use data is from 2003 so newly developed land is not reflected in the model and point source flows have not yet been added in.

7. Next steps – Geosyntec will update HSPF model for water quality once the rest of the data is received. They will develop a time series of flow and loads in the main stem and future (prior to initiation scenarios) to evaluate sensitivity of QUAL2K model to uncertainties in HSPF simulation of flow and water quality. This will create an integrated modeling framework.
8. Rishab submitted an updated project schedule which was distributed prior to the meeting. Mark asked if Geosyntec will be able to use the ISWS trend analysis. Rishab said yes and he has already received some initial data from ISWS.

Request

1. Move post-processor development from scenario phase to initial phase - request to move funds from the loading scenarios up to the initial phase. \$6K. Same amount of expenditure. Just moving from Task 4 to Task 1.
2. Additional funding for monthly updates

Mark asked about the time sensitivity of the request as the Modeling Subcommittee has not had a chance to meet to discuss yet. Rishab stated that it would be ok to delay until the group meets. Bob made a motion to table the request until a meeting of the subcommittee and a recommendation to the board. Mark seconded the motion. Passed unanimously.

Modeling Committee Recommendations –

This is an update on these two efforts that were discussed at the committee's meeting held after the board meeting May 24.

- USGS probe at Stratton Dam – The committee is working on this project with the USGS. Clint has talked to IDNR and received their permission for us to install a sensor upstream of the dam in order to assess upstream boundary conditions for our study area. Continuous data could be collected for DO, chlorophyll, pH, T, turbidity and conductivity. They will also conduct discrete sampling, including chlorophyll, ammonia, nitrate, nitrite, TN, TP, orthophosphate. The subcommittee meeting will meet with Clint right after this meeting to finalize what should be in the proposal. IDNR should move quickly on permitting. The subcommittee feels that having the upstream boundary condition data would be useful for the model. The upstream location allows for more efficient communication and is in a secured area less likely to interfere with boat and fisherman traffic.
- Cindy said she could sample upstream and downstream on east bank at Stratton dam on July 17 as part of the FRSG monthly sampling as the Chapel Hill bridge is closed. Then we can decide if we want to continue into the future, if the data is useful.
- Update of HSPF model for use in development of Mill Creek Watershed-based plan, Holly Hudson of CMAP requested FRSG funding of \$12,200 for this project. CMAP will contribute \$20,300 to the effort. Outcomes of this effort would provide more information for other subwatershed groups to follow in their subwatershed work. It was discussed that FRSG has been supported by funding by the communities that will benefit from this work, and the update of the model will assist in the FRSG mission. A BMP optimization tool will be created that can be used by other subwatershed groups. Rob made a motion to provide the \$12,200 in support of the Mill Creek watershed group plan being developed by CMAP. Art seconded the motion. Passed unanimously.

Fox River major plants' special conditions from USEPA and IEPA - These draft conditions are proposed to be in permits for major dischargers into the Fox River. Changes discussed at the last meeting were shared with IEPA. Special Conditions 1-7 were accepted. For Special Condition 8: there were some changes proposed to try to standardize language among all the major dischargers. Language substituted in on determining economic impacts was proposed by the IAWA and USEPA and IEPA are on board with the language. Beth questioned Special Condition 6 and the statement about the recommendation from the Nutrient Science Advisory Committee (because their recommendations have to be approved by the

IPCB). That should be struck. Cindy will take that back to Al Keller with the acceptance of the language for Special Condition 8.

Army Corps Fox River Habitat & Connectivity Study update- We have not received a response to our May 15 letter to IDNR offering to fund the completion of the study. The next meeting between IDNR and the Corps is scheduled July 7. Cindy will check in with both agencies after that.

ISWS Water Quality Trends Report update- Cindy reported they will provide draft report in July. Laura Keefer will be present their finding at the FREP meeting on September 12 at 1 p.m at Algonquin Village Hall. Cindy ask the ISWS to come discuss the report with the board at our August meeting.

Communications Committee Recommendations for listening sessions- Based on the committee's June 4 call, Karen put together an updated plan of work to discuss with BlueStem Communications. We wanted the scope retailored to better meet our needs at this time. The committee suggests we ask BlueStem for their help developing presentation materials and talking points for use at 3 listening sessions and to facilitate the listening sessions. We would ask them to help create FAQs for our website after the listening sessions which would be held in the fall and winter. The next step will be to get BlueStem to send us an updated scope of work. American Rivers recommends positive communication early and often. Rob said the issues people will want to know about access to the river, flat bottom boating, property values, etc. Deanna Doohaluk said she talked to others from has around the country to learn what they have learned from their public meetings/listening sessions. She has a good video about the York Dam removal in Ohio. She will share her notes.

Next meeting dates-

- July 26 meeting is cancelled as many members of the board aren't available. The board will make any needed decisions electronically.
- August 23 will be the next meeting. Cindy will ask ISWS to attend to discuss their draft trends report.
- October 25 will be the annual meeting in Batavia. ISWS and Geosyntec will report.

Announcements

Rob announced that Ken Anderson is leaving Kane County after 29 years and is going to Kane County Forest Preserve District. Rob reported that he and Ken have heard from KCFPD that they are moving ahead on the engineering on the Carpenter Dam removal. Rob said Ken is likely to be in charge of this project in his new role.

Adjourned on a motion by Mark, seconded by Bob. Passed unanimously.