

Draft Minutes
Fox River Study Group
Board of Directors Meeting via Conference Call
9:30 AM April 28, 2022

In Attendance:

Board Members: Cindy Skrukud, Sierra Club; Alyse Olson, FREP; Art Malm, Friends of the Fox River; Rob Linke, Kane County; Beth Vogt, FRWRD; Brian Witkowski, City of Aurora

Others: Amanda Eness, EEI; Anna Kootstra, Village of Wauconda; Atticus Zavelle, ISWS; Carl Fischer, Baxter & Woodman; Carrie Carter, Fehr Graham; Cody Sheriff, City of McHenry, csheriff@cityofmchenry.org; Cyrus McMains, YBSD; Dan Langguth, City of Crystal Lake; Daniel Dorion, Illinois American Water Co. daniel.dorion@amwater.com; Holly Hudson, CMAP; Jack Russell, FRWRD; Jessica Mino, The Conservation Foundation; Joanna Colletti, McHenry County P&D; Josie Woger, Fox Metro WRD; Karoline Qasem, Geosyntec; Kelsey Pudlock, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning; Logan Gilbertsen (HR Green); Mark Phipps (HR Green); Mike Bruno (City of Geneva); Mike Casper, Village of Barrington; Nosheen Majeed, Manitou Creek Watershed, nosheenm0126@gmail.com; Phil Cotter, Village of East Dundee; Zac Bonesz, City of Batavia

All in attendance introduced themselves.

Brian Witkowski was welcomed as the new Board member representing the City of Aurora. Brian indicated he has extensive experience in municipal stormwater issues.

Minutes - Motion by Beth, second by Rob to approve minutes of March 24, 2022 Board Meeting. Motion approved.

Treasurer's Report – In Tom's absence Cindy presented a summary of the financial report. Currently we have \$18,460.24 in our account at Harris Bank and \$537,000 in CDs at Old Second National Bank.

Motion by Rob, second by Beth to pay the Geosyntec invoice in the amounts of \$15,369.70 for work on FRIP development and the fecal coliform investigation. Motion approved unanimously.

Presentation – Kelsey Pudlock, Associate Planner for CMAP presented as summary of the "Fox River Corridor Plan from Johnsbury to Burtons Bridge".

Kelsey discussed areas covered by the plan as economic development, natural resources, collaboration, education and engagement, recreation, and transportation and connectivity goals of the plan as well as the plan's key goals. The importance of collaboration and education was stressed, especially in the bi-state efforts to address riverine flooding and sedimentation. Runoff control, WWTP modernization and concerns about septic tank discharges in unsewered communities were also concerns. Kelsey indicated there was interest in expanding the northern boundary of the FRSG to include the entirety of this corridor.

The full CMAP plan can be viewed at <https://www.cmap.illinois.gov/programs/lta/fox-river-mchenry>. Kelsey slides will be made available on the FRSG website. She can be reached at kpudlock@cmap.illinois.gov (312-386-8631).

Chair's Report

2021 In-Kind Time for Audit – Cindy reminded all that the 2021 in-kind contributions will be needed to complete our reports to the IRS and IL Attorney General's office. Those who have not submitted their in-kind contributions should do so.

2022 Appointments to the Board – Cindy requested Board members who have yet to submit their letters of reappointment to the Board by member organizations please do so.

2021 Annual IEPA report was sent March 25 to our NPDES Permit holders with instruction on how to forward the report to IEPA. A link to our 2021 IEPA Annual report is posted on our website at <https://www.foxriverstudygroup.org> under Resources/Annual Reports.

Cindy reached out but has yet to receive an update from the IDNR or USACE on the 519 Fox River Connectivity and habitat study. It is hoped the study will be in the Corps' 2022 work plan now that it is funded. Art requested someone be invited from the USACE to discuss what actions, studies etc we can anticipate in the completion of this report.

Modelling Committee Report

Holly Hudson provided an update of the Indian Creek watershed plan. Mapping and detention basin evaluations are being completed. The development of the public information and engagement parts of the program are ongoing, focusing on BMP opportunities and their mapping. The HSPF modelling team for Geosyntec is finishing up its work and is preparing its report. The final draft plan is anticipated to be delivered in June.

Karoline Qasem briefly reviewed the status of draft chapters and appendices for FRIP 2022 which have been submitted to the Modelling Committee for review. Cindy expressed an interest in having those materials available for Board review prior to our May meeting.

Beth indicated we have not seen phosphorous performance data from several of our valley's WWTFs, but added that FRWRD's plants are currently achieving effluent P levels less than 0.5 mg/l. Cindy will reach out to encourage plants that have not reported to do so.

In response to Holly's question Kelsey stated there was interest expressed by McHenry but not Johnsburg to consider an association with the FRSG. Cindy advised the Northern Moraine Water Reclamation District (incorrectly listed as Moraine Hills WRD on some FRSG documents) has collaborated with FRSG for nearly 20 years providing water quality and sampling data during that time.

Cindy indicated the Fox Waterway Agency has been advertising for a project manager for their watershed planning activities but the window for applications has closed.

Upcoming events/other updates

- FREP will be hosting an educational program on Wednesday, May, 11th at 1 pm at the Geneva Public Library. The program will be *Regional Climate Action Plan & Local Communities*. Edith Makra of the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus, Batavia Alderwoman Abby Beck and Geneva Mayor Ken Burns will be presenting. For more info please visit: <https://foxriverecosystem.org/fox/meetings-news>
- Environmental Defenders of McHenry County is hosting a series of monthly Fridays Best Management Practices Talks & Tours. To register for the May 13 event-*Energy Savings During the Illinois Solar Revolution* and be added to the email list for this series, please

fill out the form at <https://forms.gle/v76WMZGGvitXKmcy5> You will also find a link there to the schedule of all the Talks and Tours in this series.

- The 2022 FRSG meeting schedule remains the 4th Thurs for the months of Jan-Sept and the 3rd Thursdays for the months of Oct-Dec.

Our next regular meeting will be Thurs. May 26, 9:30 am. It is hoped the June meeting can be in hybrid format. Rob suggested the May meeting serve as a “test run” for hybridization.

Submitted by
Art Malm, Assistant Secretary
May 17,2022

Upcoming events/other updates?

- FREP Noon Network on Wednesday, April 13th from noon to 1:30pm. Gary Cuneen of Seven Generations Ahead will be sharing what was accomplished at the 2021 COP26 climate summit. For more info and to register please visit: <https://foxriverecosystem.org/fox/meetings-news>
 - Environmental Defenders of McHenry County is hosting a series of monthly Fridays Best Management Practices Talks & Tours. See <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1uNw9aNZSvq5uvbMcTGkdMhBZ5T03itInxPW7QudlFSY/edit?usp=sharing> for schedule and link to register for the April 8 kickoff event that will be the first monthly event in the program that will extend through the end of the year. The primary target audience for the series is facility managers, school districts and municipalities who will benefit from the lessons learned in the application and results of actual projects. Holly will include announcements of these events in the CMAP newsletters
- The 2022 FRSG meeting schedule: 4th Thurs Jan-Sept, 3rd Thurs Oct-Dec

Our next regular meeting will be Thursday, April 28, 9:30 am.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 AM.