

**Fox River Study Group**  
**Board of Directors Meeting via Conference Call**  
**Thursday, February 27, 2025**  
**9:30 a.m.**

**Start:** The meeting began at 9:30 am with self-introductions.

**Attendance:**

**Board Members:**

Rob Linke, Kane County  
Cindy Skrukrud, Sierra Club  
Karen Clementi, Fox Metro WRD  
Art Malm, Friends of the Fox River  
Tim Wilson, Tri-Cities  
Brian Witkowski, City of Aurora  
Eric Johnson FRWARD  
Alyse Olson, FREP  
Debra Ness, City of Elgin

**Others:**

Leonard Dane, Hey and Associates  
Humberto Reyes, Village of Wauconda  
Andrea Pracht, HR Green  
Holly Hudson, CMAP  
Bob VanGyseghem, City of Geneva  
Jenny Murphy, USGS  
Lindsay Muth, TAI  
Steven Polaskey, FMWRD  
Naren Patel, Fehr Graham  
Emily Conti, EEI  
Mike Warner, Gewalt Hamilton, representing Grant, Avon, Fremont, Antioch and Ela Townships; also representing Hainesville, Lake Barrington, Fox Lake, (Lake County)  
Christine Davis, Illinois EPA (will have to depart at 10:00)  
Mark Bowman, Village of Barrington  
Mike Hogan, Geosyntec Consultants  
Joanna Colletti, GRAEF  
Kat Gerds KDSWCD

**Approval of Minutes - None**

### **Treasurer's Report –**

Karen provided the February financial report:

Old Second National Bank \$452,853.94

BMO Harris checking \$1,275.17

BMO Harris savings \$248,625.52

Karen reported two bills to pay for February:

- FRWRD for USGS Sonde Reimbursement: \$6,950.00
- Hoag Communications for 2025 website updates: \$400.00

Motion by Brian to approve the February Treasurers report and to pay the bills to FRWRD & Hoag Communication. Second: Tim

Vote: Unanimous – Aye; 0 - Nays; Motion Carried

Rob requested a \$100 sponsorship for the Fox River Summit

- The group determined there was no need to vote, the expense was approved prior.

Letter to Supporters

- Karen provided an update; the letter is complete and was reviewed by the board. It will be mailed with annual invoices.

### **Finance Committee**

- Karen provided a quick update on the FRSG 10-year Financial Plan based on anticipated project & program expenses for 2025-2035. Rob asked the board to review the plan in preparation for the next board meeting.

### **NPDES FRSG Special Condition Committee**

- Correspondence with IEPA – Karen and Cindy provided an update, a couple draft permits have been sent out, the FRSG also received draft language from the IEPA. The IAWA is working on some additional items. It is expected that the Fox and DuPage permits will be coming out at the same time.
- IEPA Annual Update letter for 2024: Karen and Cindy provided an update; the report is due on March 31. The draft is being worked on and the board was reminded to watch their email for a draft.

### **Modeling/Monitoring Committee – Rob, Karen**

- ISWS next proposal for water quality reporting and trends analysis - Cindy provided an update on timing of the ISWS plan. The FRSG team should receive a proposal by April from the ISWS team. The goal is to discuss it at the next Committee of the Whole meeting and have the contract start in the middle of July.
- FRSG Carpenter Dam WQ Proposals recommendation for award to Hey & Associates - Rob provided a recap with the intent of the project, including collecting field data so it can be used for the model. This will help improve accuracy and with predictions on the model. The committee is making the recommendation based on the submittals to award the contract to Hey & Associates.

Motion by Eric to approve a contract to Hey and Associates, second by Art

Vote: Unanimous – Aye; 0- Nays; Motion Carried.

### **Microbial Source Tracking Pilot Project**

- Rob provided an update and is working with the City Aurora, IEPA, this is a project to help find the source of E coli impairment in Indian Creek to help resolve that issue.

### **604 NOFO date**

- Christine Davis provided information regarding the 604 NOFO date; one has not been set yet. Christine is guessing it will be another 60 days prior to publishing and another 60 days for an application deadline.

### **Communications Committee**

- FRSG Lunch & Learn Topics- Cindy provided an update on the USGS recent presentation. Cindy is planning on requesting the USGS to provide a presentation including dates. Jenny Murphy and Cindy provided some additional lunch & learn topics ideas.
- INLRS updates from FRSG- Cindy provided an update on the biannual report, Cindy provided some information to this study including the work of the FRSG.

## Chair's Report

- Cloud Storage alternative to Google Drive- Rob is looking for a better option to share information and documents.

## Upcoming events/other updates

- Rob & Cindy provided an update on the following events:
- Fox River Summit (hybrid) Thurs, March 13
  - Illinois Lakes Management Association Annual Conference; Mar 18-19
  - Third annual Midwest Beaver Summit (hybrid) Thurs, June 5

Kat provided some information about a midwestern watershed event.

Alyse Olson provided information on the Kendall County SWCD; they are hosting a couple of in-person workshops in March. One is "Integrating Cover Crops into Your Crop Rotation" (March 6, 5pm, Yorkville Library). The other is "The Solution is in the Land: The Need for Regenerative Agriculture" (March 20, 5pm, Yorkville Library). More info at: <https://kendallswcd.org/kswcd/>

Art provided update on Friends of the Fox – they are sponsoring a paddling event on June 22<sup>nd</sup>. For more information please visit the Friends of the Fox website.

Joanna Colletti provided information on the USACE WOTUS Update w Erich Ceisel scheduled to take place on Wednesday, March 12, 2025 @ 8:00 a.m. at the DoubleTree in Arlington Heights.

Cindy provided a link

<https://sandcountyfoundation.org/our-work/outreach---education/leadership-for-midwestern-watersheds>

Additional Links to videos/slides of past events- (find most in our [FRSG videos folder](#))

- FRSG Lunch & Learn Sessions
  - Dr. Andrew Margenot - April 18, 2024 presentation on his UIUC lab work on streambank erosion and historic soil resampling effort (see also factsheet on Centennial soil project in the folder) [Sheet for listing potential streambank erosion sites](#)
  - ISWS Trends Report- presented by Elias Getahun and Atticus Zavelle, [Link to Trends Report folder](#) Feb. 29, 2024

- Great Lakes to Gulf Observatory Nov. 30, 2023 webinar presented by Laura Kammin and Jong Sung Lee is available at [https://lewisclark.zoom.us/rec/share/JmJV\\_4gPWLxFFc2UtcSqjMo5Up6p6f9egCTfLnI0MOzUn2hOmaSsTR2MlfiBi3Ws.2Ygo-7xWakkYcbYg.](https://lewisclark.zoom.us/rec/share/JmJV_4gPWLxFFc2UtcSqjMo5Up6p6f9egCTfLnI0MOzUn2hOmaSsTR2MlfiBi3Ws.2Ygo-7xWakkYcbYg.)  
Passcode: 89S=e#f7
- April 10 – FREP Noon Network – Fishes of the Fox River presented by Tristan Widloe, IDNR’s Region 2 Streams Biologist. Slides available at: <https://foxriverecosystem.org/fox/presentations>
- 2024 Midwest Beaver Summit videos:  
<https://www.illinoisbeaveralliance.org/2024-midwest-beaver-summit>
- Mohammed Haque & Bartlett Durand May 23, 2024 presentation: [“Developing a Nutrient Trading Pilot Program in the Fox River Watershed”](#)
- March 2024 Fox River Summit [See agenda here.](#) Videos are at Southeast Fox River Partnership YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/@benlikesjazz>; videos of 2023 Summit are also found here. Videos and slides from prior years can be found at <https://www.southeastfoxriver.org/foxriversummit>
- “Total Maximum Daily Loads for Total Phosphorus and Total Suspended Solids in the Fox Illinois River Basin” (FOXIL TMDL). Project website: <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/TMDLs/FOXIL> Includes Project Update Webinar- Sept 25, 2024, Informational Webinar - Oct. 31, 2023 & Project Introduction Webinar - Feb. 15, 2023
- [McHenry County 2024 Water Forum YouTube](#)

**Next regular meeting:** March 27 at 9:30 a.m. virtual

**END:** Karen moved, and Brian seconded the meeting to be adjourned. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 10:17 am.