

**Fox River Study Group**  
**Board of Directors Meeting via Conference Call**  
**9:30 AM July 28, 2022**

**In Attendance:**

Board Members: Cindy Skrukrud, Beth Vogt, Tom Muth, Tim Wilson, Art Malm, Brian Witkowski, Rob Linke, Alyse Olson and Eric Weiss

Others: Thomas Hall, Village of Algonquin, Tom Slawski, Southeastern WI Regional Planning Commission, Josie Woger, Fox Metro WRD, Carl Fischer, Baxter & Woodman, Anna Kootstra, Village of Wauconda, Bartlett Durand, Sand County Foundation (working with Northern Moraine WRD), Zac Bonesz, City of Batavia, Leonard Dane, Fehr Graham, Jack Russell, FRWRD, Clint Bailey, USGS, Gabriel Powers, McHenry County Conservation District, Karen Clementi, Fox Metro WRD, Jeff Freeman, EEI, John Stein, Village of Cary, Phil Cotter, Village of East Dundee, Emily Conti, EEI (econti@eeiweb.com), Cyrus McMains, YBSD, Lindsay Muth, Trotter and Associates, Inc., Holly Hudson, CMAP, Bob Morris, Tamara Mueller, Lake in the Hills Sanitary District, Mike Ott, Strand Associates, Inc., Greg Chismark, WBK Engineering LLC

Everyone introduced themselves.

**Minutes** - Motion by Tom, second by Art to approve minutes of June 23, 2022 Board Meeting. Motion approved unanimously.

Cindy reminded Eric to provide updates of minutes to Becky for upload to the FRSG website.

**Treasurer's Report** - Tom presented the financial report. As of May 31, we have \$31,586.74 in our checking account at Harris Bank, \$49,611.21 in our savings account and \$537,026.63 in the CD at Old Second Bank. The old checking account at Harris Bank had \$18,765.74 that was closed and transferred to the new checking account. Tom shared that FRSG received the Aurora contributions.

Motion by Eric, second by Rob to pay a bill to Geosyntec in the amounts of \$14,053.98 and a bill to IDNR in the amount of \$70,000. Motion approved unanimously.

Tom shared that the audit is proceeding, and reminded everyone that In-Kind Donation information needs to be submitted as soon as possible. Cindy asked that it be submitted to the FRSG email address, and reminded all that their time was eligible for this.

Tom asked the Board to consider adding Brian Witkowski as a signatory on the FRSG accounts at Harris and Old Second Bank. Art asked how Brian felt about this and he was surprised but willing. Motion by Eric, second by Tim to approve Brian as additional signatory on accounts at both Harris and Old Second Bank. Abstain by Brian and all others voted aye. Motion approved.

**Chair's Report**

Recap of July 20 519 Study coordination meeting with IDNR and USACE staff – Cindy shared that the USACE provided the schedule and action items:

- Draft Report for Public Review by February 2023

- Engage with community staff prior to February 2023

- FRSG has offered to assist in planning the meetings, and has been providing contacts

- USACE expedited completion of Final Plan to end of 2023 for internal USACE review

- Bridget Bently will set up a Communications/Public Outreach planning call

- USACE will provide quarterly expected billings

- Rob offered to provide information from the FRSG from 2015 pause

Scoping Letter responses are due by August 23<sup>rd</sup>  
USACE is interested in FRSG water quality information

Cindy shared the questions that are intended to be discussed in the August 3<sup>rd</sup> public outreach planning meeting.

- What outreach has occurred from 2015 to the present?
- What message are the FRSG and members currently sharing?
- How many public outreach meetings are needed? One overall? North and South?
- When do we need buy-in from communities for the final report?

Cindy then opened it up for discussion:

Brian shared that more than 1 public outreach meeting is necessary

Art shared that he expected at least 3 meetings (Algonquin, North, and South)

Eric asked why there wouldn't be a public outreach meeting in every community where dams were considered to be removed.

Brian suggested possibly a radius of travel rather than every town

Beth asked how complete the study will be when they schedule meetings with staff.

Holly suggested that less meetings will support the overall picture rather than individual dam removal impacts.

Art asked about how ownership of the individual dams impacts the public outreach strategy.

Cindy shared that the August 3<sup>rd</sup> meetings and monthly progress meetings could be attended by the communications committee, and also suggested that we may want to consider Aileron participating.

Eric asked when the community staff meetings would be scheduled, since the condensed schedule will create the need for a lot of work, he would like to attend all of the meetings. And expressed specific concerns. Cindy responded that any of the FRSG Board members could attend the meetings, and she further recommended to provide concerns in the response to the scoping letters.

Beth and Brian both supported the concept of Aileron attending the Aug. 3 Public Outreach planning meeting. Motion by Beth, seconded by Brian, motion passed unanimously.

At this time the meeting agenda was revised to discuss Modeling Committee items for Rishab. Once the Modeling Committee reports were completed, we returned to Chair Reports.

Cindy shared the Illinois River Study Group had a first meeting on July 19<sup>th</sup>, and had asked for other groups to provide information on their groups. Cindy had attended and provided information on the FRSG. Cindy asked if anyone would like to volunteer to be the liaison of the FRSG to this newly formed group? No one responded immediately.

Cindy shared that Ottawa is proposing a WWTP discharge downstream of the Dayton Dam, and they have been directed to coordinate with the Fox River Study Group.

### **Modeling Committee**

2022 FRIP Update – Rishab shared about the FRIP Workshop discussions. They will provide a more detailed outline and write Chapters 4 & 5 in the next month. They are also incorporating comments from the workshop into Chapters 1-3 and Appendix D. Next will be further stakeholder engagement.

The preproposal for studying HABs on the Fox River – Rishab shared that it did not make the funding selection with the USACE. Rishab will work with Dave to look into alternative funding sources. Possibly the Kane County Riverboat Fund.

Indian Creek Fecal Coliform preproposal – Rishab shared that he is working on the preproposal. Since microbial study is now included in the watershed based plan it is now eligible for 319 funding. Rishab will share the preproposal with Karen and Rob.

Indian Creek Watershed Based Plan – Holly shared that the draft plan was submitted to the IEPA on June 30<sup>th</sup>. The BMPs portion was not completed yet, and the Final Plan is scheduled to be completed by August 31<sup>st</sup>. The engagement site has an August 1<sup>st</sup> closing date, and there are not very many site specific BMPs yet. Holly encouraged all stakeholders to engage with this before it closes.

Cindy requested WWTP Phosphorus reduction data and a reminder of this Request for phosphorus removal status from WWTPs. Please [fill out this form](#) with info for your WWTP. Here is a [spreadsheet example](#) from FRWRD staff on how to calculate the annual geometric mean of total phosphorus.

### Upcoming events and other updates

- Environmental Defenders of McHenry County and the McHenry County Department of Planning and Development are hosting a series of monthly Fridays Best Management Practices Talks & Tours. To register for the Aug. 5 event-*Rain Gardens that Work* and be added to the email list for this series, please fill out the form at <https://forms.gle/XYWLS9GxBYheY6yU6> You will also find a link there to the schedule of all the Talks and Tours in this series and videos of past sessions.
- Geosyntec invites you to a 11 am, Tuesday August 9 webinar titled “Asset Management and Reporting Strategies for Stormwater Control Measures.” The 1-hour webinar will feature two technical presentations and is free of cost. Our training department will provide professional development hours (PDHs) for all attendees. More info and registration at <https://www.geosyntec.com/webinars>
- FREP will be hosting a Noon Network on Wednesday, August 10th from noon-1:30pm at the Urban Stream Research Center at Blackwell Forest Preserve on the north side of Butterfield Road in Warrenville. Joe Limpers and Jim Intihar will lead attendees on a tour of the Urban Stream Research Center and will share about the Forest Preserve District's aquatic conservation programs. More information can be found at: <https://foxriverecosystem.org/fox/meetings-news> Alyse shared that those interested in the FREP noon network, can RSVP to Becky at the following email address: [info@foxriverecosystem.org](mailto:info@foxriverecosystem.org)
- Join Friends of the Fox River on September 17, 2022 for the largest watershed-wide celebration of the year, It's Our Fox River Day. This year we are anticipating over 100 events along 200 river miles involving over 1000 participants. Make sure your community is part of this unique experience. Friends of the Fox River (FOTFR) is here to assist you in your event's development, promotion, recruiting, implementation and recognition. To learn more, visit: [friendsofthefoxriver.org/its-our-fox-river-day/](https://friendsofthefoxriver.org/its-our-fox-river-day/) and more materials in this [IOFRD 2022 folder](#). Art shared this is always the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday in September..
- Art shared the Friends of the Fox River was hosting a “No Clean Water No Good Beer” event on Aug 8<sup>th</sup> at Bandito Barneys in East Dundee, and pointed people to the website for tickets.
- Cindy shared Farm Bill webinar right link: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1GIKiPTDF03uuyf7VIMaUDt5rfyQGoCNg/view?usp=sharing>
- Leonard Dane shared about the Northern Illinois Conservation Club Events on Aug. 17<sup>th</sup> and Sept 21<sup>st</sup>.

2022 meeting schedule: 4<sup>th</sup> Thurs Jan-Sept, 3<sup>rd</sup> Thurs Oct-Dec

**Next meetings** – The next regularly scheduled meeting will be Thursday, August 25th, 2022, at 9:30 AM and will be held virtually.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:08 AM.