

**Fox River Study Group
Board of Directors Meeting via Conference Call
9:30 AM March 24, 2022**

In Attendance:

Board Members: Cindy Skrukrud, Sierra Club; Tom Muth, Fox Metro WRD; Alyse Olson, FREP; Art Malm, Friends of the Fox River; Tim Wilson, Tri-city ; Rob Linke, Kane County; Beth Vogt, FRWRD

Others:

Karen Clementi, Fox Metro WRD; Amanda Eness, aness@eeiweb.com; Tom Hall, Village of Algonquin; Mike Ott, Strand; Carl Fischer, Baxter & Woodman; Anna Kootstra, Village of Wauconda; Daniel Dorion, Illinois American Water Co.; Mike Casper, Village of Barrington Leonard Dane, Fehr Graham; Karolina Cho, Gewalt Hamilton Associates; Zac Bonesz, City of Batavia; Mark Phipps, HR Green; Atticus Zavelle, ISWS; Jack Russell, FRWRD; Holly Hudson, CMAP; Jason Bauer, City of Aurora; Jenny Murphy, USGS; Karoline Qasem, Geosyntec; Clint Bailey, USGS; Jessica Mino, The Conservation Foundation; Dennis Dreher, Geosyntec; Bob Morris; Faye Sinnott; Bob Trueblood, FRWRD

Everyone introduced themselves.

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

Treasurer's Report - Tom presented the financial report. As of March 23, 2022 we have \$51,620.65, in our account at Harris Bank and \$536,847.17 in the CD at Old Second National Bank.

Motion by Tim, second by Art to pay four bills (covering two months) to Geosyntec in the amounts of \$3,997.75, \$7,674.40, \$957.75 and \$18,657.10 for work on FRIP development and the fecal coliform investigation. Motion approved unanimously.

Tom thanked Algonquin, Plano, Batavia, Wauconda, Yorkville, FRWRD, Elburn, St. Charles, and the Yorkville Sanitary District, for contributions paid to date.

Chair's Report

2021 In-Kind Time for Audit – Cindy reminded all that the 2021 in-kind contributions will be needed from those who have not submitted them for the audit.

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

A motion was made by Art and seconded by Tom to authorize Cindy to execute the Grant Agreement with the City of Elgin for its continued support of the Fox River Study Group. The motion was approved.

The annual FRSG report to the IEPA is currently being finalized, with special thanks given to Karen Clementi for her work on this document. Copies of the completed report will be transmitted with

forwarding instructions to all NPDES discharge permit holders who have this report as part of their permit obligations. The final version of this report will be posted to the FRSG website.

Cindy advised that in a press release Senators Durbin and Duckworth announced the USACE 519 Fox River Connectivity & Habitat Study has been funded (\$250,000) and included in the omnibus budget bill passed by Congress for signature by President Biden. Cindy gave thanks to all who sent letters requesting this work be authorized, and will contact the Rock Island Corps' office for scheduling and other information.

The Fox River Summit was reported as a success. Cindy will advise when the presentation slide decks are posted to the Summit website.

Monitoring Committee – Karen introduced Atticus Zavelle of the ISWS who shared that the water quality database has been updated and QA/QC'd without significant problems. This version will include large updates from the IEPA and USGS. Elias at the ISWS is currently working with the data at this time. Information from the Tyler Creek and Phearnson/Otter Creek subwatersheds still had to be submitted. Art will get that information directly to Atticus, who indicated spreadsheet data can still be incorporated into the updated database. Links to the newly updated database will be provided when available.

Karen requested an updated schedule for the Carpentersville dam removal so that the mussel research by the INHS can be coordinated. Rob indicated he will be following this closely as Ken Anderson, who has been overseen this work for the KCFPD, has announced his resignation effective the end of this month. Currently August/September 2022 is the optimistic start date.

Rob requested the mussel data from the Carpentersville dam pre-removal study be shared by the INHS. Art indicated there was significant potential for volunteer efforts to help relocate mussels subject to desiccation as the dam pool is drained.

Clint Bailey of USGS indicated their FRSG sponsored sonde has been fully calibrated and, subject to any unforeseen circumstances, will be installed and operational March 28th.

Modeling Committee

Indian Creek Watershed Based Plan Update – Holly Hudson of CMAP shared that mapping of the stream water quality, physical condition and detention basin assessment continues and will be wrapped up by early April. CMAP is currently developing a public information and engagement website where the general public can enter (“pin”) specific local conditions or concerns. Subsequently an opportunities and best practices map will be developed for use and incorporation into the Geosyntec HSPF model. Holly expects to be able to share HSPF model update results for the watershed at next month's FRSG meeting.

Karoline Qasem of Geosyntec provided a status of the development of appendices D and E of the FRIP update which have been provided to the modelling committee for review and discussion. Comments received will be incorporated within the next weeks. The introductory chapter and chapter on water quality status/background are almost ready for committee review.

The draft report for the fecal coliform study is also expected to be available for review by the committee in the next few weeks.

Beth indicated phosphorus removal data has been received from 10 plants (eight agencies). There are a total of 24 plants (22 agencies) in the watershed from which data is expected. Beth will reach out to those agencies who are not normally represented at FRSG board meetings. All should provide updates as soon as possible here <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1FLeyxjNxeJVuZoOKMqhwt2fy-Kx9faO98OMrcCyXfns/edit?usp=sharing>.

Upcoming events/other updates?

- o 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>
- o 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.