

Fox River Study Group
Board of Directors Meeting via Conference Call
9:30 AM May 27, 2021

In Attendance:

Board Members: Cindy Skrukrud, Bob Trueblood, Alyse Olson, Mark Phipps, Karen Clementi (for Tom Muth), Rob Linke, Art Malm, Eric Weiss

Others: Mike Casper, Village of Barrington, Dan Langguth City of Crystal Lake, Kyla Donato, Aileron Communications (kdonato@aileronic.com), Pamela Ingersoll-Goede, IL AM Water (pamela.ingersoll-goede@amwater.com), Chris Walton, EEI, Mike Ott, Strand, Dan Hughes, Village of East Dundee, (dhughes@eastdundee.net), Carl Fischer, Baxter & Woodman, Karoline Qasem, Geosyntec Consultants, Jan Mangers, Sierra Club Valley of the Fox, Josie Woger, Fox Metro WRD, Leonard Dane, Deuchler, Atticus Zavelle, ISWS, Cyrus McMains, YBSD, Holly Hudson, CMAP, Beth Vogt, FRWRD, Jack Russel, FRWRD, Antrena Trimble, IL AM Water, Kyla Jacobsen, Ryan Schuler, Bob Morris

Everyone introduced themselves.

Minutes: Motion by Karen, second by Eric to approve minutes of April 22, 2021 meeting. Abstain by Mark and Art. Motion approved.

Treasurer's Report Karen presented the financial report. There are 3 aging outstanding checks that have not cleared: 1 for Sierra Club and 2 for CMAP.

Motion by Eric, second by Bob to pay bill: Geosyntec - \$8,754.75. Motion approved unanimously.

Communications Committee Mark shared that the Committee had met with Aileron a couple of weeks ago, to work out near term events communication:

- Model Scenario Conclusions
- Restart of USACOE study
- Tour with Senator Katrina Villa

Additionally, they began discussing messaging regarding benefits of dam removal and identified, improvements of water quality and safety, cost effectiveness, and that dams on the Fox River do not provide any flood control benefit.

Rob shared that there is not much update on Senator Villa's walk; however, hopefully there will be some traction in the next couple weeks. Sierra Club offered to help post and share about the event, as well as CMAP through their weekly email.

Budget Committee Mark updated the board that the committee had met and made progress to update about two-thirds of the financial plan. Planning to meet again in the coming month to make the updates and planning report to the board with the updated plan in June.

Monitoring Committee Karen reminded the board that the committee had previously received approval to work out agreements with ISWS and INHS. The agreements are worked out and ready for signature; however, the ISWS agreement included additional scope from previously approved maximum. The additional scope included an effort for ISWS to compile and submit data to the IEPA every 2 years and added trends analysis of turbidity. This would increase the cost \$15,741 to a total agreement cost of \$71,753. Motion to approve this total cost was made by Art, second by Eric, and the matter was unanimously approved.

The USGS agreement has been approved by FRSG and Bob reported that the agreement has been approved by FRWRD as well. Cindy will reach out to Clint for the final signed agreement.

Modeling Committee

Holly shared the status of the Indian Creek Watershed-based Plan. They will be doing the stream physical condition field work in June and July. They are developing a shoreline condition app. The HSPF modeling calibration was completed by Geosyntec. Karoline presented the update. This resulted in discussion about fecal coliform. The decision was made to have the committee discuss this further.

Rob discussed the draft of the FRIP outline. The board is encouraged to review. There was support to send this out to the “internal” stakeholders for comment. All should email comments to Cindy or Rob. Then send to the IEPA as a draft.

Rob discussed the P loading memo. This had been sent out to the board earlier this week. They are planning to give the board an opportunity to review then the committee will set up a meeting with Geosyntec.

Karoline shared the status of the combined scenarios modeling. Hoping to have a presentation to the committee in the next several weeks. It was requested that Geosyntec provide the results prior to the meeting, so that the committee has time to review.

Cindy discussed the requests that she has received to incorporate watershed upstream of the Stratton Dam into the Fox River Study Group. This is specifically McHenry, Fox Lake WWTP, and Woodstock. Art mentioned that he is more concerned with sediment and siltation as opposed to point source. Holly made the suggestion to just move the boundary from Stratton Dam up to the outlet of Pistakee Lake. Beth shared a concern of how this would impact our current regulation requirements, and it was pointed out that we need to focus on our FRIP update, before considering this.

Mark shared that Aurora’s CSO discharge draft permit renewal has been sent to them and it included significant sampling requirements due to their CSO treatment facility. Mark requested the Board’s support for FRSG to send a letter to the IEPA indicating that these sampling requirements do not seem appropriate for the facility that Aurora is operating. Numerous board members expressed support, so Mark will draft a letter for consideration.

Studies by Others

Army Corps Connectivity & Habitat Study – Cindy shared that we still don’t know if this study will make it into FY2022 funding. Cindy and Mark met with the IDNR to finalize the second version of the draft agreement and the IDNR legal review process is now occurring. Cindy did provide an additional attachment that will be required with the Board for their review.

Representative Underwood’s Fox River Flood Study – No update.

Upcoming events

- Alyse shared the link for the FREP Noon Network – Crystal Creek Tour on Wednesday June 9 from Noon to 1:30 PM <https://foxriverecosystem.org/fox/meetings-news> .
- There will also be a FREP picnic July 14th, and details can be found on this above link.

Past Event – Art shared that he and Cindy were at an event where they were made aware of the WDNR implementing a Fox River Mussel Survey that repeats the survey completed in 1994 of the entire length of the Fox River.

Next meeting will be held virtually on Thursday, June 24th at 9:30 am.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:09 AM.