

Fox River Study Group
Board of Directors Meeting via Conference Call 9:30 am
January 23, 2025

Start: The meeting began at 9:32 am with self-introductions

In 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

Others:

Steven Polaskey, Fox Metro WRD
Leonard Dane, Hey and Associates
Phil Cotter, Village of East Dundee
Naren Patel, Fehr Graham
Zac Bonesz, City of Batavia
Emma Hunter, KDSWCD
Sarah Cowley, Engineering Enterprises, Inc.
Holly Hudson, CMAP
Mike Warner, Gewalt Hamilton, representing Grant, Avon, Fremont and Ela Townships (Lake County)
Karolina Cho, Gewalt Hamilton Associates representing Hinesville, Lake Barrington, Fox Lake, Antioch Township (Lake County)
Art Malm, Friends of the Fox River
Bob Morris
Scott Kuykendall, McHenry County P&D
Rishab Mahajan, Geosyntec

Minutes – Approval of Minutes from the December 19, 2024 meeting.

Motion: Brian Second by: Tim

Comments: Cindy requested some minor spelling corrections.

Vote: 5 – Aye 1- Abstain 0- Nays – Motion Carried

Treasurer's Report –

Karen provided the November financial report:

Old Second National Bank \$452,853.94
BMO Harris checking \$1,775.17
BMO Harris savings \$227,918.91

Karen provided the December financial report:

Old Second National Bank \$452,853.94
BMO Harris checking \$1,775.17
BMO Harris savings \$252,719.90

Karen reported two bills to pay in January:

Lauterbach & Amen: \$1,500 for 2023 990 Tax Form Preparation

Lauterbach & Amen: \$7,000 for 2023 Audit Preparation

Motion by Tim to approve the November and December treasurers' report also to pay the two bills to Lauterbach & Amen. Second by: Cindy

Vote: Unanimous – Aye 0- Nays – Motion Carried

2025 Community Invoices: Karen recommended sending the annual invoices out. A general conversation on the future process or changing the rate structures occurred. Cindy reminded the group that the team typically sends an annual update in a cover letter when the group sends the invoice. A general conversation on how the team will work on this attachment together.

Election of Board Officers –

Cindy provided an update on the new Board of Officers:

Chair- Rob Linke

Vice Chair- Cindy Skrukrud

Treasurer- Karen Clementi

Secretary- Tim Wilson

Assistant Secretary- Brian Witkowski

A motion to approve the new board officers was made by Art, second by Brian

Conversation – Cindy thanked Art for his work as Secretary and his long-term efforts on the FRSG.

Vote: Unanimous – Aye 0- Nays – Motion Carried

Finance Committee –

Annual Budget- Tim and Rob provided an update on the annual budget process and the committee meeting. The final budget will be presented to the board at the next meeting.

NPDES FRSG Special Condition Committee –

A discussion occurred at the February Modeling & Monitoring Committee Meeting will be planned to discuss scope & schedule for a more technical response to IEPA.

Outreach to IEPA on dates set with ISWS for the next Trends Report:

Tim and Cindy have provided a quick update. Cindy provided some information on the dates trends reports.

IWEA: Cindy received a request to join a phone call on the general permit language. The meeting is expected to take place next week. A general conversation occurred; the board was okay with Cindy representing the group at the meeting.

Modeling/Monitoring Committee –

ISWS contracts for Fox database updates:

Reporting to IEPA for their 305(b) report, new water quality trends report published in 2028 using water quality data through the end of 2026 - waiting for proposal from ISWS (Elias). Rob and Cindy provided a update on waiting for the ISWS to response. The contract is expected to

start July 1, Cindy is targeting the February or March FRSG meeting to present the information and cost.

FRSG Carpenter Dam water quality sampling RFP Update:

Rob provided an update on the RFP process: as of today, three firms have picked up the RFP package. The RFP submittal date is 2/6/25 at 4pm. The committee will start their review around 2/11/25.

Open Committee Topics:

Rishab had a question about the NPDES permit discussion, including the groups' desire to create a technical letter in response to the IEPA questions. Cindy recalls from the last committee of the whole that this topic will be discussed at the next modeling/monitoring committee meeting.

Rishab highlighted some concerns in the technical comments. Cindy asked Rishab if there is a recommendation from IAWA that each study group provide additional comments on technical issues. Karen provided some general thoughts on how the committee will come up with an outline of topics that can then be provided to Geosyntec.

Microbial Source Tracking Pilot Project:

Rob provided an update on how he reached out to the IEPA and is requesting some additional information and material. He has also requested some additional information on the next grant opportunities and explained how FRSG will work with KDWCD.

Holly asked for some clarification on the committee, she is volunteering to help.

Rob will explore setting up a different meeting on the microbial source study and effort moving forward

604 Grant:

Rob – provided some additional information on the 604 grants, Holly provided some additional feedback on the grant process.

River Monitoring QAPP:

Cindy is recommending submitting an updated QAPP to the IEPA for approval. Emma – provided some in support from their agency

Communications Committee –

Brian and Cindy provided an update on the FRSG Lunch & Learn Topics. Cindy will follow up with the USGS later, currently their team is busy with other projects. Cindy will try to follow up with staff on the monitoring at Straton dam.

Open Committee Topics:

Rishab – provided some information on the IWEA government affairs seminar in Addison IL

Mike Warner provided some information on upcoming events, he also shared with the group both the Des Plaines and North Branch Chicago River workgroups who have general membership open meetings in February. He provided links to each group <https://www.drww.org/upcoming-and-recent-meetings> <https://www.nbwwil.org/meetings/>

Leonard – Provided some updates on nutrient trading in the Northern Moraine. Cindy –

Provided some update on the limits on the trading areas.

INLRS Reporting for Calendar Years 2023 & 2024, metrics due Jan. 31 and writeup due Mar. 1, 2025. Cindy is reviewing and may make a recommendation on the information. Holly – Provided some information on the past report she has filled out.

Chair's Report –

US Army Corps meeting update –Rob provided information/ FRSG is awaiting an official request for additional funding for \$35,000 cover additional public comment and responses. The formal request and FRSG approval will be scheduled for a future meeting.

Upcoming events/other updates:

- In Search of Eagles on the Fox River and Geneva Lake Feb 1, 8-10 am [Details & Maps to sites](#)
Art – Provide some information on recent eagles on the river
Rishab- Provided some feedback on the eagles and some comments during the Army Corp public comment period.
- USGS Stakeholder Outreach Meeting (Virtual) Update on USGS Integrated Water Science in the Illinois River Basin February 6, 8 am-12:15 pm [Agenda](#)
 - **Microsoft Teams** [Need help? Join the meeting now](#)
 - Meeting ID: 248 918 484 809 Passcode: 7nF7mJ9D
 - **Dial in by phone** [+1 202-640-1187,,36451111#](#)
 - [Find a local number](#) Phone conference ID: 364 511 11#

Rob provided some information on the USGS Meeting and the proposed agenda

- Fox River Summit March 13 [Register HERE](#). Speakers/Presentations being added [HERE](#).

Rob, the FRSG board plans to attend and present at this summit. Cindy was wondering about the FRSG sponsorship ship and funding

A motion to approve a summit sponsorship of \$100 table at the event was made by Cindy, second by Art. Conversation – Art and Rob will provide some additional information and presentation items for the event.

Vote: Unanimous – Aye 0- Nays – Motion Carried

- FREP Noon Network Meeting. Wed Feb 12th on ZOOM. Program: Alternatives to Turf Grass; Dr Liz Anna Kozik, Chicago Botanic Garden
For more info: <https://foxriverecosystem.org/fox/meetings-news>
Rob Provided some information on the FREP Turf Grass in the wet soil areas
- 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's 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.
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: Thurs. February 27, 2025 at 9:30 am virtual

END: Art moved, and Cindy seconded the meeting be adjourned. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 10:47 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Tim Wilson, FRSG Secretary