

**Fox River Study Group**  
**Board of Directors Meeting via Conference Call**  
**9:30 AM June 24, 2021**

**In Attendance:**

Board Members: Cindy Skrukrud, Bob Trueblood, Alyse Olson, Mark Phipps, Tom Muth, Rob Linke, Art Malm, Tim Wilson, and Eric Weiss

Others: Karen Clementi, Fox Metro WRD, Mike Casper, Village of Barrington, Scott Kuykendall, McHenry County Water Resources, Chris Walton, EEI, Mike Ott, Strand Associates, Inc., Cyrus McMains, YBSD, Beth Vogt, FRWRD, Jessica Mino, The Conservation Foundation, Carl Fischer, Baxter & Woodman, John Stein, Village of Cary, Pamela Ingersoll-Goede, IL AM Water, Atticus Zavelle, ISWS, Carrie Carter, Deuchler, Rishab Mahajan, Geosyntec, Dave Lampert, Illinois Tech, Clint Bailey, USGS, Timothy Zasada, Oswego, Holly Hudson, CMAP, Zach Jardine, Village of Oswego, Dan Abrams, ISWS

Everyone introduced themselves.

**Minutes:** Motion by Bob, second by Tim to approve minutes of May 27, 2021 meeting. Abstain by Tom. Motion approved.

May 28, 2021 e-vote: Motion by Eric to have Fox River Study Group send a letter to the IEPA regarding Aurora's Draft CSO Permit, to remove special conditions that are not appropriate for the subject permit. Second by Bob. Motion passed with ayes from Eric, Bob, Alyse, Art, Mark, Tom, and Tim.

June 17, 2021 e-vote: Motion by Rob to authorize our Treasurer Tom Muth to work with Porte Brown to conduct an audit for FRSG, Inc. for the previous calendar year 2020. Second by Bob. Motion passed with ayes from Rob, Bob, Tim, Eric, Cindy, Alyse, Mark and Art.

**Treasurer's Report** Tom presented the financial report. The outstanding checks have cleared.

Motion by Mark, second by Art to pay bill: Geosyntec - \$6,540. Motion approved unanimously.

Tom is planning to meet with Mark and work with Old Second Bank next week to renew CDs.

Tom provided an Audit update. The 2020 in-kind donation submittals should be sent to [foxriverstudygp@gmail.com](mailto:foxriverstudygp@gmail.com).

**Communications Committee** Mark shared that the Committee has continued work with Aileron. They are planning to reach out to stakeholders to determine what the beneficial messages would be, and then plan to bring this to the board for consideration in July.

Rob shared that there is not update on Senator Villa's walk; however, Cindy shared that Rob could follow up with Kady McFadden at the Sierra Club for contact info for staff in the Senator's office.

**Budget Committee** Mark updated the board that the committee had met earlier this week and he is planning to send the updated Budget Plan to the Board this week. The intention is to give the Board time for review of the budget in preparation for discussion at the July meeting.

Mark discussed the need to ensure that we have available funds at the appropriate time, so to make sure that we do not have too much tied up in CDs. One item to consider is the timing of funding for the USACOE/IDNR study. It is anticipated to be pay as you go. Cindy will check into the timing of payments. Tom mentioned that we start getting donation payments in early 2022.

**Monitoring Committee** Karen shared that we should receive a signed agreement from NHS soon.

ISWS had identified a clerical error in the agreement and has requested to increase the cost from \$71,753 to \$73,636. Bob motioned for approval of the increase. Second by Tom. Motion passed unanimously.

The USGS agreement has been finalized.

Art shared an idea of how to bring forward proposals for further and/or revising directions of studies. He shared that the primary interest of the group should be to get the Fox River removed from the 503.d list. Art proposed the following process: 1. Refer study proposals to the appropriate standing committee. If the committee believes the proposal warrants further investigation by FRSG then 2. the committee chair will request a place on the Board agenda to introduce the idea and initiate Board consideration. Tom shared agreement with this concept. Bob likewise agreed it was a good idea, but cautioned that we consider our mission with the new proposals. Rob shared that this should be open for others to provide ideas to Board members, who then would bring the ideas to the appropriate committee. Mark asked if this required a policy revision, and it was suggested that it is time to review the FRSG by-laws, and that would be the appropriate time to incorporate this new policy. It was agreed that the Executive Committee should review the by-laws. Cindy will provide the current by-laws to the board and get it posted on the website.

### **Modeling Committee**

Rishab provided an update on the combined scenarios. They have completed the scenario runs and are planning to send and review with the Modeling committee over the next few weeks. Based on feedback from the committee they are tentatively planning for presentation to the Board at the July meeting.

Rishab provide an update on the P Loading Memo. Geosyntec had been tasked to update the memo issued by the ISWS in 2014. They have updated the memo and distributed to the committee with plans to present at the July Board meeting.

Rishab presented the FRIP update outline. This is proposed to completely replace the previous FRIP. The new FRIP should be easy to read for common people to understand. The FRIP update is due to the state by the end of 2022, and the plan is to have a draft done much earlier for an opportunity of stakeholder input for the final draft. Rob shared that input on the outline would be appreciated and can be emailed to him or Cindy.

Rishab share on the Indian Creek Study, the pollutant loading model update for future and current land use is completed. Geosyntec is working on a memo, to be completed in the next week. Holly provided an update on the field data collection, they had started with the lake and are planning stream data collection in July. The Fecal Coliform concentrations have been observed to be very high. The modeling committee discussed this with Geosyntec and asked for a proposal to 1. To compare these results to the greater watershed. 2. Microbial source tracing to identify the potential source species. Fox Metro has looked into GIS for potential septic sources, and Karen shared that they have done stormwater fecal source tracing for human/nonhuman as a potential lower cost option. There was a suggestion to make this topic a separate webinar. Rob will coordinate with Karen and Rishab to

consider an early August webinar. We will postpone any Board discussion on further Geosyntec work on this matter until the July Board meeting.

## Studies by Others

Army Corps Connectivity & Habitat Study – Cindy shared that IDNR has returned the Joint Funding Agreement and her and Mark are planning to review. The President’s budget is not detailed enough to know if this project is included, but should know more once the budget get’s through congress. Rob shared that Kane County did receive a response letter from the USACOE.

Rob shared an update on the Carpentersville Dam removal. They are still working on permits and looking at a July/August of 2022 removal timeline.

Clint provided a brief overview of the USGS Next Generation Water Observing System (NGWOS) program. Jim Dunker is the appropriate contact for further information as the coordinator of this program and for presentation. This program utilizes “super gauges” the collect water quality as well as discharge, stage and velocity. The super gauges can be implemented year round or seasonally depending on the need of the Cooperator. Cindy will follow-up with Clint and Jim to determine options for presentation. Links were provided in the agenda:

- See webpage at: <https://www.usgs.gov/mission-areas/water-resources/science/next-generation-water-observing-system-illinois-river-basin>
- Factsheet [https://prd-wret.s3.us-west-2.amazonaws.com/assets/palladium/production/atoms/files/IRB-Briefing-Sheet-v5\\_508Compliant.pdf](https://prd-wret.s3.us-west-2.amazonaws.com/assets/palladium/production/atoms/files/IRB-Briefing-Sheet-v5_508Compliant.pdf)
- Stakeholder survey that we would appreciate you all completing and passing along to others in your respective agencies that would like to provide input on priority data and knowledge gaps in the Illinois River Basin.
- [https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=urWTBhhLe02TQfMvQApUIFhUg9gZrENObj\\_rgbMtkIUOfpWU0tQV0dYTDZFWVJHUTVHWFc2SUEwQi4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=urWTBhhLe02TQfMvQApUIFhUg9gZrENObj_rgbMtkIUOfpWU0tQV0dYTDZFWVJHUTVHWFc2SUEwQi4u)

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

Scott and Dan provided and update of an ISWS study proposed to look at groundwater impacts on the Chan of Lakes and Fox River in the current drought. A 2013 model of groundwater discharge is being reviewed along with current observations of the drought conditions. Dan provided his contact information for anyone that has any pertinent data or information. (Daniel Abrams, [dbabrams@illinois.edu](mailto:dbabrams@illinois.edu) or 217-244-1520) Cindy shared that the Fox Waterway Agency may be helpful.

## Other Updates

Cindy announced the FRSG has a new email and phone #

- [foxriverstudygp@gmail.com](mailto:foxriverstudygp@gmail.com)
- (630) 538-3909

Xylem BLU-X Treatment Plant Optimization and BLU-X Wastewater Network was discussed if the Board would like a presentation at a meeting. Cindy will suggest that Xylem just provide a link to a webinar when available, and FRSG will pass this along to the membership.

Bob shared that the Elgin Township Supervisor had expressed complaints of gravel piles left in the river by the Metra Cofferdam, and the gravel piles should be appropriately removed. Art will discuss with Bob to investigate further.

### **Upcoming events**

- Alyse shared the FREP Annual Picnic which will be held on Wednesday, July 28th at 4 pm at the Les Arends Forest Preserve in Batavia. More details can be found at: <https://foxriverecosystem.org/fox/meetings-news>

**Next meeting** will be held as a hybrid of in-person at Fox Metro WRD and virtually on Thursday, July 22nd at 9:30 am. Fox Metro WRD has requested that anyone attending in-person provide notice prior for head count and that anyone attending in-person honor the masking requirement if not vaccinated for COVID-19. Cindy will plan to get the agenda out the Monday prior to the meeting so that attendees can share their intention if attending in-person.

Art motioned to adjourn and second by Bob.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:21 AM.