

**Fox River Study Group
Board of Directors Meeting
Fox Metro Water Reclamation District
9:30 AM January 23, 2020**

Introductions

In person: Cindy Skrukud, Tom Muth, Eric Weiss, Megan Andrews, Art Malm, Mark Phipps, Rob Linke, Tim Wilson, Rishab Mahajan, Leonard Dane, Megan Miklosik, Chris Walton, Karen Ann Miller, Sue Glavan, Cyrus McMains, Deanna Doohaluk, Karen Clementi, Steve Pescitelli, Trish Beckjord

On the Call: Bob Trueblood, Carl Fischer, Mike Casper, Village of Barrington, Ted Penesis, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Jack Russell, FRWRD, Bob Trueblood, FRWRD, Holly Hudson, CMAP

Minutes

- Approval of minutes of December 19, 2019 meeting. Motion by Mark to approve, second by Megan. Motion passed unanimously.
- Addition for today's minutes: Jan. 6, 2020 E-vote: The Communications Committee recommended approval to include cost of public survey in contract with Aileron. Motion passes to approve Aileron contract for \$30,704. Motion by Bob, second by Mark. Motion passed with eight votes in favor.

Treasurer's Report – Tom Muth

- Financial report through the end of Dec. 2019.
- Request for payments: Aileron's Engagement Agreement & initial \$5,000 payment-Mark recap. Motion by Art, second by Tom to approve the payment. Motion passed unanimously.
- Request for posting of financial statements (budget, IL 990, audits)-Eric. Transparency to create understanding for member agencies. Suggest to attach treasurer's report to minutes each month. We decided to posting IL 990s from each year and to finalize long-term budget to send with the funding letter.

Fox River National Water Trail- presentation by Karen Miller

- See <http://www.foxriverecosystem.org/trail.htm> and <https://fabulousfoxwatertrail.org/>
- Summary: Online map portal, also provides downloadable and paper maps. Five Open houses held last spring to gather information from the public and access sites. Brochure available, 40,000 were distributed along the river corridor. Website will include suggested itineraries. Farnsworth House is opening a new launch site this year. Photos needed for website. Application is being prepared to the National Park Service (NPS) National Water Trail system. Need to increase BMPs: Recreation opportunities, education, conservation, community support, public information, etc. They received NPS assistance early on the project and a WDNR

grant to work on the outreach materials, with printing sponsored by the NPS, distribution funded by CBBs. Lots of public outreach opportunities.

- Discussion items: collaboration with other agencies. More printing and distribution funds needed. Branding on municipal websites to share information. Template available for a LOS. Application timing. Management plan is the outstanding piece to be completed. Concern for utility maintenance for municipalities that have infrastructure under and adjacent to the Fox River – NPS has no jurisdiction or regulatory authority. Long-term funding plan has not been established yet. Intend to fund in short-term by grants and donations. Trail manager role -- likely for volunteers? FREP is lead with Kane County donating Karen's time. Private landowners have been overwhelmingly supportive overall. Trail designation not intended/going to impose any restrictions on river use.
- Draft letter of support. Board to review draft and vote at next meeting.

Modeling/Monitoring Committee

- Geosyntec update-Model update & calibration report, ammonia modeling- Rishab. Rishab will send plots and email explanation about nitrate load is driving the ammonia concentrations in the model. Technical report is in progress, is under review. Expect a draft for committee's review in the next few weeks. Change order is pending for the technical report completion. Request to send feedback on the technical report right away.
- Carpentersville Dam-planning for studies before and after removal- Rob. Kane County Forest Preserve District is in process of selecting a consultant in the next couple months, engineering design and permitting through 2020 with removal planned for 2021. Funding is coming from IDNR-OWR. Good opportunity to coordinate with pre and post project monitoring with FRSG and IDNR. FRSG to consider supplementation of data collection. Steve P.: IDNR fish sampling schedule availability, not equipped to sample macroinvertebrates, INHS may be available for mussel survey. FRSG could take lead on water quality monitoring. Rob will coordinate monitoring committee team to discuss further and develop a plan. Deanna to supply information on how DRSCW does their pre and post dam removal work. Sonde deployment ideas were discussed as well as public outreach and opposition to personal use and legal property rights discussion. Thoughts were to take a proactive approach on dam removal. A FAQ sheet created for the Carpentersville Dam could be a template for future projects but we need to be conscious that this is the Forest Preserve's project – FRSG is in a support role. We discussed funding of exhibits and photography of before and after, to unite predictive modeling with real world results as an example of what it looks like and putting out an RFQ on legal question of land rights and what has been recorded on the plats of survey. MWRD has been working on river easements and could share information on procedures for looking at plats.

Communications Committee

- Next steps with Aileron - Mark Phipps. Conference call this week or next to obtain initial input on research and survey questions. Partner agencies differentiation.

Miscellaneous Updates

- Army Corps Study update- Cindy Skrukrud. Andy at Rock Island Army Corps and Chad from IDNR are meeting this week about our project and other projects. Ted Penesis at IDNR – should be good to go with funding and can supply Carpentersville points of contacts.
- Oct. 29, 2020 annual meeting plans-Eric Weiss. We are set. Info is on website.
- Steve P.: 2017 FRSG basin report is finished. Tristan Widloe has been hired for Bob Rung's former position. Tyler Cr. – urban development impacting creek with high flows from impervious surface; fisheries degrading. Tristan invited to present at the FRSG annual conference.

Upcoming events

- Feb. 12 FREP meeting. Pond and lakeshore management.
- March 9- One Earth Film Festival. Tom and Cindy to manage the table again this year.
- March 12-14 ILMA conference in Champaign.
- Upcoming TCF talks February- May.
- March 26- Fox River Summit. FRSG is giving a presentation.

Next meetings

- 9:30 am, Feb. 27 at Fox Metro
- No meeting in March. Suggest members attend the Fox River Summit in lieu of meeting.