

Fox River Study Group Draft Minutes
Board of Directors Meeting via Conference Call
9:30 AM July 25, 2024

In Attendance:

Board Members: Alyse Olson, FREP; Art Malm, Friends of the Fox River; Brian Witkowski, City of Aurora; Cindy Skrukrud, Sierra Club; Deb Ness, City of Elgin, Eric Johnson, FRWRD; Karen Clementi, Fox Metro WRD; Rob Linke, Kane County; Tim Wilson, City of St Charles

Others:

Alyssa Robinson, Weaver Consultants Group	Lindsay Muth, Trotter and Associates
Andrea Pracht, HR Green	Mike Warner, Gewalt Hamilton
Bob Morris	Naren Patel, Fehr Graham
Bob Van Gyseghem, City of Geneva	Phil Cotter
Cameron Colby, FRWRD	Rishab Mahajan, Geosyntec
Dean Farr, IL Div, Izaak Walton League	Sam Youssef, FRWRD
Emily Conti, EEI	Sharon Waller, Sustainable Systems LLC
Holly Hudson, CMAP	Timothy Gualandri, FRWRD
Karolina Cho, Gewalt Hamilton	Zac Bonesz, City of Batavia
Kevin Fecske, Village of Barrington	

Premeet – Tim wanted a picture of Rob to cover his white wall. Rob suggested all board members should have one. Tim thinks Rob would look good with a crown.

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

Minutes – Brian moved and Karen seconded approval of the June 2024 Board Meeting minutes as amended. The minutes as amended were approved unanimously. A request was made to begin posting approved minutes to our website.

Treasurer's Report – Karen presented the Treasurer's report. As of 6/30/202, our balances following the conversion of Old Second National Bank accounts were as follows:

Old Second National Bank
6 month CD, 5%, Matures 11/19/2024
CDARS balance, 4.25%, Matures 6/22/2025
BMO Harris
checking \$10,085.59
savings \$127,503.43

Withdrawals not shown: Cindy Skrukrud \$10

There are just a few members yet to pay their dues. Karen will be sending reminders. Tim moved and Brian seconded acceptance of the Treasurer's report. The motion was approved unanimously.

Finance Committee - Karen reported the audit is proceeding.

Committee of the Whole Meeting - Rob reported on our first committee of the whole meeting. The purpose of the COTW is to help streamline Board meetings and enable discussion of issues in greater detail. This is especially the case when there is substantial committee interest or member overlap.

Topics discussed included future payments to and the progress of the 519 study. Future meetings will occur monthly.

NPDES Special Conditions Committee: Karen reported that this work is on hold while the new IEPA permit review person gets up to speed.

Modeling and Monitoring – Rob has a draft RFP for post-Carpenters dam removal water quality studies. He asked the Board to review this RFP for discussion at the next COTW. The intent initially is to repeat the first round of studies, subject to changes to be discussed. Rob to send out the RFP.

Holly asked about the status of Kane County's 604b fecal coliform grant eligibility question. Rob continues to investigate.

Communications Committee – Rob and Brian are continuing the quest to schedule an IEPA speaker for a Lunch&Learn about the revised MS4 requirements.

Rob observed the FRSG has done little following the dam removal public forums with the Corps last fall. This will be a Coms committee and COTW subject for the board to decide upon a strategy consistent with the findings and recommendations made in our 2022 FRIP. Messaging, FRSG and subject promotional videos, social media campaigns are all possible.

Holly asked how well Kane County Board was educated and up to date on the dam removal question. Rob indicated Kane County had not taken a position on the issue, notwithstanding KCFPD is a subset of the County Board. It was generally thought most elected officials only had general information.

Chair's Report – Rob reported on the status of Army Corp/IDNR plans. A reimbursement of ~\$4,900 will close out the basic local share obligation for the 519 study. The State has still not forwarded the \$35,000 sent earlier to the Corps and that is becoming a problem. The Corps is holding most additional work, especially planning for the additional public forum(s), until the money is received. The additional cost to the FRSG is expected to be \$25-30K.

The additional sediment sampling will be done as part of the design phase of the report. That will follow issuance of the final plan with Environmental Assessment and public hearings. IEPA wants sampling done as close in time to actual deconstruction as possible. The cost for a sediment sampling program covering all nine dams is estimated at \$450,000. The Environmental Assessment to be completed will reference but not include those additional sampling studies.

Binding agreements will be requested from the municipalities following engineering design when cost estimates are established for all major ticket items, including any Corps design and construction of non-reimbursable work.

Rob recounted a meeting with two elected officials in Geneva that emphasized the need and importance for elected officials to have answers to questions raised by residents.

The Carpentersville dam removal bids were received and the KCFPD Board voted to award the \$1.3 million contract. V3 will be providing construction oversight. The schedule is yet to be announced.

The 10 year financial plan will be discussed at the August 8th COTW meeting.

Comments for the Good of the Whole –

Dean Farr discussed the current webinar series sponsored by Friends of the Fox River, the Association of Soil and Water Districts and the Isaac Walton League on the Illinois Water Plan. These webinars are provided by IDNR personnel with a target audience of state legislators. Areas of special interest included high water levels in the Chain, appropriation of marine fuel taxes, water supplies and the Regional Conservation Partnership Program. This was part one of a two-part program. Dean recommended Wes Catoor provide a half hour presentation on the Water Plan to the FRSG as a Lunch & Learn.

Rishab promoted an upcoming integrated planning approach webinar that looks at all water related utilities when making strategic decisions.

The next regular meeting will be Thursday August 22, 2024 at 10:30 am.

Brian moved and Tim seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 10:25 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Arthur Malm, Secretary, FRSG