

Fox River Study Group Draft Minutes
Board of Directors Meeting via Conference Call
9:30 AM January 26, 2023

In Attendance:

Board Members: Cindy Skrukrud, Eric Johnson, Karen Clementi, Art Malm, Rob Linke, Alyse Olson, Tim Wilson

Others:

- Josie Woger, Fox Metro WRD
- Leonard Dne, Fehr Graham
- Emily Conti, EEI
- Gabriel Powers, McHenry County Conservation District
- Holly Hudson, CMAP
- Jenny Murphy, USGS
- Mike Ott, Strand
- Rishab Mahajan, Geosyntec
- Lindsay Muth, Trotter and Associates
- Dean Farr, Izaak Walton League
- Bartlett Durand, Sand County Foundation
- Jack Russell, FRWRD
- Logan Gilbertsen, HR Green
- Dan Langguth, City of Crystal Lake
- Bob Morris
- Beth Vogt, FRWRD
- Karolina Cho, Gewalt Hamilton Associates

Everyone introduced themselves.

Minutes - Motion by Karen, second by Rob to approve minutes of the December 15, 2022 Board Meeting. Motion approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report - Karen presented the Treasurer's report. As of December 31, 2022 our combined checking and savings balance was \$9,188.71 at Harris Bank with outstanding checks to Sierra Club – \$79.47, TCF - \$100, Karen Clementi \$15, and FRWRD \$13,250, and \$537,198.92 in the CD at Old Second Bank.

Motion by Art, second by Rob to accept the Treasurer's report. Motion passed unanimously.

Bills – Motion by Eric Johnson, second by Eric Weiss to pay bills to Geosyntec in the amount of \$14,381.65, Geosyntec in the amount of \$7,797.23, and University of Illinois in the amount of \$18,409.00. Motion approved unanimously.

Karen shared that she has been added to OSNB account. She is in the process to add Brian and Rob as signatory. The reason for the outstanding checks is the challenges Karen had to get approval to OSNB account, which was needed to transfer funds to the checking account.

-Karen also shared that the \$537, 198.92 is over the FDIC limit, and she is working with OSNB to come with a recommendation to the next meeting.

-Further funding will need to be paid to IDNR/USACOE.

-Karen shared that invoices will be coming out with updated population and communities will see a modest increase due to increase census data.

Modeling Committee Report –

Indian Creek Watershed Based Plan – Holly shared that Geosyntec is modeling the site specific BMPs, pollutant load reduction and watershed wide BMPs for funding smaller projects. She is working on identifying where and to what extent may make sense. Holly pointed out that it can cost millions of dollars to retrofit the built environment.

Draft 2022 FRIP – Cindy shared this was submitted to the IEPA by the end of December. Now we have to get to the implementing the FRIP. Rob thanked everyone for their efforts.

USACE Habitat and Connectivity Study – Cindy recapped the study. A meeting was held with the USACE and IDNR on January 25, 2023, and Cindy, Art, Tim, Rob and Brian were on the call. They are working on meetings with the affected communities, Batavia was on January 9th, and Elgin is planned for January 30th. They are working on scheduling the remaining meetings, and would like to meet with Algonquin, but have recognized that they most likely will not be able to remove theirs. Tim shared that the meeting with Batavia went well and Depot Pond was a major point of the discussion. Art and Rob both requested to be invited to the meeting with Elgin on January 30th, and Eric told them he would forward the invitation. Art and Rob both expressed interest in asking specifics on the H and H modeling. There was not any revision to the schedule, currently planning to have draft report by June 2023, and Final Report by February 2024. IDNR OWR staff discusses status of several dams, Carpentersville removal is anticipated in 2023, North Aurora is planning for design in 2024, and Montgomery is a little behind that. Ryan Johnson of the USACE has agreed to present at the Fox River Summit.

Illinois State Water Survey – Karen shared that they have requested a 6 month extension, and this would be at no cost change. This is specifically for the Trends Analysis as the Fox DB has been completed. Karen shared that this does not appear to be a permit issue, and she recommended allowing the extension. Motion by Art, Second by Rob and unanimously approved to allow ISWS time extension for completing the Trends Analysis at no additional cost. Art did recommend consideration in the future for ISWS to look at suspended solids load, and Cindy suggested that the Modeling Committee should look at this.

Communications Committee Report - Cindy requested that the group consider participation in this committee. Currently, Karen, Art and Cindy are involved.

-Art suggested that we form a subcommittee for dam removal, as there is good timing with the USACE/IDNR study. Art is willing to lead the subcommittee, other possible interested volunteers include: Gary Swick, Logan Gilbertson, Andrea Pracht, and Rishab Mahajan.

- Cindy explained the Communications Committee including public outreach initiatives for Analytical and Urban BMPs and funding, FRIP long term trends, population growth, new/redevelopment, communicating all the good work of the group. Rob shared that there is flexibility. Holly offered to be on the committee, and asked if she needed to be a paying member, and all accepted that people that regularly attend meetings could be considered to be on committees/subcommittees. However, there currently is not a chair for the Communications Committee and the chair should be a Board Member. Tim asked for the board to meet regarding committees, chairs and distribution of tasks. Cindy will organize a call for this prior to the next FRSG Board meeting.

-2023 Invoices Update Letter – Cindy shared that she is drafting a letter, and went over the information included. Cindy is also working on the IEPA permitting required letters due in March.

-Website Updates – Cindy shared that Debbie is willing to help updated the website but she needs Communication Committee direction. The 2022 Draft FRIP Update should be linked directly on our website, and Cindy will work with Becky to post this.

Chair's Report

Board Appointment Letters – Cindy reminded all board members to get these in for 2023.

2023 Officers – Cindy offered a candidate list: Chair – Cindy Skrukrud, Vice Chair – Rob Linke, Treasurer – Karen Clementi, Secretary-Art Malm, Assistant Secretary – Tim Wilson. Motion by Rob, and Second by Tim to approved as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

2022 In-Kind Donations – Cindy reminded all to send in their “In-Kind” donations to the group email.

Long Term Funding Plan – Cindy suggested to include this in the meeting about the board roles, and she identified some of the items scheduled in 2023.

FRSG 20th Anniversary – Cindy reminded the group that the 20th anniversary will be April 1, 2023. She asked the group to consider ideas, and plan to discuss plans to celebrate at the February Board meeting. Ideas suggested were certificates for Tom, Bob, Mark, Beth, others, and for agencies that help out.

Upcoming Events

- FREP Noon Network Wed. Feb 8 Noon-1:30 pm "A watershed approach to uncover suitable habitat for vulnerable mussel species in the Fox River Watershed in WI and IL." Alison Stodola, Aquatic Biologist and Curator of Malacology with the IL Natural History Survey Prairie Research Institute will be presenting. Prairieview Education Center at Silver Creek Conservation Area in Crystal Lake. [More details](#)
- The USGS Integrated Water Science Program in the Illinois River Basin is hosting a virtual stakeholder meeting on February 22 from 9 am to Noon Central Time to provide an update on IWS activities in the Illinois River Basin. [Registration](#)
- 2023 ILMA Conference Registration March 8-10, 2023 Holiday Inn — Gurnee Convention Center 6161 West Grand Ave, Gurnee, Illinois Registration at <https://ilma-lakes.org/conference-registration>
- One Earth Film Fest-March 9, WCC, Aurora <https://foxriverecosystem.org/fox/film-festival>
- Fox River Summit is on March 16. [Registration Speakers/Presentations](#)
- The Spring Illinois River Watershed Study Group meeting is scheduled for May 1 from 10-3.
- Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is hosting a public informational webinar to introduce the DNR led water quality study titled “Total Maximum Daily Loads for Total Phosphorus and Total Suspended Solids in the Fox Illinois River Basin” (FOXIL TMDL). The informational webinar will provide an overview of the FOXIL TMDL development process, the FOXIL TMDL study area, and the results of the initial monitoring efforts.

Webinar Details

Fox Illinois River Basin TMDL Study Kickoff Meeting

Wednesday, Feb. 15, 1 p.m.

Approximately 1 hour, followed by a question-and-answer session.

Registration for the webinar is required via this

link: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYsduGvrz0jGtO7cmXc9ow_294xe52pfgo7

The webinar will be recorded and available for viewing through the Fox Illinois River Basin TMDL webpage.

Project Background

The FOXIL TMDL study area is located in the southwestern part of Wisconsin. The

study area includes the Upper, Lower, and Middle Fox River, the Des Plaines River, the Mukwonago River, Sugar and Honey Creeks, the White River, Nippersink Creek, North Mill Creek, and Channel Lake watersheds. The FOXIL TMDL study area covers approximately 1,060 square miles within Wisconsin. A map of the area is located on the Fox Illinois River Basin TMDL webpage.

The Federal Clean Water Act requires that waters not meeting water quality standards be listed as impaired and have a TMDL or equivalent restoration plan developed to address the impaired waters. Many water bodies in the study area are listed as impaired due to excess total phosphorus and sediment. When completed, the TMDL will quantify the different sources of pollution, provide allocations, and prescribe reductions if needed. In addition to addressing the impaired waters, the TMDL study will also develop protection TMDLs which provide allocations to protect waters that are currently not listed as impaired but could become impaired if pollutant reduction activities are not initiated or maintained.

Future Project Updates

If you are interested in receiving updates about the TMDL project, please subscribe to our GovDelivery email service. Additional information is also provided on the Fox Illinois River Basin TMDL webpage.

Please contact Eric Hettler at eric.hettler@wisconsin.gov if you have any questions.

The next FRSG Board meeting will be Thursday February 23, 2023.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:11AM.