

Fox River Study Group Draft Minutes
Board of Directors Meeting via Conference Call
9:30 AM December 15, 2022

In Attendance:

Board Members: Beth Vogt, Cindy Skrukud, Karen Clementi, Art Malm, Brian Witkowski, Rob Linke, Alyse Olson

Others:

- Josie Woger, Fox Metro WRD
- Atticus Zavelle, ISWS
- Leonard Dane, Fehr Graham
- Scott Kuykendall, McHenry County
- Emily Conti, EEI
- Kirsten James, Hey and Associates
- Anna Kootstra, Village of Wauconda
- Cyrus McMains, YBSD
- Gabriel Powers, McHenry County Conservation District
- Andrea Pracht, HRGreen
- Deanna Doohaluk, TCF
- John Stein Village of Cary
- Steven Polaskey, FMWRD
- Phil Cotter, Village of East Dundee
- Lindsay Muth, Trotter and Associates
- Holly Hudson, CMAP
- Mike Ott, Strand
- Jack Russell, FRWRD
- Bob Morris
- Logan Gilbertsen - HR Green
- Cindy Skrukud, Sierra Club

Everyone introduced themselves. Beth indicated in Cindy's temporary absence she would chair the meeting.

Minutes - Motion by Rob, second by Karen to approve minutes of the November 17, 2022 Board Meeting. Motion approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report - Karen presented the Treasurer's report. As of December 15th our combined checking and savings balance was \$26,867.47 at Harris Bank with no outstanding checks. As of November 30, we had a combined balance of \$29,611.93 at Harris Bank, and \$537,332.73 in the CD at Old Second Bank.

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

Addition Bank Signatory – Art moved that Rob Linke be added as an authorized signator to Old Second and Harris Bank accounts for the Fox River Study Group. Motion seconded by Brian. Motion approved unanimously.

Member Assessments – Karen recommended the 2020 census data be used for 25 cents per capita assessment to our members. Beth moved the 2023 assessments be based on the 2020 census data. Rob seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously. Norma Rodriguez at Fox Metro will update the invoices accordingly.

Modelling Committee Report –

Holly Hudson provided an update on the Indian Creek watershed study. All the site specific BMPs have been mapped and forwarded to Geosyntec for pollution load reduction modelling estimates. A listing of those sites have been sent to contributing stakeholders for final review and comment. An interim updated watershed plan final draft was forwarded to IEPA November 30 by Holly. December 31st another updated draft will be sent. \$4,572.03 remains from the \$51,500 FRSG contribution and our MOU will need to be extended to complete the modelling work. Future invoices for the Indian Creek study should be sent to Karen Clementi at Fox Metro.

Art moved the MOU duration be extended to June 30, 2023. Rob seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Rob discussed the status of draft 2022 Fox River Implementation Plan which has been made available to the Board and interested parties. Comments have been received and forwarded to Geosyntec for their review and comment.

Art expressed concern about some of the recommended actions listed in the executive summary such as recommending agricultural best practices. After some discussion Beth suggested everyone review at least the Executive Summary and provide the committee with comments. Beth also stated it was essential the 2022 FRIP be submitted before December 31st in order to meet IEPA permit obligations.

Beth stated it is the intent of the FRSG to submit the full 2022 FRIP final draft to IEPA complete with appendices. Individual NPDES permit holders must also file the report with IEPA, independent of FRSG's submission, but it was not necessarily to include all appendices with their uploads.

Karen moved to send the 2022 FRIP final draft to IEPA prior to December 31. The motion was seconded by Brian. The deadline for final comments on the draft for incorporation by Geosyntec must be in by 5pm Friday, December 16. There will be final wordsmithing of the document in the next several days by the committee, Geosyntec and their subconsultants Metro Strategies after which the final draft will be available for download and subsequent upload to IEPA. The motion was approved unanimously by roll call vote.

Cindy indicated in response to Holly's question that comments received after December 16th could be considered at a later date but would not be included in the current final draft.

Chair's Report

Cindy indicated that she would present a summary of our 2022 FRIP to the Fox River Ecosystem Partnership at their meeting January 11 in Elgin. <https://foxriverecosystem.org/fox/meetings-news>

The One Earth Film Festival has requested FRSG's continued sponsorship for their March 6th viewing. Art moved that the FRSG contribute \$100 to support the Film Festival. Beth seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

The Fox River Summit committee is developing the program for the annual meeting Burlington March 16th. A summary of the 2022 FRIP will be presented, as well as hopefully an update on the Wisconsin TMDL for the Fox, mussel studies that have been ongoing over the past 2 years and the Fox Chain o

Lakes Watershed Basin planning. Holly indicated she could make available a presentation on the McHenry County Corridor Plan if there was an available spot on the agenda.

Cindy asked for comments concerning potential conflicts with our tentative 2023 Board meeting schedule of 9:30 am on the 4th Thursdays from January through September and the 3rd Thursdays from October through December.

Cindy also asked that Board members obtain appointment letters from their respective organizations prior to our January board meeting when officers will be elected.

There is no new update from the Army Corps as the December meeting was cancelled. It had been hoped the field H&H studies could be started this fall but it is not known if that occurred. It appears now that meetings with municipalities will be scheduled in January. Batavia has been actively looking to schedule theirs. Cindy will attempt to email an update on USACE progress prior to our next meeting.

Upcoming Events

Gary Swick of Friends of the Fox River is preparing his annual report and emphasizing the positive things going on in our watershed. Anyone (even/especially consultants) with good news, innovative practices or other happenings in the watershed they would like to share should contact Gary at GreenSwick@gmail.com. One example would be Crystal Lake, now moving forward with public hearings to “daylight” Crystal Creek, thereby improving habitat and reducing flooding. Gary’s presentation is Sunday, January 8th 12pm at the Schweitzer Environmental Center in West Dundee and is open to the public.

- The North Central Region Water Network is holding its 3rd annual virtual harmful algal bloom symposium January 5th and 6th. Register at <https://northcentralwater.org/habs/habsymposium-2/>.
- Gary Swick presents annual State of the Fox report, Sunday January 8th, 12 pm Schweitzer Environmental Center, West Dundee.
- Fox River Ecosystem Partnership meeting January 11 in Elgin. <https://foxriverecosystem.org/fox/meetings-news>
- Fox River Study Group Board Meeting, January 26.
- The USGS is holding a meeting on its Next Generation Water Observing System for the Illinois River Basin February 22, 9 am to noon. [Registration](#)
- The 2023 ILMA Conference is being held in Gurnee March 8-11. <https://ilma-lakes.org/conference>
- The 2023 Fox River Summit, Burlington, WI., March 16.
- Illinois River Watershed Group meeting (covered for us by Alise) May 1, 10-3.

The next FRSG Board meeting will be Thursday January 26, 2023.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:38.