

Fox River Study Group
Board of Directors Meeting via Conference Call
9:30 AM June 23, 2022

In Attendance:

Board Members: Cindy Skrukrud, Beth Vogt, Tom Muth, Tim Wilson, Art Malm, Brian Witkowski, Rob Linke, Alyse Olson and Eric Weiss

Others: Karen Clementi, Fox Metro WRD, Leonard Dane, Fehr Graham, Jan Mangers, Sierra Club VOF, Natasha Woodlock, EEI (nwoodlock@eeiweb.com), Dean Farr, Izaak Walton League, Steven Polaskey, Fox Metro WRD, Robert Yerushalmi, HR Green, John Stein, Village of Cary, Atticus Zavelle, ISWS, Mia Gerace, Lake County SMC, Zac Bonesz- City of Batavia, Carrie Carter, Fehr Graham, Rishab Mahajan, Geosyntec, Claire Kissane, DuPage County, Bridget Bentley, USACE, Jack Russell, FRWRD, Mike Casper, Village of Barrington, Logan Gilbertsen - HR Green, Holly Hudson, CMAP

Cindy shared that 2 items needed to be added to the agenda.

- Under Treasurer's report an additional Bill to pay: ISWS \$18,409
- Under Chair's report a Recap of June 9 Army Corp study restart kickoff meeting with IDNR and ACE staff

Everyone introduced themselves.

Minutes - Motion by Brian, second by Tom to approve minutes of May 26, 2022 Board Meeting. Motion approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report - Tom presented the financial report. As of May 31, we have \$37,529 in our account at Harris Bank and \$536,982 in the CD at Old Second Bank. The second checking account at Harris Bank has \$12,821.00 and the savings account has \$49,610. Tom shared the intention is to eventually close the first checking account at Harris Bank. Tom shared that we are only waiting on a few more communities' contributions.

Motion by Rob, second by Eric to pay a bill to Geosyntec in the amounts of \$10,378.30 and a bill to ISWS in the amount of \$18,409.00. Abstain for Geosyntec bill by Art. Motion approved.

Tom shared that PorteBrown has agreed to complete the 2021 Audit for \$7,300. This is consistent with the approval from the May 26 board meeting, authorizing approval of the work with PorteBrown as long as it was not more than 10% increase from the 2020 audit effort. Tom indicated that the work for the 2020 audit was \$6,800.

Chair's Report

2021 In-Kind Time for Audit and 2022 Appointments to the Board – Cindy reminded all that now we need to provide the 2021 in-kind contributions. These In-Kind reports should be emailed to foxriverstudygp.com. The In-Kind report can include time for research on matters pertinent to Fox River Study Group.

Recap of June 9 Army Corp study restart kickoff meeting with IDNR and ACE staff – Cindy shared that this was a hybrid In-Person and Virtual meeting. In-Person Attendees included: FRSG Board Members: Cindy, Rob, Tom, Tim, Rishab, USACOE Staff: Andrew Leichty, Frank Beraldi, Rayn Johnson, Bridget Bentley, and DNR Staff: Chad Craycraft, Tristan and Steve Pescatelli. They began with the background of the start of the study in 2013, and the pause in 2015. It is part of the 519 IL River Restoration Program, and this is the only one of 16 projects in the program that is moving

forward at this time. 65% of the cost will be by USACOE and 35% will be by IDNR with funding received by FRSG. A Scoping letter is being finalized and will be sent to all communities impacted. The tentative schedule is:

Tentative Selected Plan(TSP) by end of 2022

Public Review by February 2023

Local level acceptance by June 2023

Final Plan completed by June 2024

The study is currently approximately 50% complete, and the TSP will include 25% conceptual design for each included dam removal, H&H modeling, consideration for velocities and flooding, 4 account considerations (Net Economic Benefit, Regional Economic Benefit, Environmental, and Other Social Affects), and they are intending to incorporate pertinent FRSG data. There will be a 30 day public comment period, and they are planning to have individual public meetings with all impacted communities. Upon completion of the plan, the next steps would be Design & Implementation Phase for removal of the dams identified in the plan. This would include 65%/35% cost share USACOE/Local for the design and construction, and could include funding or in-kind work. Then there would be a Operation & Maintenance Manual prepared.

After Cindy shared the recap, there were numerous questions asked of Bridget Bently. The USACOE will require Community Commitment by June of 2024 for dam removal to be included in the plan. The next meeting with the entire team is anticipated to be virtual. The first \$70,000 FRSG cost share has been requested, and the next is anticipated later this year, but Bridget will provide a financial schedule to ensure that FRSG is positioned to pay the share timely. Karen indicated there was a previously agreed schedule, and Bridget will incorporate that. Communities should share all concerns/issues as early as possible and preferably prior to December of 2022, and then Communities will be expected to be ready to make a commitment by June of 2023, this is a very short timeline. Bridget will confirm if this timeline is accurate. The TSP should include new expected shoreline, and will address many concerns, Bridget will confirm, but was uncertain if artist renderings would be included and will look into this. Bridget expects that design and funding will take approximately 12 months to design and bid after the final plan and subsequent funding approval expected in 2024. USACOE will lead design and bidding efforts, but would coordinate with local consultants for any additional work being completed with the dam removal. Real Estate ownership will be included in the TSP. The Scoping letters are expected to go out in the next week, and any feedback is welcomed from these since the earlier the feedback is provided, the better opportunity to incorporate.

Art indicated that the scoping letters are not very clear that this study is planning for dam removal, and is only sent to Mayors, so Art proposed that FRSG prepare a more clear letter, but Tim and Cindy shared that they felt that it would be more appropriate for community representatives to communicate this to our communities ourselves.

Modeling Committee

Discussion on development of web tool to document load reductions - Update to Limno Tech spreadsheet-Rob demonstrated the tool. It was noted that this was focused on Phosphorus reductions, but there are other benefits provided by BMPs. That being said, this tool is intended to be helpful to communities in their MS4 reporting. Cindy suggested that a questionnaire be prepared showing the existing tool and include questions for potential improvements.

2022 FRIP Update – Rishab shared that the draft of Chapter 3 has been completed and sent to the Modeling Committee. Rishab requested WWTP Phosphorus reduction data and a reminder of this Request for phosphorus removal status from WWTPs. Please [fill out this form](#) with info for your WWTP. Here is a [spreadsheet example](#) from FRWRD staff on how to calculate the annual geometric mean of total phosphorus. Rishab is considering a ½ day Modeling Committee workshop to work

through Chapter 4, and Cindy, Rob, Karen, and Art all were willing to participate. Chapter 5 draft is almost done.

Update on preproposal for studying HABs on the Fox River – Rishab explained the proposal application for USACOE funding to study HABs and the potential of forecasting HABs through machine learning. Art mentioned that filamentous bacteria also contribute to taste and odor on the Fox River. Rishab indicated that he will let everyone know if they acquire preapproval, and will request letters of support from communities and agencies at that time.

Indian Creek Watershed Based Plan Update – Holly provided an update regarding BMP considerations, and showed the public engagement website. Holly has met with many stakeholders to try to get the word out to acquire more engagement. The draft plan is expected to be sent to the IEPA by June 30th with the final plan expected by the end of August.

Rob shared about applying for 319 grant to conduct a pilot fecal coliform source tracking study in Indian Creek, due to difficulties and variabilities of potential sources. Holly mentioned that most likely a Quality Assurance Plan will be required with the application for the grant. Art shared concerns that fecal coliform is present in nature, so source tracking could be helpful, particularly since fecal coliform is specifically listed in our impairment on the Fox. Cindy asked if the board would be supportive of the local cost share? Rishab offered that Geosyntec would be willing to prepare the grant application. Art shared that he would like to see a proposal for the effort, and his support would be contingent on it not being a fecal study, but the study should use genetic markers eg HF183 to determine the presence of human waste contamination. Otherwise, we might never get the Fox River off the impaired waters list if the fecal coliform impairment is from birds and mammals other than humans. Rob offered to work with Rishab to get a proposal for the work. Cindy mentioned that the budget implications should be considered, and recommended that the Budget Committee meet to consider this.

Upcoming events and other updates

- o FREP will be having their annual picnic on Wednesday, July 13th at 3pm at Carl Hansen Woods near Schaumburg. Rick McAndless with the North Cook Soil & Water Conservation District will lead a tour of a 32-year-old prairie and oak woodland restoration. There is more information available on the FREP website at <https://foxriverecosystem.org/fox/meetings-news> for anyone interested in attending.
- o Environmental Defenders of McHenry County and the McHenry County Department of Planning and Development are hosting a series of monthly Fridays Best Management Practices Talks & Tours. To register for the July 22 event-*How To Successfully Manage Natural Landscaping* and be added to the email list for this series, please fill out the form at <https://forms.gle/XYWLs9GxBYheY6yU6> You will also find a link there to the schedule of all the Talks and Tours in this series and videos of past sessions.
- o Dean Farr shared about several programs, including the CRP program for farmland in floodplains.

2022 meeting schedule: 4th Thurs Jan-Sept, 3rd Thurs Oct-Dec

Next meetings – The next regularly scheduled meeting will be Thursday, July 28, 2022, at 9:30 AM and will be held virtually.

Motion to adjourn by Rob, second by Alyse. The meeting was adjourned at 11:37 AM.