

Fox River Study Group
Board of Directors Meeting via Conference Call
9:30 AM July 22, 2021

In Attendance:

Board Members: Cindy Skrukud, Tom Muth, Mark Phipps, Tim Wilson, Alyse Olson, Rob Linke, and Eric Weiss

Others: Karen Clementi, Fox Metro WRD, Faye Sinnott, Deanna Doohaluk, TCF, Josie Woger, Fox Metro WRD, Mike Casper, Village of Barrington, Jan Mangers, VOF, Chris Walton, EEI, Rishab Mahajan, Geosyntec, Beth Vogt, FRWRD, Holly Hudson, CMAP, Carl Fischer, Baxter & Woodman, Dan Langguth City of Crystal Lake, Jack Russell, FRWRD

Everyone introduced themselves.

Minutes: Motion by Mark, second by Tim to approve minutes of June 24, 2021 meeting. Motion unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report Tom presented the financial report. As of June 30, 2021 we have \$173,966.63 in our account at Harris Bank. The CD's matured, so Tom and Mark rolled them into an Optimized Savings Account, currently a 0.1% interest, and this is in the amount of \$536,574.

Motion by Mark, second by Eric to pay bills. Discussion to correct the Geosyntec bill amount from the agenda to the corrected amount of \$5,605.25. Mark and Eric Amended their motion: Geosyntec - \$5,605.25, Aileron \$4,500, and CMAP \$13,464.50. Motion approved unanimously.

Tom requested the 2020 in-kind donation submittals should be sent to foxriverstudygp@gmail.com.

Communications Committee Mark shared the "Key Messages" draft from Aileron and highlighted the 5 main topics. Eric expressed concern of "Dam removals protect the drinking water supply of more than 300,000 Illinois residents.", and how the Elgin Water Treatment intake needs to be revised before this is accurate. Rishab suggested to revise this to "Dam removals would improve water quality in the Fox River, which is the drinking water supply of more than 300,000 Illinois residents." Holly suggested that the word "protect" made her first think of quantity and she liked Rishab's suggestion to focus on water quality. Holly asked for clarification on "keep utility bills affordable", and Mark shared the detailed information. Cindy suggested to add a subpoint in the "keep utility bills affordable" section that the improvement in water quality with reduce the potential of harmful algal blooms and consequently should reduce treatment costs for taste and odor at water treatment plants.

Mark shared the "Communications Plan" draft from Aileron and laid out the tiered approach depending on the audience, as well as the schedule for implementation. Tim shared that the schedule seemed too aggressive for presenting to public agencies, and additionally suggested adding Park Districts to Tier 2.

Budget Committee Mark shared the draft Long Range Financial Plan. The 2021 Proposed column is a wish list of all the various committees, and thereby the overall budget shows an annual deficit, and depletes all cash on hand in 2028. This is not sustainable, and the idea is to have an open discussion on how to balance the plan. Options include cutting or delaying initiatives, or increasing funding through acquiring grants, increasing membership, or increasing costs to existing members. Karen pointed out this shows that we do not have room to skip contributions in future years, and a suggestion that there are available funds if anyone is able to coordinate grant writing. Cindy agreed with the grants and suggested the option to delay some of the monitoring efforts. Mark suggested delaying and

spreading out the HSPF updates to every 2 or 3 years, and Rob concurred with this. Mark further suggested an option of changing the Trends analysis recurrence from every 5 years to possibly 10 years. Mark further suggested there is a lot of monitoring surrounding the pre and post Carpentersville Dam removal, and this information may be beneficial in one future dam removal, but if the information is all supportive of the benefits, then there may no longer be a need to continue to fund monitoring of dam removals, and Karen shared that other groups may pick up on these types of studies. Cindy added that the FRIP update is due in 2022, and Mark asked if we will start in 2021 and Cindy confirmed that it will, and Geosyntec will be providing a proposal in the next few weeks. Mark concluded the discussion that the committee will take these considerations under advisement and plan to meet to work out a balanced financial plan.

Monitoring Committee Karen shared that they have worked out the INHS and ISWS contracts. However, they did want to pass the payment terms for the 2 contracts by the board to see if there are any concerns. INHS contract is just cost reimbursement, with invoices no more frequently than monthly. ISWS contract is upon 45 days of the agreement being fully executed FRSG will pay UNIVERSITY \$18,409 and thereafter as follows: \$18,409 on or before May 31, 2022, \$18,409 on or before December 30, 2022, and \$18,409 on or before May 31, 2023 for total compensation of \$73,636. Effective date Sept. 1, 2021. Eric and Mark both shared that these terms seem acceptable. Karen did share that the INHS will start the work even before the agreement is finalized. Cindy shared that the USGS contract has been completed too.

Modeling Committee Rob shared that he wanted to talk about the Senator Katrin Villa's Fox River Walk, due to staff changes in the Senator's office Rob was letting Kady McFadden take the lead to find the correct person to coordinate with. Jan shared that she did have an initial contact and was willing to follow up for clarification of the event.

Rob shared the Combined Scenarios Update has been shared with the Modeling Committee, and they feel that this should be presented in a special meeting before the next FRSG Board Meeting in August. Rob provided August 5, 10 or 13 as options. The largest portion of the board present could attend the August 5th date, and they will plan to record it for those who are not able to attend. The meeting will be at 9:30 am via conference call.

Holly shared the Indian Creek Watershed study update, the field work is ongoing, CMAP is working out an Amendment to the Agreement with IEPA which includes some funding line transfers and a 6 month extension. This is partially due to available funding in some lines and that Geosyntec has billed to the limit in their agreement.

Holly shared that CMAP is planning to submit a 604b grant application to study Tyler Creek Watershed next year. They are hoping to include the HSPF modeling effort in the grant application, but are concerned that the award may be short, so they may request funding from FRSG to complete this. CMAP is planning to apply once the funding opportunity is posted, with the intention to begin next spring.

Studies by Others

Army Corps Connectivity & Habitat Study – Cindy shared that IDNR has two items that they are not currently showing a willingness to move on in the funding agreement. The first is that the IDNR requires FRSG to indemnify the IDNR and will not share in any indemnity in return. Mark, Karen and Beth indicated that they feel the indemnification risk is low if the field work is all completed. Mark suggested requesting a limit of the agreement fee for the indemnification risk to FRSG, and to see if IDNR would accept that. The second item of concern is that the IDNR and USACOE will not commit to a maximum cost for the FRSGs portion of the cost. They have indicated an estimated cost of

\$210,000 from FRSG, but are asking for a clause to be included that is not limited. Cindy will reach out to the IDNR and the USACOE to get answers to the question if the field work is completed, and how confident they are in the \$210,000 estimate of cost for FRSG.

Upcoming events and other updates

- FREP Annual Picnic-Wednesday, July 28th at 4 pm at the Les Arends Forest Preserve in Batavia. More details can be found at: <https://foxriverecosystem.org/fox/meetings-news>
- FREP Noon presentation on August 11th – Roadsides as Habitat can also be found at the link above.

Next meeting will be a special meeting held virtually on Thursday, August 5th at 9:30 AM for the Combined Scenarios Update Geosyntec Presentation. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be Thursday, August 26th at 9:30 AM and will be held virtually.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 AM.