

Fox River Study Group
Board of Directors Meeting via Conference Call
9:30 AM September 22, 2022

In Attendance:

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

Others: Faye Sinnott, at large, Dan Langguth, City of Crystal Lake, Josie Woger, Fox Metro WRD, Christine Davis, Illinois EPA, Emily Conti, EEI, Mark Phipps, HR Green, Bob Morris, Jack Russell, FRWRD, Jenny Murphy, USGS, Rishab Mahajan, Geosyntec, Logan Gilbertsen, HR Green, Holly Hudson, CMAP

Everyone introduced themselves.

Minutes - Motion by Beth, second by Tim to approve minutes of August 25, 2022 Board Meeting. Motion approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report - Tom presented the financial report. As of August 31, we have a balance of \$33,694.96 in our checking account at Harris Bank, \$29,611.21 in our savings account at Harris Bank and \$537,117.86 in the CD at Old Second Bank. There is \$13,885.72 in outstanding withdrawals not yet cleared from the checking.

Motion by Rob, second by Beth to pay a bill to Geosyntec in the amounts of \$10,285.75 and a bill to Portee Brown in the amount of \$2,000. Motion approved unanimously.

Motion by Tim, second by Art to approve the 2021 Audit. Motion passed unanimously. Cindy suggested that the Audit is a lot of work for Tom, and we should consider an Audit Committee. Beth expressed support for the concept, and it will be considered further in the future.

Motion by Beth, second by Tim to approve the 2021 IRS 990 and IL-990. Motion passed unanimously.

Chair's Report

Recap of September 14th Army Corps Monthly Meeting with IDNR and USACE staff – Cindy shared a summary of the meeting:

- Schedule is Draft Feasibility Study by February of 2023, Public Comments and incorporation thereafter, and Final Study completed by end of 2023.
- There was a lot of H&H discussion, and some additional field data necessary. IDNR is providing data that they have in a mapping product. USACE schedule may need to be revised due to this.
- Cindy offered that there may be some data available from local agencies. Tim will see if the Tri-Cities have anything.
- Minutes from the meeting were provided to the FRSG Board.
- There was a review of the Scoping Letter responses.
- Review of the draft website was discussed. USACE has provided screenshots, and Cindy suggested the Communications Committee review these. This is Art, Karen and Cindy. Brain volunteered to join. There was discussion that it will be acceptable for committee members don't necessarily need to be FRSG Board Members.
- Art emphasized the need for the H&H to provide new water levels.

- Utility Crossing relocations that result as part of a Dam Removal, will be 100% the responsibility of the Local Agency; however, this work is credited towards the 35% of the local participation. Beth asked if the IDNR would pay for that, and this needs to be asked of the IDNR.
- USACE is planning to meet with each individual community by the end of October. Beth requested to be included in the meeting with Elgin and South Elgin.
- Engineering Studies may be eligible for the credit towards the local match, and this would need to be asked of the USACE.
- Beth expressed appreciation for Cindy and Art, and others, for the smaller group willing to attend the USACE meetings, and bring back to the Board.
- Rishab chatted that FRSG Modeling efforts, Water Quality modeling, pre & post dam removal modeling could possibly be considered for local credit too.

Request for help to reach out to WWTPs on provide data on Phosphorus Removal- Cindy requested that anyone with data fill out the form. Cindy also provided an update that she has filled out a FOIA with the IEPA for phosphorus reduction data available. However, we still need to request phosphorus removal data 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. Holly asked later in the meeting if this includes tributary dischargers, or just main stem, and Cindy responded that the intention was to include all main and tributary discharges.

Request from City of Ottawa to review their plans for a new WWTP along the east side of the Fox River – Cindy suggested that this information be forwarded to the Modeling and Monitoring Committees. It will be during the standing workgroup meetings, so if anyone has interest they could reach out to Cindy to get a meeting invite. Rishab shared that he met with the design engineers and some specifics are that the plant is designed for 0.9 MGD flow. It is suggested that it be designed to meet the 2030 expected requirements.

Plans for October 20th Meeting and Annual Meeting – Cindy reminded all that October changes to the 3rd Thursday of the month through the end of the year. Cindy proposed to delay the Annual Meeting until November after the draft FRIP is completed. Cindy also proposed that the Annual Meeting be held virtually. There was good discussion in support of these concepts, and additionally suggested request that the USACE present an overview of the 519 Study and progress. Cindy will reach out to Rishab and Bridget to see how this could work. The date for the Annual Meeting was not finalized, but a suggestion about incorporating it into the November Monthly meeting was considered as well.

Modeling Committee

FRIP Appendix D: Fox River Watershed Management Scenarios review - Cindy shared that Appendix D has been a significant work item over the past month.

2022 FRIP Update – Rishab shared that Chapter 4 draft has been sent to the committee. This is substantial as it incorporates the Management Actions. Geosyntec is working on Chapter 5 to be delivered by the end of next week, and address comments on all chapters thereafter for a full draft by the end of October.

Indian Creek Watershed-based Plan Update – Holly shared that she will be working on site specific BMPs and attributes through the end of next week, at which point she will turn it over to Geosyntec to model pollutant load reduction. The final plan is due to the IEPA by the end of November.

Monitoring Committee

Indian Creek Fecal Coliform investigation – Cindy proposed that an in person workshop be setup with the committee, FMWRD, Aurora, and Holly to work through the proposal.

Carpentersville Dam Removal update – Rob shared that some considerations of revising the removal plan from completely dry removal to doing the work in the water have delayed the permitting. The project is now expected to be delayed until winter.

Upcoming events and other updates

- o Dam Nite Out Batavia The program will begin by the Batavia Dam on the Fox River at 6 pm on Thurs. Sept. 22. There, Kate Garrett, Director of Depot Museum, will discuss the natural and cultural history of our local river. The group will reconvene at Pal Joey's where we can enjoy light refreshments and purchase additional food and beverages. Around 7 pm Art Malm and Gary Swick of Friends of the Fox River will take a deeper dive into the research and facts associated with dam removal. They will address Fox River history, common concerns with support from scientific data, and an exciting vision for the future. [Register here](#). The Batavia Environmental Commission is hosting this event in partnership with Friends of the Fox River (FOTFR).
- o FREP will be hosting a Noon Network on Wednesday, October 12th, from noon to 1:30pm on the Salt Smart Cooperative. Jennifer Hammer with The Conservation Foundation will be sharing about the impact of winter chlorides on aquatic life, and how we can reduce those impacts. The program will be held at the Fox Metro Water Reclamation District Maintenance Building Meeting Area at 682 State Route 31 in Oswego.
- 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. The next event will be held at McHenry County College from 1-3 pm on Friday, Oct. 21 focussing on green building and sustainable development. The schedule of all the Talks and Tours in this series and videos of past sessions are found [here](#).
- o McHenry County Aug. 31 Water Forum “Your Water Quality” [presentations are posted here](#).
- o Rishab shared Geosyntec is hosting a free webinar on PFAS Stormwater Management on October 11 and provided the link. https://geosyntec.zoom.us/webinar/register/8216383819280/WN_IQy2zdk7TZeEWEL0GCHA7g

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

Next meetings – The next regularly scheduled meeting will be Thursday, October 20, 2022, at 9:30 AM and will be held virtually.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 AM.