

Fox River Study Group
Board of Directors Meeting via Conference Call
9:30 AM March 25, 2021

In Attendance: Board Members: Cindy Skrukud, Alyse Olson, Mark Phipps, Tim Wilson, Art Malm, Tom Muth, Eric Weiss, Rob Linke

Others: Beth Vogt FRWRD, Ryan Shuler IL American Water, Mary Beth Falsey, Jessica Mino, Dennis Dreher, Dan Langguth, City of Crystal Lake, Chris Walton, EEI, Mike Ott, Strand, Karen Clementi, Fox Metro WRD, Leonard Dane, Deuchler, Clint Bailey, USGS, Jack Russell, FRWRD, Rishab Mahajan, Geosyntec, Bob Morris, Faye Sinnott, John Stein, Village of Cary, Holly Hudson, CMAP, David Lampert, Illinois Tech

Everyone introduced themselves.

Motion by Tom, second by Tim to approve minutes of February 25, 2021 meeting. Motion approved, Abstain by Eric Weiss.

Treasurer's Report Tom Muth presented the financial report. Motion by Eric, second by Rob to pay bills: Geosyntec \$1720.00 and \$998.50. Motion approved unanimously.

Communications Committee Mark shared that the Committee has met once since the last board meeting. The Committee would like to emphasize communication on the benefits of dam removal in the coming year. This is based on the results of the phone survey. Therefore, the committee requested a proposal from Aileron, which is expected in the next few weeks. The committee would like to see press releases, letters to representatives, a video library on the website, and etc. There should be a lot of information available from our models, Carpenter Dam removal, and Army Corp Study.

Cindy shared a conversation that she had with Stephen McCracken of The Conservation Foundation working with V3 regarding a survey that he was considering on the Carpenter Dam. She shared that we had just completed one. Cindy asked the board if it would be appropriate to share the summary findings. Mark agreed that this seemed appropriate. Tim asked if it would make sense to post the survey on the website. Art agreed with this. Cindy offered to send out the entire survey to the board for review. Mark proposed that we review the survey and vote via email to determine if the board agrees to post the full survey results on the website and share.

Budget Committee Mark updated the board on the status of the committee. Originally, this committee was comprised of a majority of the board, but recently Mark posed a question of those interested to continue, and Tim, Art and Eric have expressed interest. The group is planning a meeting for the week of April 5th.

Monitoring Committee Karen provided an update as follows:
ISWS Fox DB and Trends report updated proposal being reviewed by the committee.

INHS mussel work proposal has board approval and the committee has authorization to finalize.

USGS proposal to continue current work for the next 3 seasons, USGS has offered to provide the service through November even though they generally stop in September, and the this renewal is approximately \$10,000 less than the previous 3 year agreement, since there are no setup costs associated with continuing monitoring. Motion by Art and Second by Mark for approval of the proposed renewal. Motion Unanimously Passed.

Clint shared that an additional monitoring location had been added north of the Stratton Dam site through an additional agency agreement. This is called the Charles Miller Memorial Bridge.

Modeling Committee Rishab shared the status of the FRSG model compiled scenarios started making progress and planning to provide this in the next few months, and the ISWS loading contribution work should be able to be shared with the committee soon.

Holly shared the status of the Indian Creek Watershed-based Plan that the draft was submitted; however, the modeling component was not included and a 3rd draft will be required to be submitted. Rishab shared that a stream obstruction has impacted some of the data; however, they are looking into a workaround to the lack of data and will hopefully be able to finalize. Lastly, a workgroup meeting is scheduled immediately following the board meeting.

Army Corps Connectivity & Habitat Study

Cindy shared an update on outreach requesting inclusion in FY22 budget and workplan. Cindy sent a letter to the Commander after the February Board meeting, and USACOE staff called Cindy for clarification, and now they are working on a response. CMAP, FREP, City of Aurora, FMWRD, and Kane County have all either sent letters of support or are working to that end. Cindy had a conversation with John Rogner, Asst. Dir. IDNR, and he encouraged to let Senator Durbin know; therefore, Cindy is making contact to Senator Durbin's office. Will also try to get a hold of Representative Underwood next week too.

IDNR MOA for funding status, board has had an opportunity to review. Beth asked FRWRD's attorney to look at the indemnity clause and provided suggested changes.

Chair's Report

The 2020 Annual Report to IEPA was prepared by Karen. Cindy shared that it had been reviewed and approved by email vote. Cindy will send out the final report and provide instructions for submittal. Rob recommended that the report be sent out to the full FRSG email list and post on the website, and Cindy agreed. We can post it on the website "News" section, and Karen offered to write a short summary. Beth shared of compliance violation issued if the report is not mailed a hard copy to the IEPA. Cindy asked for the address to be emailed so that she could include this in the instructions.

Cindy reminded the board members that their respective 2021 appointment letters are needed. Cindy reminded all that the audit will be here soon, so prepare the in-kind donation statements. Cindy reminded board members to ensure that she has appropriate addresses for each board member for reporting.

Recent Events recap

Cindy shared that the Fox River Summit had approximately 130 attendees, and the breakout groups at the end of the day still had 50 participating. They are working on posting the presentations online. Art shared there were multiple sessions with very interesting topics, and included good discussion.

One Earth Film Fest – "Kiss the Ground" may be available on Netflix. It was a good film.

Upcoming events The group discussed these upcoming events.

Alyse shared the FREP Noon Network on April 14th from 12 to 1:30 will host Jack Darin, Executive Director of Sierra Club Illinois, speaking about current issues and environmental legislation in Illinois.

Holly inquired about the FRIP update deadline, and Cindy responded that it needs to be completed by the end of 2022.

Next meeting will be held virtually on Thursday, April 22 at 9:30 am. At the April meeting we will revisit if it will be appropriate to meet in person in May.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:37 PM.