

**Fox River Study Group Draft Minutes
Board of Directors Meeting via Conference Call
9:30 AM February 23, 2023**

In Attendance:

Board Members: Cindy Skrukrud, Karen Clementi, Art Malm, Brian Witkowski, Rob Linke, Alyse Olson, Eric Johnson, Mike Pubentz

Others in attendance:

- Beth Vogt, FRWRD
- Atticus Zavelle, ISWS
- Clint Bailey-USGS
- Zac Bonesz- City of Batavia
- Anna Kootstra, Village of Wauconda
- Naren Patel, Fehr Graham
- Jack Russell, FRWRD
- John Stein Village of Cary
- Logan Gilbertsen - HR Green
- Rishab Mahajan- Geosyntec
- Jenny Murphy – USGS
- Phil Cotter, Village of East Dundee
- Jillian Kiss, Trotter and Associates, Inc.
- Debra Ness, City of Elgin
- Bob Morris
- Josie Woger, Fox Metro WRD

The meeting began at 9:30 am with self-introductions

Minutes - Motion by Brian, second by Mike to approve minutes of the January 26, 2023 Board Meeting. Motion approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report - Karen presented the Treasurer's report. January 31 our balance at Old Second Bank was \$477,500.36. The BMO Harris savings balance was \$1,212.53 and the BMO checking balance was \$49,564.21. Checks yet to be cleared totaled \$35,608.35.

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

Motion by Rob, second by Brian to pay CMAP bill of \$545.28. Motion passed unanimously.

Chair's Report – Cindy requested those Board members who have not sent in their appointment letters should do so. Email to Cindy at foxriverstudygp@gmail.com. Cindy will send out a tally of who has and has not forwarded those appointments.

The “in kind time and expenses” records from 2022 should be sent to Cindy for our annual IRS report. These expenses include meeting attendance time, salary, monitoring, travel and other expenses. Again, these should be sent to foxriverstudygp@gmail.com and not Cindy's personal email address.

The board committee organization call February 17 resulted in the following appointments:

- Modeling/Monitoring Committee (Co-chairs: Rob, Karen; members: Art, Cindy, Beth) responsible for FRIP implementation, monitoring contracts: USGS (gage at McHenry dam) and Fehr Graham (chemical, physical study of Carpentersville dam removal) and INHS (mussels study at Carpentersville dam), model updates and improved model calibration
- Communications Committee (Chair: Brian, members: Art, Cindy, Tim) responsible for website, annual report due to IEPA by March 31, annual update to our financial supporters, communication to the public on our efforts

- Dam Communications Subcommittee- (Chair: Art, members: Cindy, HR Green: Andrea Pracht, Logan Gilbertsen, Geosyntec: Rishab Mahajan, FOFR: Gary Swick) First meeting - Thurs. March 9 at 4 pm.
- Annual Meeting Subcommittee- (Chair: Tim, Cindy, Alyse, Karen-will help with invite list, Mike/Deb will arrange for the meeting venue in Elgin) to plan our 20th year in-person annual meeting & future annual meetings
- Finance Committee (was Long Term Financial Plan Committee) (Chair: Karen, members: Tim, Mike, Brian, Rob) responsible for managing accounts, annual audit, includes work to update 10-year financial plan to align with 2022 FRIP
- NPDES FRSG Special Condition Committee (Tim, Karen, Beth) Other dischargers invited. This committee will work on a proposal for updating the FRSG Special Condition in NPDES permits to propose to IEPA reflecting the 2022 FRIP.

Rob reminded everyone on the call that committee participation is not restricted to board members and everyone is welcome to attend committee meetings. Google groups will be formed by Cindy for each committee. Anyone wishing to be included in a committee's Google group should email their request to foxriverstudygp@gmail.com.

Modelling Committee Report – Rob indicated nothing has been heard back from IEPA on our 2022 FRIP submittal.

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 to be completed by the end of February. A listing of the (many) watershed wide BMPs allowable for 319 funding will be sent to IEPA by the end of March. Holly reminded the group any action specifically listed in MS4 plans will not be eligible for 319 funding.

Cindy discussed the draft letter to Ottawa with comments on their proposed new Fox River wastewater plant design. Several minor revisions were discussed. Rob moved the revised letter be sent to Ottawa's mayor, the IEPA, and Naren Patel representing the city's engineer. Mike seconded the motion and it was adopted unanimously.

Communication Committee Report –

Cindy indicated Karen is ready to send the cover letter with invoices to our member organizations. The letter will issue in the next week or two.

Cindy is preparing the FRSG contribution to the Illinois Nutrient Reduction Strategy biannual report for submittal by March 1. Cindy is also now working on our 2023 annual report to IEPA, a condition of members' NPDES permits. This report is due March 31 and a draft will be available for review with a goal of March 15th.

Cindy indicated she had heard from the Corps, with the next 519 Study call March 8th at 10 am. Bridgette indicated she had productive meetings with Elgin and St. Charles. Many of the answers to questions posed will depend upon the results of the H&H study.

The Corps' website is live but there were a couple of corrections that needed to be made before we promote.

Dam Removal Subcommittee - Art indicated the first Dam Removal subcommittee would be Thursday March 9th at 4pm. New members are welcome.

Annual Meeting Subcommittee - Cindy requested input on whether October 26 or November 2 would be the preferred date for our annual meeting. The committee will decide.

The USGS hosted a session February 22 with "lightning round reports" on Intergrated Water Science Studies ongoing in the Illinois River basin, with a lot of work being done on our Fox. They have agreed to present at our annual meeting.

Finance Committee- No further reports.

NPDES Special Conditions Committee - Beth invited anyone interested to participate on the committee. She will also extend invitations to member communities' NPDES permit writers in order to coordinate the work.

Upcoming Events

- 2023 ILMA Conference Registration March 8-10, 2023 Holiday Inn — Gurnee Convention Center 6161 West Grand Ave, Gurnee, Illinois Registration at <https://ilma-lakes.org/conference-registration>
- There will be a screening of the film *Going Circular* at Waubensee Community College (Aurora Downtown Campus - 18 S. River St, Aurora, IL) at 6:30 pm on Thursday, March 9th as part of the One Earth Film Festival. Doors open for tabling at 5:45 pm. More info can be found at: <https://foxriverecosystem.org/fox/film-festival> One can attend in person or virtually. Cindy requested tabling help 5:45 to 6:30. Karen has FRSG "official table box" and will drop that off. Ideas for FRSG bobbleheads will be entertained.
- Fox River Summit is on March 16. [Registration Speakers/Presentations](#) Early registration ends March 10. One can attend in person or virtually.
- Become certified as an Illinois River Watch citizen scientist and learn how to monitor the water quality in your local streams! Training sessions are being offered throughout April at locations in and nearby the Fox River watershed. [Register here.](#)
- The Spring Illinois River Watershed Study Group meeting is scheduled for May 1 from 10 am -3 pm.

Last Minute Additions

The Illinois State Water Survey is updating the Fox Environmental Database for its trend analysis. The last major update was 2021. Anyone having data not previously sent to the ISWS should contact Atticus Zavelle at atticus@illinois.edu for information and instructions.

The February FREP noon network meeting featured Alison Stoldola who presented on the combined effort of the INHS and Wisconsin DNR to resample Fox River watershed mussels. The YouTube link to her presentation: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mre0bNQbpNo>.

Wisconsin held a kickoff webinar on effort to establish Fox Illinois TMDLs. Information can be found at <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/TMDLs/FOXIL>

The next FRSG Board meeting will be Thursday March 23, 2023 at 9:30 am.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00.