

Fox River Study Group Draft Minutes
Board of Directors Meeting via Conference Call
9:30 AM May 23, 2024

In Attendance:

Board Members: Alyse Olson, FREP; Art Malm, Friends of the Fox River; Brian Witkowski, City of Aurora; Cindy Skrukrud, Sierra Club; Debra Ness, City of Elgin; Eric Johnson, FRWRD; Karen Clementi, Fox Metro WRD; Rob Linke, Kane County; Tim Wilson, City of St Charles

Others:

Andrea Pracht, HRGreen
Bartlett Durand, water quality partnership consultant
Billie Jean Anthony, City of Crystal Lake
Caitlin Foster, Fox Metro WRD
Dan Hughes and Phil Cotter, Village of East Dundee
Dean Farr, Ill Division Izaak Walton League
Donna Erfort, Village of Port Barrington
Emily Conti, EEI
Gabriel Powers, McHenry County Conservation District
Holly Hudson, CMAP
Jan Mangers, VOF Sierra Club

Jenny Murphy, USGS
John Stein, Village of Cary
Karolina Cho, Gewalt Hamilton Associates
Leonard Dane-Fehr Graham
Lindsay Muth, Trotter and Associates
Mike Warner, Gewalt Hamilton
Mohammed Haque, Northern Moraine WRD
Naren Patel, Fehr Graham
Rishab Mahajan, Geosyntec
Sam Youssef, FRWRD
Sharon Waller, Sustainable Systems LLC - Consulting

The meeting began at 9:32 am with self-introductions.

Minutes – A motion to table the minutes of the April 25, 2024 board meetings was made by Karen, seconded by Brian. The motion was approved.

Treasurer's Report – Karen presented the Treasurer's report. As of 4/30/2024 our balances were as follows:

Old Second National Bank \$448,620.02
BMO Harris checking \$4,862.09
BMO Harris savings \$78,833.19

Withdrawals not shown: Cindy Skrukrud, \$10.00

A motion was made by Brian seconded by Tim to accept the Treasurer's report and to pay the following,

IDNR \$35,000 (Army Corps 519 Study)
FRWRD \$6,625 (USGS monitoring station passthrough)

Rob observed we are close to finishing our obligation for the 519. Cindy indicated there will be additional sediment sampling done by the Corps, the extent and cost to the FRSG is yet unknown. The motion was passed unanimously.

Karen stated she had moved \$243,000 to a 6 month CD at 5% interest and the balance of the Old Second account to a 52 week CD at 4.25%.

Cindy moved, seconded by Brian, that we contract with Lauterbach & Amen of Naperville for the 2023 audit at a cost of \$8,500. The motion was passed unanimously.

Karen requested in kind costs for 2023 be submitted to Karen immediately.

Presentation –

Bartlett Duran and Mohammed Haque representing the Northern Moraine Water Reclamation District presented a program on nutrient trading in the watershed. This presentation is based on the Wisconsin nutrient trading model, modified and successfully used by Iowa and adapted for Illinois. This has been a work in progress over the past four plus years. The IEPA is preparing an MOU that will allow the use of nutrient trading by Northern Moraine as a pilot alternative to more stringent discharge limits in the future.

The focus of the program is the Gulf of Mexico hypoxia zone, and while Illinois point sources appear to be meeting their nutrient reduction goals, this is not the case with non point sources. More locally, excessive nutrients leading to toxic algae blooms have been seen, for example in Madison, Wisconsin where there are posted warnings about letting dogs drink from or swim in the lake. Targets of 0.1 and 0.075 mg/l P have been set for Wisconsin WWTP discharges, targets that may be unattainable, leading to the interest in nutrient trading with Ag interests. Iowa farmers have accepted this program approach enthusiastically.

The presentation was recorded and a link will be provided at the FRSG website.

Modeling and Monitoring –

There was no progress reported since last month's meeting on BMPs or post removal monitoring of the Carpenters dam.

Communications Committee – Brian is continuing to reach out to contacts, putting together the Lunch and Learn program. Cindy noted on the Agenda there is a link to Dr. Margenot's presentation in our Videos folder. There is a spreadsheet active which is available in that folder listing possible local sites for stream bank erosion study by Margenot.

Cindy spoke of the new Illinois Farmland Network whose aim is to create farmer led councils to address farmland runoff like those seen in Wisconsin. A program on this new network should be available in the fall.

Dam Communications Subcommittee –

Art indicated the Carpentersville bids were received but additional information is not yet available.

The subcommittee has been generally inactive pending a decision on what activities and messaging the Board finds to be appropriate. Art and Gary Swick are engaging in public dam removal forums with Elgin's mayor and South Elgin's Village President speaking on behalf of Friends of the Fox River. Topics covered included both general and specific local issues such as Elgin's water intake and flood

reduction potential with the removal of South Elgin's dam. Art indicated FOTFR would be happy to provide a program on dam removal to anyone in the valley.

Rob indicated he would contact the Corps to get information on the status of their communications with our member communities, and their suggestions on how the FRSG could help support their efforts.

Art expressed his interest in the additional sediment studies proposed, and how concerns are being expressed in Elgin and South Elgin about sediment handling.

Mike Pubenz of Elgin said they were waiting for a sample letter of intent from the Corps that would be appropriate to indicate Elgin's continued interest in the Corps program. Also, Elgin has reached out to the U of I for 2D hydraulic modeling assistance to better understand the likely sediment transfer implications of removing their dam.

Art mentioned the possibility raised by Chad Craycraft that there may be agreement issues between the Corps and IDNR that might be a cause of project delay. Cindy will discuss this with Craycraft.

Also, Art indicated the concern about the impact of a community choosing to keep its dam and the implications to water quality permitting. Based upon FRSG work the dams themselves are creating water quality impairments which presumably would become the responsibility of the owning municipality to resolve. What that would look like, and how such a situation could be resolved other than by subsequent dam removal, has yet to be discussed. Cindy suggested this should be brought up with IEPA after first giving them a "heads-up" to allow for staff consideration.

Chair's Report –

Rob reported five bids had been received by the KCFPD for removal of the Carpentersville dam. The KCFPD and IDNR are both reviewing the bids.

Rob will send copies of an Excel spreadsheet with a projected 10 year financial plan to Board members for review.

FRSG Letters of support for IEPA 319 non point source grant applications will be sent by Rob to Chris Davis. The projects involve Woods Creek, Mahoney Creek and dam removal on Little Rock Creek

The new MS4 reporting system being rolled out by IEPA continues to be slow, leaving significant concerns at the local level. On a hopeful note, the FRSG MS4 annual report was turned in earlier this month and accepted within hours by the IEPA. Brant Fleming and Carli Darcy are new IEPA contacts for these permits.

Upcoming events/other updates

- FREP Noon Network: Wednesday, June 12th from Noon-1:30 pm - Dixie Creek Restoration Highlights. Brad Andresen, Ecologist/Horticulturist with the Village of Algonquin, will be sharing about the restoration. Meet at the street parking area just east

of 1450 White Chapel Lane in Algonquin. For more info, please visit:

<https://foxriverecosystem.org/fox/meetings-news>

Links to videos/slides of past events

- FRSG Lunch & Learn Sessions (find in most in our [FRSG videos folder](#))
 - Dr. Andrew Margenot April 18, 2024 presentation on his UIUC lab's work on streambank erosion and historic soil resampling effort (see also factsheet on Centennial soil project in the folder) [Sheet for listing potential streambank erosion sites](#)
 - ISWS Trends Report- presented by Elias Getahun and Atticus Zavelle, [Link to Trends Report folder](#) Feb. 29, 2024
 - Great Lakes to Gulf Observatory Nov. 30, 2023 webinar presented by Laura Kammin and Jong Sung Lee is available at https://lewisclark.zoom.us/rec/share/JmJV_4gPWLxFFc2UtcSqjMo5Up6p6f9egCTfLnI0MOzUn2hOmaSsTR2MfiBi3Ws.2Ygo-7xWakkYcbYg. Passcode: 89S=e#f7
 - April 10 – FREP Noon Network – Fishes of the Fox River presented by Tristan Widloe, IDNR's Region 2 Streams Biologist. Slides available at: <https://foxriverecosystem.org/fox/presentations>
- March 2024 Fox River Summit [See agenda here](#). Videos coming soon at Southeast Fox River Partnership YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/@benlikesjazz>; videos of 2023 Summit are also found here. Videos and slides from prior years can be found at <https://www.southeastfoxriver.org/foxriversummit>
- “Total Maximum Daily Loads for Total Phosphorus and Total Suspended Solids in the Fox Illinois River Basin” (FOXIL TMDL). Project website: <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/TMDLs/FOXIL> Includes Informational Webinar - Oct. 31, 2023 & Project Introduction Webinar - Feb. 15, 2023
- Fox Waterway Agency's [Watershed Planning for the Chain O'Lakes Region](#)
 - Fox Waterway Agency March 13, 2024 presentation of Watershed-Based Plan for the Chain O'Lakes Region [slides](#)

The next regular meeting will be Thurs. June 27 at 9:30 am. The 2024 meeting schedule remains: 4th Thursday Jan-Sept and 3rd Thursday Oct-Dec

Tim moved and Karen seconded the meeting be adjourned. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 11:31 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Arthur Malm, Secretary, FRSG