

**Fox River Study Group
Board of Directors Meeting via Conference Call
9:30 AM October 28, 2021**

IN ATTENDANCE:

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

Absent: Eric Weiss

Others: Atticus Zavelle, ISWS, Beth Vogt, FRWRD, Carl Fischer, Baxter & Woodman, Chris Walton, EEI, Clint Bailey, USGS, Dave Lampert, IIT, Dennis Dreher, Geosyntec, Holly Hudson, CMAP, Jack Russell, FRWRD, Mike Casper, Village of Barrington, Jan Mangers, Sierra Club VOF, Karen Clementi, Fox Metro WRD, Leonard Dane, Deuchler Associates, Phil Cotter, Village of East Dundee, Rishab Mahajan, Geosyntec,

INTRODUCTIONS:

Everyone on call introduced themselves. Cindy reminded all the annual meeting will be held virtually Tuesday, November 2 at 9:30. The link to the meeting is in Attachment A below.

MINUTES:

Motion by Mark, **second** by Tim to approve the minutes of the September 23, 2021 meeting.

Discussion: None. **Vote:** Aye, unanimous, with Alyse abstention.

BOARD ACTIONS TAKEN SINCE SEPTEMBER 23, 2021 MEETING:

The following Board actions were taken by email vote since the last Board meeting:

- The board reviewed and approved a Service Agreement for the FRIP Update, a Service Agreement for Fecal Coliform Investigation and a Master Service Agreement between the Fox River Study Group and Geosyntec.
- The board provided an Oct. 19, 2021 letter of support for a CMAP Section 604(b) grant proposal to develop an updated watershed-based plan for the Tyler Creek watershed.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Tom presented the financial report which has been sent to the Board. As of 9/30/2021 we have \$111,201.16 in our account at Harris Bank. The previous balance of 8/31/2021 was \$143,870.33.

Payments were made to Geosyntec, the University of Illinois and FRWRD.

As of the end of September there is on deposit at OSNB of \$536,625.13 at 0.1% interest.

Outstanding bills to be paid include Sierra Club, CMAP and Porte Brown.

Invoices requested to be paid include:

Geosyntec	\$34.00	
University of Illinois	\$211.30	(Partial Pmt 1)
	\$1, 957.40	(Partial Pmt 2)

Motion by Bob to pay the Geosyntec and University of Illinois invoices. **Second** by Mark.
Discussion: None. **Vote:** Aye, unanimous.

ANNUAL AUDIT:

Tom discussed completion of the audit by Porte Brown and some of the substantial added challenges of doing so in Covid times. In the Auditors' report the FRSG received favorable comments.

Motion to accept the audit was made by Bob. **Seconded** by Mark.

Discussion: Bob expressed concerns the categories "consultants and professional services" would be more valuable if the names of those providers could be identified in the audit. Cindy indicated that issue would be raised with Porte Brown.

Vote: Aye, unanimous.

Tom expressed special thanks to Cindy for her help on the audit completion.

Cindy indicated having received all in-kind contribution reports for 2020. There will be additional work involved for submitting our 990 reports to the IRS and Attorney General.

Tom inquired whether it was appropriate to begin invoicing members for 2022 fees. It was agreed a cover letter would be drafted by Cindy to accompany the invoices for mailing prior to January 1, 2022.

MONITORING COMMITTEE

ISWS Fox River Database Update

Attica Zavelle of the ISWS reported having received monitoring data for the current database update from various sources.

FRSG data was provided by Fox Metro. Karen Clemente reported we will hear from the INHS on its completed MUSSEL field survey at our annual meeting Tuesday.

Holly Hudson inquired whether the Tyler Creek Watershed Coalition upstream data, including fecal coliform, was included in FRSG dataset submitted to ISWS. It is not. Art will locate the master spreadsheet compiled for Friends of the Fox at their sampling locations on Tyler and Phearson/Otter Creek and assure it is sent to Attica. Cindy will email Art and Deana with Attica's formatting preferences.

Attica indicated spreadsheets with well-organized time series data is what makes his job easier. He asked that anyone looking to submit data should call him first to coordinate before putting in too much effort.

It was noted Crystal Creek did a watershed plan with chemistry information and Cindy will reach out to them to assure Attica receives the data.

Clint advised Attica the chemical data website download link for the McHenry Dam data was put in the Chat (Attachment B below)

Rishab asked if IEPA data was being pulled into the database. It was not. Rishab agreed to FOIA that data and send it to Atticus.

The 2012 and 2016 faulty chlorophyll data was “caught 95% sure” on the last database update. It was uncertain whether the FRSG C’ville dam pre-removal study data had been transmitted. Karen said she will check.

MODELLING COMMITTEE

Indian Creek Watershed

Holly provided a report on continuing field work on the stream physical condition assessment of Indian Creek in Aurora. She has been assisted by Rob and others from the KCFPD. “Interestingly variable” was her assessment, ranging from eroded cobble lined banks under trees to open, sedimented reaches. There was trouble either walking the cobble or getting stuck in the muck.

The channel, highly urbanized with relics, was dominated by Asian clams, sometimes making up 20-30% of the substraight material. There were hardly any native mussels found but lots of minnows and largemouth bass reported.

The subsequent detention basin inspections revealed some special erosion control needs on park district properties due to severe bank erosion. A contract amendment for Geosyntec is in the works and a suite of BMPs will be subsequently presented to stakeholders for consideration to identify NPS projects and modelling.

Holly indicated an the FRSG check sent 08/30/21 to CMAP has disappeared. Tom advised he will reissue on Holly’s request.

Tyler Creek Watershed Plan

CMAP has submitted a grant application for the Tyler Creek watershed that includes an HSPF update proposal with Geosyntec. It is expected a decision on the funding request will be made in mid November.

Batavia Dam Removal

Rob introduced the Geosyntec review of the five alternative dam removal approaches prepared by the Hitchcock group for considered by Batavia. Rashib provided a brief discussion, evaluating

issues of water quality benefits, vegetation and shading, sediment removal from the Depot Pond area, and reconnection of the south end of the pond to the river. Reconnection will act to increase dissolved oxygen in the pond and may reduce the need for pond dredging.

Tim indicated Batavia was still in the high level concept phase trying to understand and evaluate the environmental and political issues. Art suggested filling the north end of Depot Pond would maintain the park district's infrastructure investment and provide a significant wetland planting opportunity on the north. Also, removing the middle sections of the weirs in option B would eliminate impoundment water quality issues while still providing necessary river headloss as is done in designed kayak courses. Art also questioned whether the channel width shrinking will be far more influential than riparian shading in water quality and benthic algae control.

Denis Dreher indicated Geosyntec has had conversations on the impact of riparian shading internally and with others noting such shading would in time be more effective where the river runs east west than north south. Either way, plantings for riparian shading should be encouraged.

The appropriate role of the FRSG was discussed. The board discussed sending the Geosyntec report to Batavia, expressing the strong FRSG support for dam removal with a willingness to help. Cindy volunteered to draft a cover letter for board review to the city.

Motion. Rob motioned the board provide a cover letter for delivery with the Geosyntec report to the appropriate person(s) in Batavia. **Second:** Mark.

Discussion. Mark will provide minor editing suggestion to Geosyntec. Rishab indicated the comments would be welcome and the memo updated accordingly.

Dennis indicated Geosyntec, while having internal conversations about the fate of Depot Pond and its importance to the community, found Depot Pond had "minimal" significance to the water quality of the river.

Cindy observed Depot Pond was at one time an active river channel and wondered if Geosyntec had reviewed opportunities to reconnect the south end of Depot Pond to the river. Reshab indicated they had not could as such a connection would likely improve pond water quality.

Vote: Aye, unanimous.

Carpentersville Dam Removal

Rob reported the KCFPD permit plans for the Carpentersville dam removal have been submitted to relevant agencies. Rob and Art will meet with Ken Anderson of KCFPD and Derrick Martin of V3 their engineer to discuss the reasons behind design selections proposed. Removal is on track for the fall of 2022. Cindy will include a report on that meeting on next month's agenda.

OTHER STUDIES, PROJECTS

USACE 519 Connectivity Study Update

Cindy advised the funding agreement with the State has been finalized and sent to IDNR. We are waiting for their collection of signatures to be returned as a final document to us. Chad from IDNR is keeping the USACE updated on the progress of that agreement.

City of Elgin 319 Grant support request

Elgin has requested a letter of support for their parking lot improvement grant request. The project is at city hall and proposes the use of rain gardens and permeable pavers.

Motion by Art. Approval of Cindy to send on Board's behalf a letter in support of Elgin's grant application. **Second** by Tom: **Discussion:** none

Vote: Aye, unanimous.

Cindy noted that any other communities working on 319 grants due November 16th should let FRSG know if we might provide assistance. Information is posted in the chat below.

Cindy noted a chat item posted by Rishab (below) that Montgomery is looking for alternative sources for water supply and they were having an open house on November 3rd. Cindy will send that information in the annual meeting reminder.

Subwatershed Grant Requests to FRSG

Cindy requested a committee be formed to set standards for evaluating subwatershed program grant requests. This is a line item in our 10 year planning budget. Cindy suggested these requests need to be evaluated in a consistent manner. Contribution to HSPF model improvements is one example of appropriate funding consideration. Art and Holly agreed to participate in putting together thoughts in a draft.

ARPA Funding of Water, Sewer and Broadband Infrastructure

Millions of dollars are involved in this current federal program and Cindy suggested this may be a good way to get green infrastructure programs in watershed plans funded. She cited the Bull Valley story.

Art agreed the language of the act suggested that, given what we have found in our work to date regarding water quality, dam removal can be justified on several bases.

Rob indicated Kane County departments have submitted to a special county board committee suggestions for ARP funding. The timeline for applying the grant to dam removal projects does not work well with projects to be completed by the end of 2024. Smaller drainage infrastructure projects are being submitted totaling in the hundreds of thousands.

Cindy indicated McHenry County was receiving \$60 million.

Art indicated Elgin is using a large part of the program money for lead service pipe removal.

Dennis Dreher of Geosyntec pointed to the Hummell Woods dam removal joint project between Will county and the Conservation Foundation as notable and possibly a useful example in our dam removal efforts moving forward. This work was funded by the Lower DuPage River Watershed Coalition. A link to their video was posted to the chat.

Rob indicated he had forwarded this 8 to 9 minute video to Ken Anderson. Rob encouraged Ken to make sure photos and videos were being taken of Carpentersville project so a similar public relations piece can be made, thereby benefitting other projects downstream.

Cindy promoted the talks to be given at FRSG's Annual Meeting next Tuesday and suggested speakers work out technical details in advance. Karen will coordinate.

UPCOMING EVENTS are listed in the agenda were mentioned by Cindy and are noted below in Attachment A.

The next regular board meeting is November 18th, 9:30 am. This has been moved to avoid Thanksgiving.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00

Submitted by Art Malm, Assistant Secretary

Attachment A Upcoming Events

- **Fox River Corridor Plan** On **Tuesday, November 2**, McHenry County Planning and Development and the City of McHenry, in partnership with the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, will host two virtual open houses via Zoom for the Fox River Corridor Plan. Meetings will be held from **2:00 to 4:00 p.m.** in the afternoon and **7:00 to 9:00 p.m.** in the evening. Get Zoom link at <https://engage.cmap.illinois.gov/fox-river-mchenry>

- **Fox River Study Group Annual Meeting**
Tues. November 2 9:30-11:30 am Virtual meeting
 - Please join from your computer, tablet or smartphone: <https://www.gotomeet.me/foxmetrowrd>
 - **Access Code:** 323-755-781
 - You can also dial in using your phone: +1 (646) 749-3112
 - New to GoToMeeting? Get the app now and be ready when your first meeting starts: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/install/323755781>
 - **Talks**
 - *Development for watershed-based strategies to eliminate phosphorus related impairments in the Fox River*
 - Rishab Mahajan, Senior Engineer, Geosyntec and consultant to the Fox River Study Group
 - *Elgin's Source Water Protection Initiative*
 - Eric Weiss, Water Director, City of Elgin, Tim Holdeman, Sr. Project Manager, Engineering Enterprises, Inc., Danielle Gallet, Founding Principal, Waterwell, LLC
 - *Mussels be dammed: how interrupting natural flow can impact the freshwater mussel community*
 - Alison Stodola, Assistant Aquatic Biologist, Illinois Natural History Survey and consultant to the Fox River Study Group

- **Other upcoming events**
 - 2021 NLRS Conference and Policy Working Group Meeting, 9 am – 3:30 pm Wednesday, November 10 via ZOOM, [Agenda and Registration](#)
 - FREP Membership Meeting & Program, Wednesday, November 10th from 1-2:30pm at the Batavia Government, Council Chambers. Art Malm will be sharing his Free the Fox presentation for anyone who missed it at last year's FRSG Annual Meeting or would like to hear it again! More info at: <https://foxriverecosystem.org/fox/meetings-news>
 - Others?

- **Other updates**
 - The Illinois NLRS 2021 Biennial Report has been posted to the Illinois EPA website. You can read the report here: <http://go.illinois.edu/NLRS>.
 - The FY22 Section 319(h) NOFO should be out within the next two weeks.

Attachment B Public Messaging Record "Chat"

10:01 AM

[Bailey, Clinton R](#) to Everyone

https://nwis.waterdata.usgs.gov/il/nwis/qwdata/?site_no=05549500&agency_cd=USGS&inventory_output=0&rdb_inventory_output=file&TZoutput=0&pm_cd_compare=Greater%20than&radio_parm_cds=all_parm_cds&format=html_table&qw_attributes=0&qw_sample_wide=wide&rdb_qw_attributes=0&date_format=YYYY-MM-DD&rdb_compression=file&submitted_form=brief_list

10:01 AM

[Bailey, Clinton R](#) to Everyone

https://nwis.waterdata.usgs.gov/il/nwis/qwdata/?site_no=05549500&agency_cd=USGS&inventory_output=0&rdb_inventory_output=file&TZoutput=0&pm_cd_compare=Greater%20than&radio_parm_cds=all_parm_cds&format=html_table&qw_attributes=0&qw_sample_wide=wide&rdb_qw_attributes=0&date_format=YYYY-MM-DD&rdb_compression=file&submitted_form=brief_list

9:36 AM

[Leonard Dane - Deuchler](#) to Everyone

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1LMW-AnGiDbffonpG9lVDZ9dNCXaBueOVM7cY0pbuUEg/edit>

[Cindy Skrukrud](#) to Everyone

o The FY22 Section 319(h) NOFO and application documents have been posted at <https://www2.illinois.gov/epa/topics/water-quality/watershed-management/nonpoint-sources/Pages/grants.aspx> and on the State of Illinois GATA Portal at <https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/GATA/Grants/SitePages/CSFA.aspx>. Applications are due by noon on November 16, 2021.

10:45 AM

[Rishab Mahajan](#) to Everyone

Montgomery is looking into alternative sources of water including the Fox River . They have an open house on Nov 3. <https://kanecountyconnects.com/2021/10/village-of-montgomery-hosts-nov-3-community-water-source-open-house/>

[Cindy Skrukrud](#) to Everyone

- ♣ American Rescue Plan Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds
- These funds can also be used to make necessary investments in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure.
- <https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/coronavirus/assistance-for-state-local-and-tribal-governments/state-and-local-fiscal-recovery-funds>

11:02 AM

[Leonard Dane - Deuchler](#) to Everyone (Hammel Woods Dam Removal, Will County)

<https://youtu.be/9ELAFKVxpEw>

11:03 AM

[Holly Hudson](#) to Everyone

Fox River Corridor Plan Open House Nov. 2

Register for an open house using the one of the following links:

- Tuesday, November 2, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.:

<<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYsdeihpzkjGNdh-zUdxyk4SMwAil-V9S6b>>

- Tuesday, November 2, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.:

<<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwufuqqjliH9ZRHYKH5CI7n3SZ0YsFaFW5>>