

Fox River Study Group
Board of Directors Meeting via Conference Call
9:30 AM September 23, 2021

In Attendance:

Board Members: Cindy Skrukud, Tom Muth, Art Malm, Rob Linke, Bob Trueblood, Mark Phipps, Tim Wilson, and Eric Weiss

Board Members not present: Alyse Olson

Others: Chris Walton, EEI, Jessica Mino, The Conservation Foundation, Karen Clementi, Fox Metro WRD, Holly Hudson, CMAP, Mike Ott, Strand, Atticus Zavelle, ISWS, Leonard Dane, Deuchler Engineering Corp., Dave Lampert, Illinois Tech, Rishab Mahajan, Geosyntec, Beth Vogt FRWRD, Susan Quasney, Oswego, Bob Morris, and John Stein

Everyone introduced themselves.

Minutes: Motion by Mark, second by Tom to approve minutes of August 26, 2021 meeting. Motion unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report Tom presented the financial report. As of August 31, 2021 we have \$143,870.33 in our account at Harris Bank and \$536,581.03 in the CD at Old Second Bank.

Motion by Rob, second by Mark to pay bills to FRWRD for USGS agreement in the amount of \$12,100. Motion approved unanimously.

Tom shared that the audit is proceeding, and Cindy requested the 2020 in-kind donation submittals should be sent to foxriverstudygp@gmail.com. Cindy will send out a reminder to any that are missing.

Communications Committee Mark shared the draft Dam Removal fact sheet that Aileron had prepared based on comments from the last meeting. Mark proposed a footnote be added to refer people to the FRIP regarding cost estimates and water quality benefits referred to in the fact sheet. Cindy supported the suggestions. Bob pointed out that dam removal is a passive improvement that doesn't require ongoing maintenance costs. There was suggestion to replace the picture w/the pre and post removal of the South Batavia Dam. There was a suggestion to move the safety statement to the first point. Rishab offered to draft a revised Utility Bill Affordability section.

Senator Katrina Villa's Fox River Walk – Rob and Cindy attended the walk. It was much smaller than anticipated with mostly just the Senator's staff. Rob and Cindy spoke about the Fox River water quality and dams. This resulted in a request from the Senator's office for Rob to do another presentation.

Budget Committee Mark shared that the updated 10-Year Financial Plan. Mark pointed out that the first few years have large expenses and then stabilize through 2026, but then the out years of the plan indicate that we will either need to consider grants or reducing costs for the last several years of the plan. Eric motioned for approval of the plan for the current year, with the intention to annually review and update. Second by Bob. Motion passed unanimously.

Monitoring Committee Karen shared that USGS work is proceeding.

ISWS – Atticus indicated that he has not received any data, and reminded all. Karen will send a reminder email.

INHS – Karen shared that they have completed the pre dam removal survey and she is requesting that they present the findings at the FRSG Annual Meeting.

Modeling Committee

Indian Creek Watershed Based Plan Update – Holly shared that there will be a stream walk tomorrow and Tuesday 9/28 for anyone interested in attending. The grant was extended by the IEPA through June 30th, 2022. Holly will be continuing Detention Basin assessment, and then moving into BMP considerations before Geosyntec models the BMP benefits.

FRIP Update – Geosyntec has provided a revised proposal. The work will need to be finished by the end of 2022. Motion to approve the proposal by Bob and second by Art. The motion passed unanimously.

Fecal Coliform Study- Geosyntec has provided a proposal, but a few minor revisions are necessary. Rob indicated that the intention will be to try to get a handle on the Fecal data and provide some investigation into the “Hot Spots”. Motion by Mark to approve the study of Fecal Coliform by Geosyntec up to a maximum of \$11,000. Second by Tom. The motion passed unanimously.

North Batavia Dam Removal Options Discussion – Rob shared the options proposed by Hitchcock Design Group. Cindy shared the slides <https://www.hitchcockdesigngroup.com/batavia-fox-river-corridor> and open house recording <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KVVOhOIN9EU> . Cindy then shared that Geosyntec has offered to provide a technical memorandum on the benefits of the removal of dams to be sent to Batavia from the FRSG. Mark supported this. Art expressed concerns of the estimates without more current bathymetric data. Rob and Rishab shared that there was more current data, and offered to share the link with Art. Tim expressed that he would not want the FRSG to take a position on which option, but just provide general information on the benefits of Dam Removal. Mark agreed with this. The FRSG Board was supportive of Geosyntec preparing the technical memo, and it was determined that the Board would then review and take an electronic vote on support of the memo once we have had an opportunity to review.

Carpentersville Dam Removal Status – Rob shared the updated schedule which currently plans for removal of the dam in July 2022. Rob also shared survey results from the KCFPD survey.

Studies by Others Army Corps Connectivity & Habitat Study – Cindy shared the IDNR Joint Funding Agreement and requested approval. Mark provided some information on the final details including that the agreement shows \$210,000 for the study, but it also includes language that the FRSG will be notified of any cost increases and these will be the responsibility of the FRSG in order for the study to continued. Therefore, we have \$240,000 budgeted for this project. Also, the agreement requires for the FRSG to indemnify the IDNR, but since the field work is completed, this is thought to be a lower risk. Motion by Mark and second by Art to approve the agreement. The motion passed unanimously.

Cindy provided USGS webinar on Illinois River basin work-presented Wed. to Flint/Spring Creeks Watershed Partnership [video](#) on the agenda.

Annual Meeting – Cindy suggested to move permanently move the annual meeting from the 4th Thursday in October due to the conflict with the ISAWWA Annual Regulatory Update, to accommodate Eric and others that need to attend both. Cindy provided several dates for 2021 including 9:30 to 11:30 am, Oct 26, Oct 27, Oct 29, Nov 2, Nov 3. The only conflict mentioned was Oct 27 being the date of DuPage River/Salt Creek Meeting. Cindy shared the recommended speakers: Rishab on management scenario results, INHS on Carpenter dam pre-removal mussel survey, Eric

Weiss on Elgin's Source Water Protection Plan. Cindy will work with Karen if any of these dates work for INHS, then coordinate with the rest of the FRSG Board.

Upcoming events and other updates

- Sat. Sept. 25 9-10:30 am City of Batavia Dam/Depot Pond Discussion Community Open House Peg Bond Center, 151 N Island Ave, Batavia, more info at <https://www.hitchcockdesigngroup.com/batavia-fox-river-corridor/>
- **Lunch & Learn-Case Studies on Developing a Nutrient Assessment Reduction Plan** *Wed. Oct. 6 10 -11:30 am Virtual* Hear from three speakers as they share with the audience how their NARP is being developed. Speakers are:
 - Greg Cassaro, Rock River Watershed Group
 - Brandon Janes, North Branch Watershed Workgroup
 - Tim Farrell, Village of Huntley
 - Hosted by the IWEA Governmental Affairs Committee.
 - Earn 1 PDH/TCH. EPA Approved-Course ID provided at time of webinar. Members \$15/Non-Members \$30 Students are free.
 - https://www.memberleap.com/members/evr/reg_event.php?orgcode=IWEA&ev_id=27295493
- FREP Noon Network on Wed. October 13 from Noon to 1:30 pm. FREP post-project tour of the Keith Andres Memorial Park Stream Stabilization project in Carpentersville. Details can be found at: <https://foxriverecosystem.org/fox/meetings-news>
- **Save the Date** 2021 NLRs Conference and Policy Working Group Meeting, 9 am Wednesday, November 10 via ZOOM
- Rishab shared the Water Innovation Leadership Development Program | Executive Education (duke.edu) <https://sites.nicholas.duke.edu/execed/water-innovation-leadership-development-program/?utm_source=linkedin&utm_medium=nic_social>
- 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 FY 21 604(b) NOFO and application documents have been posted (9/20/2021) on Illinois EPA's website at <https://www2.illinois.gov/epa/topics/water-quality/watershed-management/wqmp/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 October 20, 2021.** See NOFO for specific details on what/how to submit. Limited to Water Quality Management Planning work (means NO BMP construction). Per US EPA guidance, Grant applicant eligibility is limited to Illinois Areawide Regional Planning Organizations and/or those entities that are recognized by the State of Illinois to conduct water quality management planning work. For the latter group, your organization needs to either be covered by State or federal act/law (e.g., SWCDs would be eligible per the Illinois Soil and Water Conservation District Act that identifies planning for protection of land and water resources) or your organization has a Charter that Illinois recognizes that includes the type of work that is proposed.
- The FY22 Section 319(h) NOFO should be out within the next two weeks.
- Holly shared that Cindy was the recipient of a Lifetime Achievement Award for her continuous efforts for Water Quality.

Next meeting - We will be working on the date for the Annual Meeting. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be Thursday, October 28th at 9:30 AM and will be held virtually.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:13 AM.