

Fox River Study Group
Board of Directors Meeting via Conference Call
9:30 AM August 25, 2022

In Attendance:

Board Members: Cindy Skrukrud, Beth Vogt, Tom Muth, Tim Wilson, Art Malm, Brian Witkowski, Rob Linke, Alyse Olson and Eric Weiss

Others: Karen Clementi, Fox Metro WRD, Leonard Dane, Fehr Graham, Carl Fischer, Baxter & Woodman, Jan Mangers, Sierra Club VOF, Dean Farr, Izaak Walton League, Deanna Doohaluk, TCF, Josie Woger, Fox Metro WRD, Gabriel Powers, McHenry County Conservation District, Mark Phipps, HR Green, Cyrus McMains, YBSD, Emily Conti, EEI, Jillian Kiss, TAI, Scott Trotter, TAI, Lindsay Muth, TAI, Mia Gerace, Lake County SMC, Jenny Murphy, USGS, Zac Bonesz, City of Batavia, Clint Bailey, USGS, Christine Davis, Illinois EPA, Logan Gilbertsen, HR Green, Bob Morris, Jack Russell, FRWRD, John Stein, Village of Cary, Rishab Mahajan, Geosyntec

Everyone introduced themselves.

Minutes - Motion by Brian, second by Tom to approve minutes of July 28, 2022 Board Meeting. Motion approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report - Tom presented the financial report. As of July 31, we have a balance of \$101,748.94 in our checking account at Harris Bank, \$49,611.21 in our savings account at Harris Bank and \$537,072.24 in the CD at Old Second Bank. There is \$84,133.45 in outstanding withdrawals not yet cleared from the checking.

Motion by Rob, second by Tim to pay a bill to Geosyntec in the amounts of \$13,806.25 and a bill to Portee Brown in the amount of \$4,000. Motion approved unanimously.

Tom shared that the all the In-Kind Donation information has been submitted to Porte Brown. Cindy reminded the Board that there may need to be an approval for paperwork submittal to the state prior to the next Board Meeting.

USGS Request for help on abstract review team for HAB conference-Jenny Murphy from the USGS shared that she is a convener of a session: River HABs: Identification, Prediction, and Process Understanding of Algal Blooms in Flowing Waters- part of the National Monitoring Conference (NMC) the week of April 24, 2023 in Virginia Beach, VA (and online). Jenny requested that the FRSG consider submitting an abstract and requested volunteers to be abstract reviewers. Jenny had shared the following incorporated in the agenda:

- o Algal blooms are a well-documented issue in lakes and estuaries and much effort has been spent to detect, predict, and better understand these ecological events. Several recent, high profile harmful algal blooms (HABs) in rivers across the Nation have affected drinking water, recreational activities, and local ecology (e.g., 2018, 2020, and 2021 blooms in the Illinois River, IL; 2015 and 2019 blooms in the Ohio River, multiple states; 2019 bloom in North Santiam River, OR; recurring blooms in the Lower Charles River, MA; 2021 boom in Shenandoah River, VA; 2021 bloom in Columbia River, WA; among others). These events indicate a need to better understand potentially harmful algal blooms in riverine settings, especially in light of changing climate that will likely influence HAB occurrence across all aquatic settings.
- o This session requests abstracts focused on algae (e.g., benthic or sestonic phytoplankton, cyanobacteria and other types of algae, and algal proxies such as chlorophyll a), algal blooms, and known or potential consequences of such events in flowing waters. Presentations representing diverse methods across a range of scales, from field studies and process-based models to national-scale machine learning efforts, are desired. This session will serve as an opportunity to assess the current state of knowledge and reflect on

what processes are still poorly understood and require further investigation to improve detection and prediction of HABs in flowing waters.

Art asked if we should consider submitting an abstract considering the data sets we have from our USGS partnership. Jenny indicated that this sounds like it would be great. Jenny added that the abstracts are due September 16th, and they are looking for posters or 20 minute presentations. Art offered to get involved in the review team. Jenny was not yet sure how much virtual access would be available, but she provided the following links in the chat:

conference: <https://www.nalms.org/2023nmc/>

abstract submissions: <https://www.nalms.org/2023nmc/proposed-sessions/>

Call for abstracts: <https://www.nalms.org/2023nmc/call-for-abstracts/>

Jenny Murphy email: jmurphy@usgs.gov

Chair's Report

Recap of August 3 Army Corps Public Outreach Planning Meeting with IDNR and USACE staff –

Cindy shared a summary of the meeting:

- Meetings with individual communities, USACE is planning to do this once the H & H modeling is completed, currently estimating October.
- Public Meetings are planned after the TSP is completed in Feb. 2023, but the USACE would like to get information out sooner through things like project website, FAQs, project email box, and etc. They are hoping to have these set up prior to the individual meetings in October.
- There was discussion about how the USACE would contract actual dam removal, and there were some options, but no formal decision.
- Rob Linke provided data sets that had been collected on land ownership and piers in 2014.
- Cindy opened up for discussion. Art shared that the State of Illinois is paying for removal of the Carpentersville Dam, and according to the draft 519 report current language this may be able to be leveraged as a local match. This was draft language, and may not be certain.

IEPA data availability & request for help to reach out to WWTPs on providing data on progress made- Cindy provided an update that in discussion with the IEPA phosphorus reduction data is available annually. Cindy will request this information from 2017 to present for inclusion in the FRIP. However, we still need to request phosphorus removal data from WWTPs. Please [fill out this form](#) with info for your WWTP. Here is a [spreadsheet example](#) from FRWRD staff on how to calculate the annual geometric mean of total phosphorus. Dean Farr asked for clarification if this information from the IEPA is only for point dischargers, and Cindy indicated that it is specifically WWTPs, but she would follow up if there are any industrial point dischargers information available.

Request to present at Nov. 16 Lake County Stormwater Management Commission's Municipal Advisory Committee. Mia Gerace shared that this will be from 9 – 11 AM and they are looking for 20 minute presentations. They are looking for a presentation title and speaker within the next week or at least expression of interest. Mark Phipps reminded that there are communities upstream of the current FRSG reach that have expressed interest in joining the study, and this should be considered how the FRSG will offer this. Mia shared the address, link, and her email: 500 W. Winchester Road Libertyville, IL or virtually via Zoom

<https://www.lakecountyil.gov/2338/Standing-Advisory-Committees> , mgerace@lakecountyil.gov .

Illinois River Study Group Liaison. Cindy shared that Alyse has offered to be the FRSG liaison to this group.

Modeling and Monitoring Committee

2022 FRIP Update – Rob shared that Appendix D has been returned to the committees with the workshop comments incorporated.

Indian Creek Fecal Coliform preproposal – Rishab shared that he has provided the proposal and this could be proposed for 319 Funding. Chris Davis shared that the funding application should be open the next 2-3 weeks. Chris also mentioned that alternatively 604 funding will be available right after the 319. Chris further noted that a Quality Assurance plan needs to be approved by the IEPA. Karen is working on scheduling a meeting for this.

Indian Creek Watershed Based Plan – No update.

Upcoming events and other updates

- o Art shared about a successful event held on August 24th - Friends of the Fox River and Two Brother's Roundhouse in Aurora will hold an evening of information and discussion at 6 pm Wednesday, Aug. 24 to help provide better understanding of Fox River restoration and dam removal. More info at <https://thevoice.us/fox-river-restorations-in-dam-night-out/> Art shared that the presentation will be posted on the Friends of the Fox River website.
- o Free Invasive Aquatic Plant Early Detection Workshop-Protect Your Lake from Hydrilla and Starry Stonewort, Friday, August 26th, 2022 9am to 3pm at the Chicago Botanic Garden, The Daniel F. and Ada L. Rice Plant Conservation Science Center 1000 Lake Cook Rd. Glencoe, IL. 60022 Pre-Registration Required. Email or call Greg Hitzroth: hitzroth@illinois.edu (217) 300-0182.
- o McHenry County Water Forum "Your Water Quality" is Wednesday, August 31 from 5:30 to 8 pm at the McHenry County College's Luecht Auditorium. [More info.](#)
- o FREP will be hosting an educational program on Local Recovery Efforts for the Blanding's Turtle presented by Bill Graser with the Forest Preserve District of Kane County and Dan Thompson with the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County. This program will be held on Wednesday, September 14th from 1-2:30pm at Belding Lodge in Brewster Creek Forest Preserve. For more information visit: <https://foxriverecosystem.org/fox/meetings-news>
- o Environmental Defenders of McHenry County and the McHenry County Department of Planning and Development are hosting a series of monthly Fridays Best Management Practices Talks & Tours. The next event is 1-3 pm on Sept. 16 when McHenry Co. Division of Transportation will showcase their turf-to-native right-of-way project. The schedule of all the Talks and Tours in this series and videos of past sessions are found [here](#).
- o Join Friends of the Fox River on September 17, 2022 for the largest watershed-wide celebration of the year, It's Our Fox River Day. This year we are anticipating over 100 events along 200 river miles involving over 1000 participants. Make sure your community is part of this unique experience. Friends of the Fox River (FOTFR) is here to assist you in your event's development, promotion, recruiting, implementation and recognition. To learn more, visit: friendsofthefoxriver.org/its-our-fox-river-day/ and more materials in this [IOFRD 2022 folder](#). This event is held annually on the 3rd Saturday of September.
- o Christine Davis shared that IDNR is hosting State Water Plan Meetings this evening and Monday 8/29/2022. <https://www2.illinois.gov/dnr/WaterResources/Pages/StateWaterPlanTaskForce.aspx>
- o Cindy shared <https://hackmatacknwr.org/fall-gathering-with-special-guest-chad-pregracke/>
- o Rishab shared <https://www.geosyntec.com/webinars>
- o Dean Farr shared about IRA funding. He noted that it needs a local match and this may be a challenge in Illinois and that Soil and Water Conservation Districts will need to work to get this funding. Additionally, he asked about the study group in the Chain O'

Lakes. This was the Fox River Waterway agency which has funding for a Watershed Based Plan.

2022 meeting schedule: 4th Thurs Jan-Sept, 3rd Thurs Oct-Dec

Next meetings – The next regularly scheduled meeting will be Thursday, September 22, 2022, at 9:30 AM and will be held virtually.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:39 AM.