

**Fox River Study Group Draft Minutes
Board of Directors Meeting via Conference Call
9:30 AM September 26, 2024**

In Attendance:

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

Others:

Andrea Pracht, HRGreen
Cameron Colby, FRWRD
Cyrus McMains, YBSD
Dean Farr, Izaak Walton League
Emily Conti, EEI
Holly Hudson, CMAP
Humberto Reyes, Village of Wauconda
Karolina Cho, Gewalt Hamilton Associates

Kat Gerdts, KDSWCD
Leonard Dane, Hey and Associates
Lily Clementi, Fox Metro WRD
Lindsay Muth, Trotter and Associates
Mark Bowman, Village of Barrington
Mike Warner, Gewalt Hamilton
Naren Patel, Fehr Graham
Rishab Mahajan, Geosyntec

The meeting began at 9:35 am with self-introductions.

Minutes – Brian moved and Eric seconded approval of the August 2024 Board Meeting minutes as amended. The minutes as amended were approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report – Karen presented the Treasurer's report. Karen has been working with the bank to resolve several small bank errors (e.g.improper NSFcharge). As of 8/31/2024 our balances were as follows:

Old Second National Bank
6 month CD, 5%, Matures 11/19/2024, \$243,000
CDARS balance, 4.25%, Matures 6/22/2025, \$205,700
BMO Harris
checking \$9,547.59
savings \$217,840.43

There were no checks written this month.

Two bills were received from FRWRD for reimbursement of payments to USGS for monitoring costs totaling \$13,250. Brian moved and Eric seconded a motion to pay these two invoices and to approve the Treasurer's report. The motion was approved unanimously.

Finance Committee - Karen reported the audit is proceeding with only minor questions raised by the auditors.

Annual Meeting – Our annual meeting will be held October 31, 2024 9:00 am, at the Elgin Centre. Presentations will begin at 10:00 am. Presentations will be made by the US Army Corps of Engineers

on the Fox River Connectivity Study, the USGS on the Illinois Basin Survey, Trotter Associates on the City of Batavia improvements and Kane County Forest Preserve District on the Carpentersville dam removal project.

Tim requested an authorization up to \$690 for refreshments this year. Karen moved the Board authorize the payment of up to \$700 for annual meeting refreshments, Brian seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Rob indicated we would welcome anyone having a table presentation on Fox River matters. He will send out an invitation to that effect so a count of tables can be given to Elgin. There is no cost for a table.

NPDES Special Conditions Committee – Karen reported she and Eric attended the IAWA meeting the previous week. There are over 100 permits state wide that have expired with permitting on hold pending resolution of several permitting issues including the recent Sierra Club letter critical of the watershed group permitting process. Comments are being received by IEPA to address questions in a cohesive manner,

Modelling and Monitoring – Rob and Cindy are working with the Illinois Water Survey updating our contract for updating the Fox River Database and the extraction of the 2021-2023 water quality data that will be included in the 305(b) water quality report. Work is in progress defining our post Carpenter dam removal water quality monitoring RFP.

Holly indicated the 604(b) grant cycle is coming up in early 2025 that might be appropriate for the Indian Creek fecal coliform study. This program provides 100% funding without a local match. An organization with data certification authority is needed for the application which requires water quality monitoring be included in an organization's charter. Holly indicated while CMAP has interest in this project their resources for additional projects are already stretched thin.

Communications Committee – Brian reports no additional “Lunch and Learn” sessions have been scheduled to date.

Rob discussed briefly our continued interest in having short videos available describing the purpose of our organization and the 2022 FRIP. He also reported on his attendance at the McHenry County Water Forum earlier this month where dams and dam removal were a principal topic. This was an especially well run and well attended meeting. Both Holly and Rob believe Kane and DuPage Counties would benefit from a similar type meeting if a local “champion” were available to coordinate. Dean suggested we should invite elected officials/policy makers to our Annual Meeting.

Chair's Report

The Agreement with the City of Elgin for their annual dues payment was finalized. The Army Corps continues to scope out the remaining work necessary to finalize the 519 Report.

Green infrastructure and stormwater management grant project applications are being received. These need to be “near shovel ready” projects where design has been largely complete.

Our 10 year financial plan is moving forward, but will be influenced by the various IEPA permitting questions now under discussion.

The Carpenters dam notching began September 19. Flows have recently peaked at 900 cfs but are now falling and work is proceeding. The underlying structure is timber crib with an overlay of non-reinforced concrete. The site is popular with aquatic birds when equipment is not operating. To date the total water level drop is estimated to be about 2 feet. There are no odor problems in evidence.

KCFPD is providing some video on its website generating typical comments and responses, pro and con. Baseline drone photography using a preprogrammed flight path back to the Longmeadow Parkway bridge was completed prior to the start of construction. Rob continues to work with the County on its “drone deploy” program. One of the challenges being faced is the large volume of data being generated and how best to make that public.

Upcoming Events

Upcoming and links to past events are as listed on the Agenda.

The next regular meeting will be Thursday October 17, 2024 at 9:30 am.

Brian moved and Karen seconded the meeting be adjourned. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 10:32 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Arthur Malm, Secretary, FRSG