

**Fox River Study Group
Board of Directors Meeting via
Conference Call 9:30 am December
19, 2024**

Start: The meeting began at 9:30 am with self-introductions

In Attendance

Board Members:

Rob Linke, Kane County
Cindy Skrukud, Sierra Club
Tim Wilson, Tri-Cities
Brian Witkowski, City of Aurora
Debra Ness, City of Elgin
Alyse Olsen, Fox River Ecosystem Partnership
Eric Johnson, Fox River Water Reclamation District Elgin

Others:

Humberto Reyes, Village of Wauconda Water Reclamation
Leonard Dane, Hey and Associates
Steven Polaskey, FMWRD
Ryan Geneser, TEM Environmental, Illinois Institute of Technology
Karolina Cho, Gewalt Hamilton Associates representing Hainesville, Lake Barrington,
Fox Lake, Antioch Township (Lake County)
Mike Warner, Gewalt Hamilton, representing Grant, Avon, Fremont and Ela Townships
(Lake County)
Yifan He, Geosyntec (yifan.he@geosyntec.com)
Naren Patel, Fehr Graham
Dean Farr, IL Div Izaak Walton League
Phil Cotter, Village of East Dundee
Kat Gerdts KDSWCD
Jeniece Neville, Engineering Enterprises, Inc.
Holly Hudson, CMAP
Lindsay Muth, Trotter and Associates, Inc.
Bob Morris
Billie Jean Anthony

Minutes – Approval of Minutes from the November 21, 2024.

Motion: Eric J. Second by: Brian W.

Comments: Cindy requested some minor spelling corrections.

Vote: Unanimous Aye – Motion Carried

Treasurer's Report –

Rob L. provided the November financial report:

Old Second National Bank \$452,853.94
BMO Harris checking \$1,775.17
BMO Harris savings \$227,918.91

There are no bills to be paid in the month of December
Tim W, provided a short update on the 6-month CD renewal

Finance Committee –

Annual Budget- Tim and Rob provided an update on the annual budget process and the committee meeting. The final budget will be presented to the board in the coming months.

NPDES FRSG Special Condition Committee –

Rob shared the FRSG response letter to the IEPA with the group. The letter addressed comments received by IEPA on NARPs, including the 2022 FRSG FRIP.

A general conversation about the need for additional outreach to IEPA occurred.

Cindy provided an update on some dates set with ISWS for the next trends report.
Cindy will contact the IEPA, requesting some coordination with the IEPA discharge permit writers.

Modeling/Monitoring Committee –

Cindy provided information on the FRSG new contract with ISWS. Additional group conversation occurred on how to handle Fox Data Base Updates including future reporting to IEPA for their 305(b) report. In preparation for new water quality trends, the report is expected to be published in 2028. This report will utilize water quality data through the end of 2026.

A general conversation occurred on how the FRSG board gave Cindy the authorization to obtain a proposal. The ISWS team will be working on providing this draft cost to the FRSG by March.

Rob provided an update on the FRSG request for proposal, the intent is for additional water quality sampling post removal of Carpenter Dam. Prior to being publicly posted the RFP was sent to the board for review there were no objections from the board to release the RFP. Rob and the group discussed the process of reviewing and providing a recommendation for the award.

Holly asked several questions on how the RFP would be advertised. Holly also offered some assistance in reposting links to the RFP. In general, the several board members agreed to reposting. Rob clarified the RFP link will be on the FRSG webpage.

Communications Committee –

Brian, Cindy provided update on the FRSG Lunch & Learn Topics

A NPDES MS4 Permit Requirements presentation by IEPA Staff, the committee is working on coordinating.

Cindy provided an update on USGS topics. The USGS is working on the 10-year study, the communications team will reach out to them in January.

Cindy provided an update on INLRS Reporting for Calendar Year 2024, due Jan. 31, 2025- Cindy discussed the next steps moving forward.

Chair's Report –

Rob provided an update on a request sent by the Friends of the Fox River. The organization is requesting information from the stakeholders on what projects they have completed or are planning in the water shed. Examples would include stormwater BMP or wastewater projects. The Friends of the Fox is looking for this information so they can include it in an annual presentation. Rob will send a reminder out to the group.

Rob provided an update on the Kane DuPage Soil Water Conservation District – 604 B efforts. As part of a pilot study the FRSG is looking to collect samples on the Indian Creek. The FRSG team is looking for grant opportunities and would like to team up with the KDSWCD to obtain a grant. Brian asked if there would be any additional meetings to discuss the details. Holly asked how her team can help and provide additional letters of support for the grant process. Rob agreed the FRSG will reach out and discuss it at the next committee of the whole.

Upcoming events/other updates:

- o FREP Annual Membership Meeting & Officer Elections. Thursday January 8th Location: The Centre of Elgin, 100 Symphony Way, Elgin IL 60120 For more info: <https://foxriverecosystem.org/fox/meetings-news>
- o USGS Stakeholder Outreach Meeting (Virtual) Update on USGS Integrated Water Science in the Illinois River Basin; February 6, 2025 8 am-12 pm (MS Teams Invitation to follow)
- o At the same time as our December 2024 meeting, Minnesota Stormwater Seminar Series is hosting a webinar-*Funding and technical assistance for stormwater management and green infrastructure* with USEPA speakers. View it later on their YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/c/MinnesotaStormwaterSeminarSeries>
- [Lenord Mark 17 and 19 Illionis lake management confrance in North Brook](#)

- [Cindy the Fox River Summit March 17th](#)
- [Dean Marry Chris Mas – NCRS provided w update on some federal spending He had a question if the IEPA has funding available has shovel ready funding. Rob also provideed some update on the simmliar projects in Kane county.](#)
- [Holly conversation about slat creek and IDNR challenges on funding issues.](#)
- [Dean has yet to approve FY federal budget](#)
- [General conversation about future funding](#)

- Links to videos/slides of past events- (find most in our [FRSG videos folder](#))
- FRSG Lunch & Learn Sessions
 - 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_4gPWLxFFc2UtcSqiMo5Up6p6f9egCTfLnI0MOzUn2hOmaSsTR2MlfiBi3Ws.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>
- 2024 Midwest Beaver Summit videos:
 - <https://www.illinoisbeaveralliance.org/2024-midwest-beaver-summit>
- Mohammed Haque & Bartlett Durand May 23, 2024 presentation: “Developing a Nutrient Trading Pilot Program in the Fox River Watershed”
- March 2024 Fox River Summit [See agenda here.](#) Videos are 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 Project Update Webinar- Sept 25, 2024, Informational Webinar - Oct. 31, 2023 & Project Introduction Webinar - Feb. 15, 2023
- [McHenry County 2024 Water Forum YouTube](#)

Next regular meeting: Thurs. January 23 at 9:30 am virtual

END: Eric moved, and Cindy seconded the meeting be adjourned. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 10:24 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Wilson, Assistant Secretary