

**Fox River Study Group Draft Minutes
Board of Directors Meeting via Conference Call
9:30 AM November 21, 2024**

20241121 FRSG Draft November Board Minutes

In Attendance:

Board Members: Alyse Olson, FREP; Art Malm, Friends of the Fox River; Brian Witkowski, City of Aurora, Cindy Skrukrud, Sierra Club, Debra Ness, City of Elgin, Eric Johnson, FRWRD; Karen Clementi, Fox Metro WRD; Tim Wilson, St. Charles FRSG Tri-City

Others:

Cyrus McMains, YBSD
Dean Farr, IL Div IWLA
Emily Conti, EEI
Holly Hudson, CMAP
Jan Mangers, VOF Sierra Club
Karolina Cho, Gewalt Hamilton Associates
Kat Gerdt, KDSWCD
Len Dane, Hey and Associates

Lindsay Muth, Trotter and Associates
Mary Beth Falsey, DuPage County Stormwater
Management
Naren Patel, Fehr Graham
Phil Cotter, Village of East Dundee
Rishab Mahajan, Geosyntec
Steven Polaskey, Fox Metro WRD

In Rob's absence Cindy chaired and opened the meeting at 9:35 with self-introduction of the board followed by attendees.

Minutes – Karen moved and Brian seconded approval of the October 2024 Board Meeting minutes subject to minor cleanup. The motion was approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report – Karen presented the Treasurer's report as of 10/31/2024. The total on deposit with Old Second National bank was \$448,717.47. This included a 6 month CD that matured 11/19/2024. The Finance Committee will meet after this board meeting to determine how best to proceed with reinvestment of the CD proceeds.

Brian moved and Tim seconded a motion to accept the treasurer's report. The motion was passed unanimously.

Finance Committee - Karen moved to authorize the Finance Committee to reallocate the proceeds of our OSNB CD maturing 11/19/2024 as the Committee determines to be in the best interests of the FRSG. Brian seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.

Karen stated she expected the audit to conclude by the end of the year. Unexpected extensions of information required from previous years' work are responsible for the delay. This problem will likely not repeat in future audits.

Tim requested the ten-year budget plan be reviewed by all committees and that discussion of it be added to the agenda of the next COW meeting. He emphasized the importance of having this 10 year budget, as well as an annual budget for the FRSG.

Annual Meeting – Cindy reported the previous week's COW critiqued the annual meeting. We had really good presentations but in total they ran a little long. All presentations have been posted to our

web page. Next year we will reduce presentations to a maximum of four over a 90 minute period between 9am and noon.

The COW concluded that the next annual meeting should not be hybrid. Those who can't attend next year in person will be able to review the presentations later online.

NPDES Special Conditions Committee – Our draft response to the comments made to IEPA by the Sierra Club regarding the Nutrient Assessment and Reduction Act and related matters (“the Comments”) was reviewed with edits discussed and made. Art stated we should be more direct in our requests to IEPA. Art also pointed out a technical basis for challenging the assumptions that support the foundation of the Comments. Rishab agreed there appeared to be technical issues that led to an incorrect understanding of facts used by the Sierra Club expert witness to challenge the conclusions of our 2022 Draft FRIP.

It was pointed out our letter is being sent to move the permitting process forward for our members. Because this letter is important to move discharge permitting forward as soon as possible it was agreed to have a second letter challenging technical issues to follow.

A motion was made by Brian with a second by Karen to approve sending the current letter draft, following necessary final grammatical edits and to develop a second letter with comments of a technical nature for forwarding to IEPA.. The motion passed 7-1.

Modelling and Monitoring – Cindy has been working with the Illinois Water Survey on two contracts for new trend reports and database updates.

Karen suggested IWS supply a budget estimate for these alternatives. Art wanted to be certain we will be able to add hardness to the database. Cindy asked for and received board approval to work with IWS to develop a contract for our third trends report and obtain budget estimates for our fourth.

Karen asked and received board approval to release an RFP for professional services to execute a post dam removal water quality study for Carpentersville following committee review and consensus on RFP language.

Cindy recalled USGS and their intensive study in the Illinois River Basin including the Fox River discussed by the USGS at our annual meeting. They are about halfway through the 10 year study and have solicited ideas for projects in the Fox River.

Cindy suggested asking for data sondes and Montgomery and Dayton to monitor conditions coming from the central and southwestern Fox River Valley. Karen advised Fox Metro has five sondes deployed up and downstream of their discharge and downstream of the Montgomery dam. The Montgomery dam sonde has operated for the past 14 years.

Dean asked if we were monitoring sediment discharges and indicated that was important to the Chain O' Lakes' community and ourselves.

Communications Committee – Cindy suggested USGS may be available to provide a lunch and learn program on harmful algal blooms in the Fox Basin. Cindy also thought the grab sample program at McHenry and how it worked with the sonde generated data would be an interesting USGS presentation. She will pursue, coordinating with Brian.

Chair's Report –

None

Upcoming Events

Upcoming and links to past events are as listed on the meeting Agenda. A special invitation was extended to Rob Linke's who will be hosting of the FREP annual holiday celebration December 14th..

The next regular meeting will be Thursday December 19, 2024 at 9:30 am.

The meeting adjourned at 10:35 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Arthur Malm, Secretary, FRSG