

Fox River Study Group
Board of Directors Meeting
August 27, 2020 Minutes

Board Members: Tim Wilson, Alyse Olson, Cindy Skrukrud, Tom Muth, Bob Trueblood, Mark Phipps, Rob Linke, Art Malm, Eric Weiss.

Others: Mike Casper, Village of Barrington; Faye Sinnott, Flint Creek/Spring Creek Watersheds Partnership; Jack Russell, Beth Vogt FRWRD; Rishab Mahajan, Geosyntec; Holly Hudson, CMAP; Ed Coggin Weston Solutions, Rishab Mahajan, Geosyntec, Clint Bailey USGS, Chris Walton EEI, Cyrus McMains, YBSD; Karen Clementi, FMWRD; Carl Fischer, Baxter and Woodman; Leonard Dane, Pat Kelsey, Deuchler; Mike Ott, Strand; David Lampert, IIT; Susan Quasney, Village of Oswego; Bob Morris.

Everyone introduced themselves.

Approval of minutes of July 2020 meeting. Motion by Bob, second by Mark. Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Tom presented the financial report for July and reported the group is in a sound financial position. Still searching for better rates on the CDARS. Please deposit uncleared checks.

Audit is in process via digital methods. Cindy and Tom will be attending the audit calls.

Tom presented three bills for payment:

- Geosyntec July 2020 modeling bill: \$9,046.50
- FRWRD for sonde reimbursement: \$6,050.00
- Deuchler for Carpentersville sonde: \$8,304.10

Motion to approve payment of bills by Mark, second by Art. Motion passed unanimously.

ACOE Project

Cindy reported on progress on the re-start of the Army Corps 519 project: Fox River Habitat & Connectivity Study. IDNR has provided the Corps with a letter that they are ready to restart the project. The project is now at the Corps Division office for approval to proceed, reported that they are actively working on it. Cindy is continuing to followup. Art inquired whether we should ask our elected officials for help expediting the project re-start. Discussion by board on the pros and cons of this approach. Decision to table this matter for the next meeting.

Monitoring/Modeling Committee reports

Modeling work

Rishab reported that Geosyntec has completed the development of baseline scenarios using May to October 2012. Committee met with Geosyntec to go over the results, gave the recommendation to proceed with the watershed management scenarios. Geosyntec has started work on post-processing options including graphs, tables that they will have committee review.

Indian Creek Plan update

Holly said the draft watershed resources inventory will be submitted to IEPA on August 31. Geosyntec contract was executed on July 1 and work is continuing, will be incorporated into the final draft in November. Due to COVID restrictions, field work has been postponed until Sept/Oct. MOU with FRSG will be forthcoming in next month.

Rishab reported Geosyntec is proceeding with refining HSPF modeling on Indian Creek by dividing the area into subwatersheds. The effort is similar to the update to the Mill Creek model. major stormwater pipes are being added to the model. Flooding issues will also be able to be addressed. Draft delineation will be submitted shortly.

USGS gauge at Stratton Dam

Clint reported second year of data collection continues to go well. Due to COVID testing priorities, a lab could not be found to analyze the independent grab samples for blue-green algae as we had planned for this year.

Communications Committee report

On August 3, Cindy, Art, Mark, and Becky Hoag attended training to learn how to be able to update the website ourselves in the future. Aileron has supplied the finalized letterhead. Aileron working on a powerpoint template in the next couple weeks and a factsheet next. Aileron needs direction on this: committee will discuss and provide our current factsheet. Future communications items will be a letter and press release sharing the modeling conclusions.

Future plans

- Letter to financial supporters on the dues decrease for 2020 and 2021. Cindy shared second version incorporating revisions from the board on the new letterhead. There were no new revisions. Cindy will create final draft with the long-term funding plan attached and send to board for approval. Fox Metro will take care of mailing.
- Art proposed forming a research committee to evaluate proposals and other research-based tasks. Discussion ensued with the conclusion that the board should continue to set direction on long-term plans that then can be sent to committee level to iron out the details.
- Regional Conservation Partnership Program The board discussed the presentation which The Conservation Fund and Geosyntec gave on Aug. 20. There would need to be a lead agency to pull a proposal together. Concerns were raised on whether we could find enough landowners interested in participating. Kane County is interested. There was discussion on whether we want to work on an RCPP with partners in the watershed upstream of the FRSG study area and that this effort would need to be focused on our efforts to get the Fox River in Illinois off of the 303d list and the subwatersheds contributing the most ag runoff to the Fox River. Rishab will check on the deadline for the next RCPP proposals.

Monitoring/Modeling Committee reports (Continued)

Carpentersville Dam pre-removal surveys

Rob reported that IDNR completed their fish studies on August 6-7. Leonard reported Deuchler has completed the following water quality monitoring tasks:

- Rounds 1 through 3 of water samples have been collected.
- Sondes have been deployed and we have downloaded them twice
- The SOD sondes were deployed this past Monday and retrieved on Tuesday.
- They are planning to download the sondes and collect water quality every 3 weeks from here on out. If weather co-operates, the sondes should be out through mid to late October.

The sondes have been calibrated following the same protocols used by USGS and recommended by the manufacturer YSI.

Rob will check on when IEPA plans to do their macroinvertebrate sampling. The committee needs to review and finalize the contract with INHS for the planned 2021 mussel sampling. Rob said Kane County FPD will share their SOW for the dam removal with the committee. It includes plans for characterizing sediment, a

bathymetric study, concept plan, H&H study, etc. Then next steps are for the SOW to go to the FPD board for approval, then preliminary engineering will begin, permits will be obtained then final engineering will begin. Leonard reported seeing teams out running transect up to our reference monitoring site upstream of the dam. Rob will see if Ken Anderson can join our next call. Ken is also willing to set up a call for the committee with their design team.

The board decided our next meeting at 9:30 am, September 24 will be by conference call.