FREP Executive Committee Minutes 5-10-17 Clarke, St. Charles

Present: Jeff Mengler, Elizabeth Hagen-Moeller, Rob Linke, Nancy Williamson, Dan Lobbes, Karen Miller, Maggie Soliz, Holly Hudson, Katie Parkhurst, Becky Hoag, Gary Cuneen

1) Call to Order 11:10 AM

2) Approval of Minutes for 1-11-17 Dan moved, Holly seconded. Motion passed.


4) Membership Drive for 2016-17 - invoices out to members in June – Becky shared that 2016-17 was the best membership year ever. The 2017-18 campaign will go out in June. Becky suggested we focus on getting more river communities as members, South Elgin, North Aurora, Montgomery

5) Water Trail Update – Karen reported that the Core Development Team is currently focusing on collecting data from the river focusing on access points, dams, and segments. A database is being created and a website will be available for data collectors to record their data. Greg Taylor of Illinois Paddling Council is coordinating the Illinois data collection. Looking at putting a budget together and who can do which tasks. They will be considering the creation of maps, brochures and posters. The Team is asking if FREP can be the fiscal agent for any grants. The Team is meeting around the river in different communities. The next meeting is May 17 at Lost Valley Visitors Center at Glacial Park.
Maggie moved that FREP will serve as fiscal agent for any grants or funding for the Wisconsin-Illinois Fox River Water Trail Initiative, Dan seconded, approved. There was discussion that FREP should add a percentage (TBD) for overhead/administration.

6) Jeff went over the upcoming meeting schedule & locations. A tour of Midwest Groundcovers is next on June 14.

7) Summer Picnic Plans - Jeff proposed that we return to Jon Duerr Preserve and suggested the dates of July 7 and 28. Katie suggested we might go to Brunner Forest Preserve. Consensus for July 7. Jeff will contact Ben Haberthur at Kane County Forest Preserve to check on either site. The time would be 3 to 6. Jeff will provide beverages and grill, Bill the meat. Everyone should bring a dish to share.

8) Follow-up from GreenTown and our Idea Factory Big Idea submittal - Education Campaign for Green Infrastructure in the Fox Valley. FREP’s idea, presented by Jeff, was voted one of the top 2 of 9. Gary urged pursuing capital projects that can be funded by the Community Foundation of Fox Valley. The contact is Julie Christman. Jeff submitted a Letter of Inquiry to Grand Victoria Foundation on May 5, 2017 requesting $35,000 in funds to support the Big Idea from GreenTown. Gary offered any letters of recommendation for grants from Fox Valley Sustainability Network.

9) Subwatershed News - Holly reported that the Mill Creek Watershed proposal got a preliminary approval from ILEPA. The project would start January 2018 if it is finalized. It was suggested that Waubonsee Creek would be a good one for the future. Elizabeth stated that NRCS has received directive to be more involved in watershed planning. No money at this time. If we get the grant from Grand Victoria, we will need to review all the plans in preparation for that project. Holly reported that the 7th Avenue and State Street Creek in St. Charles watershed plan has been submitted to ILEPA. It is an addendum to the Ferson-Otter Creek plan.

10) Old Business – Karen reported that the sign is gone from the FREP Rain Garden in St. Charles.

11) New Business

Fox River Flotilla – FOFR will not be taking place this year. CMAP 2050 Public Forums being hosted around the region. Jeff suggested we might host a forum with Fox Valley Sustainability Network. Greenest Region Compact 2 presented by Edith at GreenTown should be explored for our area.

Minutes recorded and submitted by Becky Hoag.