FREP Executive Committee Meeting Minutes  October 20, 2017  Colonial, East Side, St. Charles

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

Call to Order 8:19 AM
Approval of Minutes from 9-20-17  Elizabeth moved, Maggie seconded. Approved.

Treasurer’s Report  Dan moved, Karen seconded. Approved. FY18 Budget that Becky prepared was presented and reviewed. Maggie seconded. Budget approved.

Membership Drive for 2017-18 Follow ups - Becky shared the few we haven’t heard from and some are currently working on getting their dues in. Jeff discussed need to look for new prospects or get former members back in. Nancy asked if the list of benefits is on the website. Becky will check that what was in the membership letter is put on the website. Karen suggested that as the Water Trail further develops, membership could/should increase.

January Elections – Elizabeth will come up with the slate to be publicized in the December Downstream and the election to be held at the January 10, 2018 meeting.

Water Trail Planning Update  - Karen said there is a real push to collect the rest of the needed data on access, conditions, etc., yet this season. Need data for Algonquin to Elgin and Batavia to Aurora. Karen presented at the Friends of the Fox River Visioning meeting, and made other presentations including at the Illinois Paddling Council annual meeting. Starting to ask for resolutions and letters of support from municipalities and government bodies. Received them from Algonquin, Geneva, and IDNR. Co-chair in Wisconsin, Rebecca Ewald invited members of several Convention & Visitors Bureaus to the last meeting. Many attended and are interested in marketing and branding. The Bike Town program that was presented at GreenTown has contacted Karen about them working with the Water Trail and that is a possibility down the road.

2018 Meetings/Noon Networks Planning
January 10 “Show Me the Money” program needs the subcommittee to organize and flesh out the idea. Nancy suggested contacting Chris Davis, IEPA, to be part of this. Also February was slated for a grant workshop but there was some question if there would be enough on funding and grants for both January and February. For April 11 Noon Network on wildlife and living with large predators, Steve Byers has contacted Max MaGraw and we can hold it there. Nancy will ask Steve to contact Stan Gehrt or Jack McCrae, and Bill Weider, both retired from DuPage Forest Preserve, are other possibilities. McGraw’s new aquaponics program might also be an interesting program. May 9 program on invasive plants, ask if Ben Haberthur from Kane County Forest Preserve could host meeting and present and bring in other land managers, DuPage County Forest Preserve, too. Becky needs to secure a location at FVPD for the June 13 Wild Goose Chase Noon Network. Jeff and Bill will work on the July picnic idea. Dan suggested a program for October 10, 2018 at Little Rock Creek in Kendall County with Dave Guritz

Film Fest Planning for 2018 Update - Becky updated on the status and that we’ll know film options in November. WCC has secured the room for Monday, March 5, 2018. We’re currently seeking commitments from last year’s co-sponsors.

Green Infrastructure Campaign - Working with FVSN and Seven Generations Ahead (SGA) – Gary Cuneen very supportive of the project and has suggested several grant opportunities. Meeting with Grand Victoria Foundation on Nov. 1 for second try. FREP was not eligible for Community Foundation of the Fox River Valley (CFFRV), but applying through SGA, since Gary has put in for the sales tax exemption for SGA and has the required denial documentation. Looking into other funding sources such as Dunham Fund. Nancy suggested the Oberweiller Foundation in Barrington. There was a discussion about what the goals and topics of the campaign should/could include.

Subwatershed News – Info from Holly was shared, including news that Mill Creek Watershed Planning approved and FREP will be involved.

New Business  - Nancy Williamson’s position on Board – changed to advisor/become a voting member. Dan moved to change Nancy’s status to advisor with voting rights. Seconded by Rob. Approved. New display banner for FREP – Becky will work with Nancy on the graphics. Try to put graphic/map of the river. Downstream idea from Jeff to have a monthly Fox River Champion that you should know. Start with Fran Caffee. Jeff has a list of suggestions, including Bill Donnell. Nancy shared that Raceway Woods is on its way to Nature Preserve status. Becky will send thank you to Lorna and Jeff will get information about future opportunities to volunteer at Gladstone Fen to put in the Downstream.

Adjournment – 10:15 AM.  Minutes taken and submitted by Becky Hoag.