

**FREP Executive Committee Minutes**, January 8, 2020, The Centre, Elgin, Illinois

Present: Jeff Mengler, Trish Beckjord, Becky Hoag, Karen Miller, Elizabeth Hagen-Moeller, Carolyn Campbell, Maggie Soliz, Holly Hudson, and Rob Linke

**Call to order:** Jeff Mengler, 11:04 AM

**Approval of Minutes from 11-13-19:** Motion by Williamson, second by Beckjord. Approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Balance of \$10,543.12, includes \$3,749 for the Fox River Trail. The \$1,000 donation from 2017 will no longer be noted and will be added to the FRT total. Miller asked that a separate line item for FRT cash flow be added. These are primarily used for brochures. Vote to approve the transfer of \$1,000 to FRT with the change to provide separate tracking of funds: Motion by Beckjord, Second by Hudson. Approved.

**Election of Officers:** Past president Miller will run election. By-laws changed several years ago to allow for the appointment of advisors. Miller suggested filling position of Ag Advisor with new staff from Kane County, since Janice Hill is retiring. Other advisors are voting members of Executive Committee.

Vote to appoint Cindy Skrukud and Maggie Soliz as voting members-at-large for the Executive Committee.

Motion by Williamson, second by Miller. Approved.

**Membership Dues:** Discussed recruitment of new members, including asking presenters to join. Jeff Palmquist recently submitted dues for Fox Valley Park District. Encourage membership from communities along the river. Miller to discuss trail and possible inlet in S. Elgin next month and will discuss membership. Municipalities can claim FREP for MS4 permits and the water trail offers economic development opportunities. Outreach to educational groups, businesses, stakeholders.

**MCCD Conservation Congress:** February 8, 2020 at McHenry County College, Crystal Lake

Miller will serve as delegate and Mengler as alternate.

**One Earth Film Festival:** March 9, 2020 at Waubensee Community College, Downtown Aurora. March 9, 2020. "A Need to Grow" covers organic, regenerative, sustainable farming. A sustainability resource fair will be held with displays from co-sponsors and others that support and use this type of production. Will have opportunities for engagement.

**Fox River Water Trail Update:** Five open houses held last spring for public input of draft maps. Site visits held to review inputs and change maps and itineraries as needed. Next is submission of Management Plan to NPS. Current admin not processing applications at this time and many are waiting approval from prior years. Still need letters of support. Farnsworth House is putting in an access point with a possible grand opening in the spring.

Williamson and Dennis Sandquist of McHenry County attended a meeting where boating community concerns were expressed. Need to evaluate advocacy efforts and better understand boater perceptions/ concerns. Need to highlight where canoeing is NOT appropriate.

**2020 Meetings/Noon Networks Planning:** February will be a discussion on lake/ pond shoreline management. Jeff Palmquist will be there with Sarah Voska of Bluestem whose background in climate change will bring a global perspective. Professional Development Hours are available for FREP presentations and may serve as a draw for some professionals. Registration for Fox River Summit in March is already on-line. Will include an Art on the Fox program by Conservation Foundation and a report by John Rogner on the State of the DNR and the outcome of the Fox River Commission Survey. Each member group will have 2-3 minutes to present. Aida Frey will present at the Algonquin Village Hall in April and discuss her years as America's most decorated Junior Ranger. Also planned for the year is a presentation by Gary Cuneen, Executive Director of Seven Generations Ahead, about his experience at the COP25 summit and provide insights into how people can take action. Other ideas include Little Rock with a rain date and a Fox River Sustainability program on plastics, It's Our River Day event, field trip to McHenry Township for their roadside restoration efforts, Land Use Council with State of IL for discussion on regenerative farming with possible trip to Bruner Farm. (See attached meeting schedule for 2020.)

**Old Business:** Vote to authorize a contract with CMAP for education/outreach services for the Indian Creek Watershed planning effort. Motion by Beckjord, second by Soliz

**New Business:** None

**Adjournment:** 12:55 PM

Minutes submitted by Carolyn Campbell, Secretary