

FREP Executive Committee Meeting, September 9, 2020 Microsoft Teams Platform

Present: Jeff Mengler, Becky Hoag, Maggie Soliz, Nancy Williamson, Rob Linke, Elizabeth Hagen-Moeller, Carolyn Campbell, Alyse Olsen, Holly Hudson, Jessica Mino

Call to Order: Jeff Mengler, 11:10 AM

Approval of Minutes from 5-13-2020: Motion to approve by Soliz, second by Linke. Motion Approved.

Treasurer's Report: Fund activity limited to membership dues, CMAP, and communications expenses. Available balance is \$5,498.99 (\$10,247.99 less \$4,749 in River Trail funds.) Vote on report not taken.

Membership Update: Received dues from Blue Stem and Friends of Hackmatack. Overall, on track with current renewals at \$3675 to date, versus a total of \$6000 last year. Looking for ideas for outreach to new members, with a focus on more diversity of people and organizations. Send ideas to Jeff or Becky. Response to on-line application is good.

Fabulous Fox Water Trail Update: No update. Group has not been meeting lately.

2020-21 Meetings/ Noon Networks Planning:

Remaining 2020 Programs: Today's presentation is on plastics with Jennifer Jarland (Kane Co). The McHenry County Township Roadside tour for October is postponed as they feel the site is not ready. Instead, for October Nancy Williamson and Steve Byers will talk about Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge. November's program is "Sustainable and Regenerative Agriculture", with Brad Woodson (MCCD), Joe Bybee (IL Dept of Ag), and Olga Lyandres (Delta Institute) presenting. Maggie will forward information on an upcoming regenerative foods systems event (Set 14-17) to Jeff to share with others.

Programs for 2021: First topic discussed was WOTUS, the federal rollbacks in regulations, the local response, and how these responses differ between counties. Jeff recently completed an on-line training on WOTUS and could present. Should reach out to Joanna Colletti (McHenry) and Jodie Wollnik (Kane) about providing the local perspective. Outreach to ag community was suggested. The IL Land Use Council's November meeting is on watersheds and could be helpful in planning our program. Other topics discussed: (1) Bumble Bees as pollinators. Eva Lewandowski, PhD (WDNR) and Susan Carpenter with the "Wisconsin Bumble Bee Brigade" could serve as resources on this topic. (2) Singing Insects. Would center on the work of Carl Strang, formally with CCFP. His website includes recordings. (3) Sub-watershed plans. Should we be presenting plans that we helped support? Rob indicated Indian Creek would probably not be ready, but Mill Creek would be possible. Crystal Creek and Fox Waterways were also mentioned. (4) CMAP LTA projects. (5) Successful Watershed Planning Models. Discussed Fox River Flood Commission report and effectiveness of watershed plans in general. Look at current models that are working well (Mercer County Soil and Water District, Huron River Watershed Coalition). Instead of making this political, create a model that is science based and draws on actual successes which, in turn, could be part of a future program. (6) Flood Readiness. How are local communities planning for climate change and increased flooding? Is this an area where FREP can be of assistance? Group spoke about the focus of the presentations and whether the purpose was a call to action, a deeper dive into a topic of interest, or both. Rights-of-Way as Habitat is an example of combining interest in monarchs with a larger discussion of pollinators and habitat decline.

Old Business: Fox River Summit Alternative: Tom Slawski (SEWRPC) received an offer for the Summit to participate in the Annual WI Lakes and Rivers Convention "Wisconsin Water Week" being held in March 2021. Our Fox River Summit would be during a full-day breakout session on March 11. Could re-engage speakers scheduled for last year, which was cancelled. Would require marketing and promoting to ensure members see this as relevant. Brief discussion on the value of retaining virtual access to meetings even as we move to in-person events.

New Business:

Watershed Science Fair. Working with Paul Anderson, the fair would be for schools/ students and focus on issues facing the Fox River Watershed specifically. Could be an annual event co-sponsored with Friends of the Fox and others. Individuals mentioned who could assist include Elizabeth, Gary Swick, Deb McCullen, Scott Johnson, Ian McCleary, Carl Drager, and Dan Renz. Perhaps include a jobs/careers component. Elizabeth will take the lead.

Earthshare: Should we consider this? Does it add credibility or help with grant applications? Membership may be reciprocal, requiring volunteer contributions.

Other: Determine our role in alerting members to grant application opportunities/deadlines and providing letters of endorsement.

Adjourn: 12:41 PM

Minutes Submitted by Carolyn Campbell, Secretary