

FREP Executive Committee Minutes, May 13, 2020 ZOOM Platform

Present: Jeff Mengler, Trish Beckjord, Becky Hoag, Karen Miller, Elizabeth Hagen-Moeller, Carolyn Campbell, Maggie Soliz, Holly Hudson, Rob Linke, Nancy Williamson, Megan Andrews, Alyse Olson

Call to order: Jeff Mengler, 11:05 AM

Approval of Minutes from 1-8-2020: Motion to approve by Beckjord, second by Williamson. Motion approved.

Treasurer's Report: Motion to approve by Hudson, second by Beckjord. Motion approved.

Membership Update: Jeff discussed messaging – highlight what FREP can offer and identify grant opportunities. Discussed delay of membership renewal letters (July 1) due to limited staffing at member agencies and potential economic hardships from pandemic. Sierra Club not sending an “ask” this time around. Municipalities likely to be hit harder next year. Seems fine for now and projects are moving forward. Local environmental standards are staying in place despite changes at federal level. Nancy raised 319 and OSLAD – target communities with heavy park usage due to COVID for possible funding. FREP could be a part of their application process – offer assistance through President's letter. Trish recommended not delaying renewals, move to an electronic format, and use a President's letter to target specific communities who could benefit from grant funding. Committee members asked to submit ideas to Becky or Jeff to include in the membership letter and Downstream Newsletter.

Fox River Water Trail Update: Kane County Connects to include a series of articles on the health benefits of being outside and with a focus on local water and land trails, highlighting various segments and their amenities. Still have a few hundred FFWT Brochures left (out of 50,000). State funding for printing expenses has been cut. FREP budget can absorb this cost, but still need to cover distribution. FFWT is working on itineraries for different trail segments throughout Illinois. Detailed descriptions would include access points, amenities, links to businesses and restaurants, points of interest, “Plan a Day” suggestions, etc. Looking at signage to ID trail. Discussed ways FREP can help promote FFWT. Include in President's message. Devote part of FREP website to Water Trail. Feature a trail segment each month in DOWNSTREAM, including relevant information and links back to FFWT website. Could choose trail segments based on festivals or seasonal activities. Include individual stories, photos.

Fox River Study Group Update: Megan Andrews has accepted a position with NRCS and will no longer serve as representative. Megan introduced her successor, Alyse Olson who introduced herself. After a couple of internships with forest preserves, Alyse went to work for WBK Engineering as an environmental consultant, volunteered in Rob Linke's office, and now works for Kendall County SWCD. Her varied experience makes her well-positioned to assume her new role and FREP members are excited to have her on board.

Linke moved to appoint Alyse Olson to serve as FREP representative to Fox River Study Group, second by Beckjord. Motion approved. Welcome Alyse!

Megan made a statement to committee members. She expressed gratitude and appreciation for her experience and time with FREP and said she enjoyed being a representative and voice for the group. She praised members for their tireless work, expertise, care, and commitment. Megan is still in the office and continues to be a reference and resource. Thank you, Megan!!

2020 Meetings/Noon Networks Planning: Discussed complications of scheduling events due to stay-at-home measures. Presentation by Seven Generations Ahead Executive Director, Gary Cuneen, to be held virtually. Little Rock outing still under consideration. Have asked Dave Guritz to plan a contingency in case of bad weather as this has been cancelled before. Discussed possible virtual tour if in-person meetings are not permitted by then. July picnic is wait and see. Ben would like to showcase Freeman Kame Preserve so the thought is to hold the meeting there and have the picnic at the old camp on the south side of the road. Winchester Glenn in August is still on and could most likely be held on-line. September to be held at Kane County auditorium with a presentation on plastics which could be done virtually. Additional information continues to become available for inclusion. Group discussed plastics in the river and if this has been measured. It's Our River Day planning is on-going.

Sub-watershed News: Holly will get The Indian Creek Water shed planning web page up. Will include a map of the area. A couple of direct drainage areas to the Fox River will be added. They are River Edge Park and Blues Island and Veterans Island.

Adjournment: 12:45PM

Minutes submitted by Carolyn Campbell, Secretary