

FREP Executive Committee Meeting Minutes: November 10, 2021 – Batavia Government Center. Meeting called to order by President Mengler at 11:12 am.

Members Present: Jeff Mengler, Nancy Williamson, Becky Hoag, Karen Miller, Jessica Mino, Carolyn Campbell, Alyse Olson and Rob Linke.

Approval of 9-8-21 Minutes: Motion to approve by Williamson. Second by Linke. Minutes Approved.

Treasurer Report: Statement of Cash Flows for the period 9/1/21 – 10/31/21 was presented. Total Revenues came to \$1,675.98 which is made up entirely of Membership Dues. Total Net Expenses of \$1,090.00 were reported and accounts primarily for communication management expenses. Ending Cash Balance totaled \$10,282.20 distributed as follows: Fox River Trail - \$3,774.00 and FREP - \$6,508.20. Motion to approve Treasurer's Report by Miller. Second by Williamson. Motion Approved.

Annual Membership Drive: President Mengler has been contacting past members that had not renewed, and roughly half of those have since renewed. A few lapsed memberships were noted. Members with connections were asked to follow-up. Assuming many renew on the list, we should be on track with last year's totals.

2021-2022 Meetings/Noon Networks:

Holiday Gathering: Two restaurants were identified as sustainable farm to table: "Farmhouse on North in Barrington" and "Black Bear Bistro" in Algonquin. Rob Linke offered his home for an outdoor gathering which could also work even if weather did not cooperate. Doodle poll to follow – December 9, 14, 16 and 21 identified as possible dates.

January 12, 2022 (Membership Meeting): Elections/ Slate of Officers. Program - new changes to the NPDES/ MS4 program requirements. Format will include a panel discussion. Linke will oversee this program and contact potential speakers.

February 9, 2022 (Noon Network): Legislative Update with Jack Darin, Sierra Club and Elliot Clay, Illinois Environmental Council. Virtual.

March 2022:

Fox River Summit. It was noted that Tom Slawski is interested in returning to an in-person meeting which is currently scheduled for Thursday, March 17 at Veterans Terrace in Burlington, WI. Possible program ideas as well as presenters were discussed. Fox River Study Group could present on their research around phosphorous and nutrient loss reduction.

One Earth Film Festival: Noted that the national and even international impact last year was tremendous. Need to determine how to combine the benefits of in-person with the larger reach. Programming ideas for both events in March are needed.

Future Programs: The following ideas were presented by Mengler as possible future topics:

1. 30X30: Is a goal set by COP26 to retain 30 percent of all land in conservation/ open space by 2030. Openlands presented a program on this topic for Chicago Wilderness and Mengler suggested reaching out to their speakers. This goal could be adopted for our watershed.
2. Climate Change Resiliency for our Watershed: Panel discussion format. Speakers identified include Sarah Vosca with Bluestem (presented at FREP's shoreline management program and attended COP meeting a couple of times previously) and Holly Jones with NIU and Save Bell Bowl Prairie.
3. COP26 with Gary Cuneen.(Seven Generations Ahead) and students who accompanied him.
4. Going Beyond the Greenest Region Compact with the Mayors Climate Compact (Edith Makra).
5. Prohibiting the Use of Dicamba: Legislation recommended by the IEC to restrict use of Dicamba with Elliot Clay.
6. Natural Heritage of the Fox River Watershed.

The committee held a discussion on the various climate focused plans in the region including the Climate Action Plan for the Chicago Region, Metropolitan Mayors Caucus Sustainability Plan, Regional Climate Action Plan which is a step beyond the Greenest Region Compact. Kane County is taking the next steps to develop their own climate action plan (which could be a future topic). In terms of programming, April could be the *global* perspective and May the *local*.

Additional ideas included:

1. Bi-state mussel study (Cindy Skrukud)
2. Blandings Turtle (Cindi Jablonski – MCCC, Gary Glowacki – Lake County FPD, Bill Glaser – Kane County FPD)
3. Urban Stream Research Center Tour
4. Detention Drainage Mapping – a drainage infrastructure mapping tool. Beta version is available currently. Can target anywhere in Kane County and the program will show flow to the Kishwaukee and/or Fox Rivers. An abstract will be published in March so tool will be ready for next year.
5. Regional Conservation Partnership Program with NRCS. Alyse will do the research. Natural soil research reports are triggered by a change in zoning, variances, etc., and can be different for individual water and soil districts. These reports are publicly available and yet not all municipalities reference them when making decisions on zoning. How do we educate local government agencies on this resource?
6. Steve Beyer and the 10-year anniversary of Friends of Hackmatacki NWR. This will be moved to 2023.

Fox River Water Trail: Miller noted the water trail is a priority project for the new Kane County Board Chair who sees this as an important asset. This increased interest includes improvements in signage, more education for paddlers on activities available to them outside of just paddling, improving access sites along with added amenities, and more storage (actual structures throughout the county) for canoes, kayaks, and equipment. The Water Trail was one of many applications submitted to the American Rescue program for grant funding. Representative Underwood learned of the trail and her office reached out to the County Chair. Senator Durbin also expressed interest. Both were asked to complete Letters of Support for ARPA funding. Miller shared that she had arranged for a paddling trip on the Fox with Congressman Foster. The event grew to 12 people (they contracted out for the equipment). Went very well and Kane County will host another event for the northern half of the county next spring. Working on a design for signage should funding become available. Requirements for national trail designation have changed and so the application needs adjustments. Looking to submit final copy in 2022. Would like to invite new members to the team including representation from other counties (Kendall, LaSalle, and MCCC) and possibly TCF. Applications are due November 1 each year with awards announced the following June.

Sub Watershed News: Holly Hudson not in attendance. No report.

Science Fair: No report.

New Business: Fox River Corridor Study Group looking for input on Burtons Bridge to Johnsburg section of CMAP Report. Contact Holly Hudson and/or Kelsey Pudlock at CMAP.

It was noted that the Batavia City Council was divided on how to handle the Batavia Dam with a split between rebuilding and removal. They were presented with 5 separate choices.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 12:46 pm.

Membership Meeting Program at 1 PM: Free the Fox, Art Malm

Minutes submitted by Carolyn Campbell, FREP Secretary