

**FREP Executive Committee Meeting Minutes:** September 8, 2021 – Creek Bend Nature Center in St. Charles.

Meeting called to order by President Mengler at 11:12 am.

**Present:** Jeff Mengler, Becky Hoag, Nancy Williamson, Elizabeth Hagen-Moeller, Carolyn Campbell, Rob Linke, Holly Hudson, Jessica Mino, Alyse Olson, Maggie Soliz, and Steve Beyers.

**Approval of Minutes:** from May 12, 2021. A few corrections were noted and made. Motion to approve revised minutes by Williamson. Second by Hudson. Revised minutes approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Hagen-Moeller stated dues are coming in and currently total \$3,600.45. A portion of revenue received were direct donations totaling \$175.00. Only expense outside of normal expenses for Communication Management Services was for the Fox River Trail which covered Map Hero enhancements to the web page. Cash Balance as of 8-31-21 was \$9,871.22 with a FREP balance of \$6,097.22 and a Fox River Trail balance of \$3,774. E-filing of the financial statement was sent to the Secretary of State with a \$15 filing fee which is generally reimbursed (occurs with balances under \$10,000). The \$1,940 from the Fox River Summit being held by the Southeast Fox River Partnership does not appear on the financial statement. Scott Johnson has not responded to the idea of a documentary showcasing his journey on the Fox. Becky noted she has video of Dick Young at a gathering honoring him 15 + years ago which was re-digitized by her son and could be incorporated into the documentary. Hudson moved to approve the Treasurer's Report. Second by Soliz.

**Annual Membership Drive:** It was noted that we are \$2,000 short on membership dues relative to last year. Prior members who have not renewed in the past several years are contacted directly. Committee members were asked to check on the renewal status for their respective organizations. Discussion took place regarding the City of Crystal Lake which has not been a member for several years and was not on this year's mailing list. Williamson will get a note and membership form to Mayor Haleblian. Waiting on renewal from McHenry-Lake Soil and Water District (Spring Duffy is currently with this organization). Kane County and North Cook Soil and Water District submitted dues yesterday, bringing the shortfall closer to \$1,800.

Soliz recommended reaching out to members of Chicago Wilderness where there is a push to redefine the region by watershed instead of by county. The goal is to have every watershed develop a plan so that prioritization can be done regionally. Municipalities are responsible for the watersheds in their areas. Grants require having a plan and FREP can be the education and outreach component, assist with Notice of Intent, identify new requirements, etc.

Discussion ensued on NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) permitting and MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) which is required for every municipality with storm sewer systems. If covered by MS4, NPDES permitting is done through the state EPA. NPDES has added significant new requirements for control measures, public education, and public involvement. The Fox River Study Group has used the educational component to gain new membership in the past.

**Noon Networks Updates:** Schedule for first six months of 2022:

**October 13, 2021:** Noon Network - Tour of the Keith Andres Memorial Park Stream Stabilization Project in Carpentersville

**November 10, 2021:** Membership Meeting – "Free the Fox" by Art Malm (Batavia City Hall?)

**December 2021:** Holiday Gathering (date and location TBD)

**January 12, 2022:** Membership Meeting/Elections/Program

**February 9, 2022:** Noon Network

**March 2022:** Fox River Summit/ One Earth Film Festival

**April 13, 2022:** Noon Network

**May 11, 2022:** Membership Meeting/Program

**June 8, 2022:** Noon Network

Looking for a place to hold the Holiday Gathering. Past gatherings have been at Duke's Alehouse in Crystal Lake, Bleuroot in West Dundee, River's Edge ( now the Sidecar Supper Club & Beer Garden) in Batavia, and Hardware Sustainable Gastropub and Brewery in North Aurora.

A presentation on NPDES was suggested for January and Linke will oversee. Comment period for recommended changes to NPDES is now through September 27, 2021 after which time final rules and regulations will be in force. Reporting period ends February 1 with annual reports from municipalities due June 1 of each year. January presentation could include a panel discussion with a focus on Changes, Challenges, and Options. It was noted that DuPage County offers certification of Qualified Local Programs.

Linke suggested a potential program for Spring could be on drainage maps. Presentation could highlight drainage watershed mapping with a discussion on how and where water moves, the impact to property owners, and the implications for emergency planning. Another suggestion was on dams – specifically, who has control over them, how are they operated, and are we prepared for the impacts from climate change on how they operate and regulate water flow. Brief discussion on McHenry County Dam Act, IDNR authority over dams, local control and removal of dams took place.

Additional topics included: Blanding's turtles with Gary Glowaki (Lake County FPD) and Bill Glaser (Kane County FPD); The RCPP (Regional Conservation Partnership Program) through NRCS; tour of the Urban Stream Research Center with the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County; Bi-state mussels study of the Fox River with Jessi DeMartini; Annual Legislative Update with Jack Darin (February Noon Network – virtual); and 10 Year Anniversary (2022) of the Friends of Hackmatack with Steve Beyers. Looking for ideas for the Summit and the Film Festival. Need to consider video recording in-person events so that they can be posted for on FREP's website along with past Zoom presentations. It was noted that meetings need to be waste free.

**Fox River Watershed Science Fair:** Mengler would like to keep the science fair in focus and determine how best to get program established as a permanent part of FREP. Need to establish a comprehensive list of schools and possible educators.

**Subwatershed News:** Indian Creek. Hudson noted that the grant period has been extended through June of 2022 and that this winter would include community outreach and stakeholder meetings. Meeting had to wrap up quickly due to lack of time and anyone interested in additional information on Indian Creek should contact Holly Hudson directly.

Motion to adjourn meeting by Linke. Second by Olsen. Meeting Adjourned at 1:00 pm.

Minutes submitted by Carolyn Campbell, FREP Secretary