

## **FREP Membership Meeting Minutes**, January 13, 2021, ZOOM Platform

**Call to Order** at 1:06 AM by President Jeff Mengler

Present: Jeff Mengler, Nancy Williamson, Becky Hoag, Elizabeth Hagen-Moeller, Lyn Campbell, Karen Miller, Holly Hudson, Jessica Mino, Rob Linke, Alyse Olson, Patrick McPartlan, Jack Shouba, Gary Swick, Rachael West, Joanna Colletti, Spring Duffey, Lucas King, Sarah Voska, Ivy Klee, Ken Anderson, Kathleen Judy, Alicia Burchacki, Katie Parkhurst, Erin Delawalla.

**Approval of Minutes:** from 11-11-2020: Motion to approve by Williamson. Second by Miller. Approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Hagen-Moeller indicated the Statement of Cash Flows reflects the full calendar year. The FRWT balance of \$4749.00 does not include a \$25 donation that was deposited today. Total ending balance for FREP is \$5097.82. Hagen-Moeller explained that Membership Dues are the primary source of revenue. Main expenses are for communication services provided by Becky Hoag. Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report by Campbell. Second by Hudson. Approved.

**FREP Annual Membership** Hoag acknowledged new member, Lucas King, and thanked him for joining. Work continues to secure additional renewals, but overall, membership is strong. Received CMAP grant which provides additional budget support. Adding additional communities along the Fox River continues to be a goal.

**Election of Officers** Karen Miller conducted the election process. She started by thanking the current members for serving this past year. Current slate, which is unchanged, consists of Jeff Mengler, President; Nancy Williamson, Vice-President; Carolyn Campbell, Secretary; and Elizabeth Hagen-Moeller, Treasurer. Slate of Candidates approved by voice vote.

**Fox Water Trail Update:** Miller noted the website ([fabulousfoxwatertrail.org](http://fabulousfoxwatertrail.org)) has been updated. She provided a brief explanation behind the effort to create a water trail along the entire length of the Fox River. The goal is to submit an application to the National Parks Service for consideration, and ultimately, designation into the National Water Trail System. The current Federal Administration did not process any applications on file prior to the end of the Obama Administration until just three days before the election. Miller is contributing an article on the FRWT for the March issue of Silent Sports Magazine, which focuses on non-motorized sports in the Midwest. A link will be provided on the FREP website.

**Fox River Summit:** FREP will participate in a day-long breakout session on March 11 as part of Wisconsin's Lake and Rivers Convention. Planning group includes Jeff Mengler, Tom Slawski, Gary Swick, Cindy Skrukruud, Gary Mechanic, and Nancy Williamson. The speakers secured for last year have been confirmed as topics are still relevant. Final schedule in development and Save-the-Date notices have been sent. Sessions will run concurrently and will be recorded. The day will end in additional break-out sessions to facilitate conversations between participants and to encourage year-long engagement with everyone in the entire Fox River Watershed. Topics under consideration include regenerative agriculture, water quality, and other action items. Information to follow.

**One Earth Film Festival** The film, "Kiss the Ground", has been confirmed for this year. Date to be in March. The film focuses on regenerative agriculture and stars Woody Harrelson who was instrumental in its development. Refer to FREP website for additional information.

### **2021 Meetings/ Noon Networks:**

**January 13:** WOTUS rule changes and local regulations protecting wetlands.

**February 10:** Presentation on the recently federally listed Rusty Patch bumblebees which have been sited more recently in area conservation areas. Dr. Jason Robinson, entomologist with the Illinois Natural History Survey, will present.

**March:** One Earth Film Festival and the Fox River Summit (March 11).

**April 14:** Jack Darin, Head of Sierra Club Illinois Chapter, to discuss legislative updates in Springfield - "Illinois Conservation Update"

**May 12:** Ed Collins on the "Fourth Conservation Movement."

**June 9:** Steve Zimmerman (AES) to do a presentation on the Crystal Creek Watershed Plan as well as how to implement these plans in general.

Members were asked for input on future topics. Erin Dellawalla (RES) recommended the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP), a funding program from USDA aimed at encouraging innovative watershed partnership projects in areas such as wetland restoration, cover cropping, stream bank stabilization, etc on farmland in watersheds.

**Sub Watershed News:** Hudson noted that the Indian Creek, Big Rock Creek, and Crystal Creek watersheds all have plans that are on-going. In addition, CMAP, which is facilitating the development of the Fox River Corridor Plan covering Burton's Bridge to Johnsbury, is holding virtual visioning workshops on Tuesday, January 19 from 2-4 pm and Thursday, January 21 from 6:30-8:30 pm for public input and participation.

Adjournment at 1:37 PM

Minutes submitted by Carolyn Campbell, Secretary