

FREP Membership Meeting Minutes, September 9, 2020, ZOOM Platform

Call to Order at 1:07 PM

Present: Jeff Mengler, Lynn Campbell, Becky Hoag, Elizabeth Hagen-Moeller, Nancy Williamson, Alyse Olson, Holly Hudson, Jessica Mino, Rob Linke, Maggie Soliz, and additional participants.

Jeff Mengler welcomed members to the meeting noting that today's presentation is on plastics pollution and recycling. It was noted that our last Membership Meeting was in January in Elgin and included a presentation on migratory birds by Jim Herkert.

Business Agenda

Vote to approve Minutes from 1-8-20. Moved by Nancy Williamson, second by Elizabeth Hagen-Moeller. Minutes approved.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Hagen-Moeller explained that FREP is starting to receive membership dues which is how FREP is primarily funded. The CMAP dollars represent grant funds for work performed by Becky Hoag for website management for the Fox River Watershed. The bulk of expenses are for communication services provided by Becky. FREP holds the funds for the Fabulous Fox River Water Trail initiative which are included in the report. To date, fund balances are \$5,498.99 for FREP and \$4749 for the Water Trail.

FREP Annual Membership Drive

FREP fiscal year is June to July. Membership renewals went out in July which was a bit later this year out of concern there would be additional challenges securing renewals due to COVID. Response has been positive. We are halfway to the total for last year. Individual memberships have also been increasing. Follow-ups will be sent to those who haven't responded yet. FREP's updated webpage includes a new link for on-line payments for membership and renewals.

Fox Water Trail Update

Karen Miller is on vacation. No new updates are available at this time as the committee waits for pandemic challenges to subside. There are no federal water trail designations that have been approved under the current administration. The application for a federal designation under the national park service will have to wait until an administration acknowledges the program. The Fabulous Fox Water Trail webpage has great information with plenty of details on amenities. Everyone is encouraged to paddle on!

Upcoming Meetings and Noon Networks

October would have been an in-person Noon Network, but instead will be a virtual meeting featuring the Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge with Nancy Williamson and Steve Beyers, both with Friends of Hackmatack, presenting and will be on Wednesday, October 14. This is a fascinating story of how a group of individuals worked to bring a collection of organizations together to establish a national refuge within the Chicago region. November's topic is regenerative and sustainable agriculture and will include speakers from the Illinois Department of Agriculture, the McHenry County Conservation District, and the Delta Institute and will also be virtual. Stay tuned for the "social gathering" for December as details continue to be finalized. Please submit your ideas for meetings/programs for 2021 to Jeff. Meetings will continue to be virtual for the foreseeable future. An outdoor field trip may still be possible.

Sub Watershed News

Nothing new to report. New efforts will be reported on at a later date. FREP has been a partner in the Annual Fox River Summit which was cancelled for 2020. Next year, we will hold a Fox River Summit on Thursday, March 11, which will be embedded in a larger Wisconsin Waters and Rivers Convention. One day that week featuring local watersheds and FREP was invited to present. More details will be provided as they become available.

Adjournment 1:22 PM

Minutes submitted by Carolyn Campbell, Secretary

Program: Plastics in our Watershed - including excerpts from a number of related videos from National Geographic & PBS Presenter: Jennifer Jarland, Kane County Recycling Coordinator