

FREP Membership Meeting Minutes, November 11, 2020, ZOOM Platform

Call to Order at 1:05 PM. President Jeff Mengler welcomed members and noted there would be a brief business meeting before moving forward with the program on Sustainable and Regenerative Agriculture.

Approval of Minute: from September 9, 2020. Moved by Nancy Williamson, Katie Parkhurst. Minutes approved.

Treasurer's Report President Mengler reviewed the Statement of Cash Flows on behalf of Treasurer Hagen-Moeller who was expected to join the meeting later. Statement was for the period September 1 through October 31, 2020 and reflected Net Revenues of \$1,819.81 which consisted primarily of Membership Dues. Fiscal year is July through June and membership renewal notices went out end of July. Primary expenses are paying our Communications Manager. The cash balance of \$10,437.80 listed on the statement includes \$4,749 for the Fox River Trails initiative for which FREP serves as fiscal agent. Final balance for FREP is \$5,688.80. Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report made by Katie Parkhurst, second by Carolyn Campbell. Motion approved.

FREP Annual Membership Drive Renewals were a bit later than usual. Following up with reminders for those we haven't heard back from. Running at about 74% of where we were this time last year. Perhaps not all that bad given current conditions. Quite a few are in the process of renewal so we should receive those soon. Highlighted Executive Committee discussion on ways to either reconnect with members that have dropped off or establish new connections. Many municipalities use their FREP membership to meet part of their education and outreach program requirement under NPDES MS4 permits. Asked members to follow up with their own agencies if they are aware that they have not renewed yet.

Fabulous Fox Water Trail Update Karen Miller was unable to join the meeting. An update has been included in the last issue of the Downstream Newsletter and is on the FREP webpage. We continue to be in a holding pattern until we get a new federal administration in place who will act on designations as a national water trail.

Fox River Summit is schedule for Thursday March 11, 2021 and will be virtual. This event will be hosted by and is embedded in the Wisconsin Lakes and Rivers Convention. Thursday's breakout sessions are an opportunity for local lakes and watersheds to highlight what they are doing. It is likely FREP will bring back the same slate of speakers from the 2020 program which was cancelled as their topics remain timely and appropriate.

One Earth Film Festival will be all virtual in 2021. No date has been set, but event will likely be in March as it has been historically. Film screening is still taking place to identify a film that is appropriate to our watershed and interests. The screening of the film 2040 Regeneration had over 200 participants and gave a glimpse of how well the virtual format will work including pre- and post- discussions with the filmmaker and moderator.

2021 Meetings/ Noon Networks Will continue to meet virtually. Holiday Gathering will be December 9 at 6:30 pm. Members are invited to share stories, pictures, and/or videos about their yards and what they are doing to support wildlife, sustainability, and biodiversity. Members are encouraged to order dinner from their own local farm-to-table, sustainable restaurants and FREP will compile a list to share with membership. Programs currently scheduled include:

January 13, 2021: Update on the Waters of the United States regulation changes and the impact on local agencies.

February 10, 2021: Program on the Rusty Patch Bumblebee (newly federally endangered species) along with other bee species with possible speakers from the Illinois Natural History Survey.

March 11, 2021: One Earth Film Festival and Fox River Summit.

Programs are expected to be virtual at least through the first half of the year. Members are encouraged to pass along ideas for future programs to either Jeff or Becky as there are still spots available.

Sub Watershed News Work continues on the Indian Creek and Crystal Creek sub watershed plans. Mill Creek is complete. Members should refer to FREP website for additional information. FREP acts as host for sub watersheds within our basin and links or actual content will be posted there. Fox River Corridor Planning meeting with CMAP is scheduled for tomorrow, November 12 covering Burton's Bridge to Johnsbury.

Today's program is Sustainable and Regenerative Agriculture with presenters Brad Woodson with the McHenry County Conservation District, Joe Bybee with the Illinois Department of Agriculture, and Olga Lyandres with Delta Institute.

Adjournment 1:24 PM Minutes submitted by Carolyn Campbell, Secretary