

Call to Order at 1:07 PM by President Jeff Mengler

Present Jeff Mengler, Carolyn Campbell, Holly Hudson, Rob Linke, Elizabeth Hagen-Moeller, Karen Miller, Alyse Olson, Becky Hoag, Ed Collins, Katie Parkhurst, Ilene Dailey, Janice Hill, Brad Earnest, Sue Glavan, Erica Lemon Faye Sinnott, David Stout, Scott Kykendall, Jack Shouba, Dave Brandt, Wendy Kummerer, Paul Anderson, Sue Jensen, Eva Kiss, Rick McAndless, Gary Swick, Mavis Bates, Erin Delawalla, Elizabeth Mays, Jerry Johnson, Katie Garrett

Approval of Minutes: from 1-13-2021. Miller noted a correction to the minutes under water Trail Update which was incorporated. Motion to approve by Miller second by Hudson. Approved.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Hagen-Moeller noted that FREP's Fiscal Year ends June 30. The balance for FREP as of April 30 is \$3,747.16 and for the River Trail is \$4,774. Membership dues are paid primarily by organizations but we do have a growing number of individual members. Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report by Miller. Second by Campbell Approved.

FREP Annual Membership Drive Last year's drive was delayed by a bit to avoid sending notices when most places were shut down due to COVID. Overall membership was down, but only slightly, and total dues collected came to \$4,975. Membership drive begins in June. Notices are mailed as some agencies require the paperwork for tracking. Follow up is done via email. Individual contacts in communities are an important way to maintain memberships. Members are asked to help watch for those renewal forms and help them move forward when possible. Members who may know of someone from communities not already a part of FREP who could serve as a point of contact are asked to please pass that information along to Jeff Mengler. Focus for FY 2021/22 will be on river communities though all communities and individuals are welcome to join.

Fabulous Fox! Water Trail Update: Miller noted the team has been working with consultant Mat Kania, from Map Hero who developed the original logo, website and brochure for the trail. The updates include adding the river miles for the dams as a safety precaution, additional photos, and improvements to access sites. Itineraries developed for the Illinois side of the river were previously included. The upgrade should be completed within the next several weeks. Members are encouraged to check out the website. Miller noted that she was asked to submit an article on the Water Trail for the March issue of Silent Sports Magazine which covers non-motorized sports in the Midwest. In response to a question regarding a formal request for designation as a national water trail, Miller indicated they are currently working on the outline for a management plan and will then set to work on completing the plan. Her hope is to have everything done by the end of the year.

2021 Meetings/ Noon Networks:

June 9: (Noon Network) Crystal Creek Watershed Plan Presentation by RES AES at Crystal Lake City Hall Site tours will follow at two locations including one where they will discuss the "daylighting" of the creek as part of the future improvements Details on the FREP website.

July 14: (Annual picnic) Les Arends Forest Preserve in Batavia. Will gather in person but everyone should bring their own food beverage. Event will include a presentation on fresh-water mussels by Jessi DeMartini with the DuPage County FPD Urban Stream Research Center. Attendees are welcome to get into the water and look for mussels.

August 11: (Noon Network) "Roadside as Habitat" presentation and field tour hosted by McHenry Township and Environmental Defenders of McHenry County. Details to follow.

September 8: (Membership Meeting) "Singing Insects" presentation by Carl Strang who is retired from the DuPage County FPD and is the local expert on singing insects. The sounds you hear after dusk are all insects and Carl's website provides additional detail and can help individuals identify these sounds. Event will be held at the Creek Bend Nature Center located in the LeRoy Oakes Forest Preserve in St. Charles which is part of the Kane County FPD.

October 13: (Noon Network) Lake Marian Creek 319 Project presentation in Carpentersville. FREP saw it pre construction in April 2019, and it is now completed. Details to follow.

Sub-Watershed News: Indian Creek Watershed based Plan: Hudson explained that the Indian Creek is a tributary to the Fox on the east side of the Fox in eastern Kane and western DuPage counties with headwaters in Fermi Lab in Batavia and then down through Aurora and entering the Fox just north of River Edge Park in downtown Aurora. Field work has begun with resource inventory including stream physical conditions and detention basin assessments. One lake within the project area will require a shoreline conditions assessment. Work is also being done on a public engagement platform which should be done this summer. Link for additional information is provided in the FREP Downstream Newsletter.

President Mengler provided a brief summary on the Fox River Summit (the recordings for the sessions are available online through the FREP website), the One Earth Film Festival, and the Fox River Watershed Science Fair, all of which were virtual and very successful.

Adjournment at 1:29 PM

Minutes submitted by Carolyn Campbell, Secretary

Program by Ed Collins on ***The 4th Conservation Movement*** followed.