



# FREP Executive Committee Meeting

Wednesday, Oct. 11, 2023 10:30 AM  
Pingree Grove FP, prior to Noon Network

## Minutes

PRESENT: Holly Hudon, Karen Ann Miller, Nancy Williamson, Sue Glavan, Eva Kiss, Jeff Mengler, Rob Linke.

- 1) Call to Order – by Jeff Mengler 10:40am
  - 2) Approval of Minutes from 9-13-23. Motion by Williamson, seconded by Hudson, motion carried.
  - 3) Review and Approve FY 23-24 FREP Budget. After much discussion about various opportunities for revenue sources for FREP, the draft budget prepared by Becky Hoag was amended to add \$500 for CMAP Watershed Plan Updates based on input from Hudson, and membership dues was increased to \$6200. FREP will target many who have fallen from our paid membership over time and during the pandemic to increase membership dues and donations. We also discussed several fundraisers after talking about the innovative and successful efforts that Friends of the Fox River is using to increase their profile and raise funds. Motion to approve the amended budget by Hudson, second by Miller, motion carried.
  - 4) Membership update for 2023-24. The discussion of membership was woven into the budgetary discussion and the go hand-in-hand. Jeff has followed up with 34 organizations and individuals who were members last year but have not sent in their renewal yet. For many these reminders prompted immediate action on the renewals. Continued follow up will occur for those who did not respond yet. Then we will work on a list of targeted Fox River municipalities and get contacts for each so we can reach out. We want to rewrite our membership letter to emphasize that FREP can still provide grant support for things like 319 and GIGO grants in our watershed. We can advise them on how to make their application stronger and provide letters of support. We should also emphasize that our programs etc. help MS4 communities meet their permit obligations for education and outreach. The fact that FREP was instrumental in initiating the Fabulous Fox! Water Trail should also be included. Jeff will work with Becky on drafting a new membership letter.
  - 5) Review request for support letter on Mahoney Creek project, Batavia. Background material and a draft support letter was sent to the Executive Committee members prior to the meeting. This was reviewed briefly, and the location of the project discussed. Motion to approve support letter by Linke, second by Glavan, motion carried.
  - 6) Update on IL SOS, IRS, IL AG, and CAGE/SAM renewals/filings. Mengler reported that the Illinois Secretary of State documents were filed, the Illinois Attorney General annual report was being signed by our new treasurers today and mailed in, and the CAGE code with SAM.gov was successfully renewed. These are all listed with dates of filing/renewal in a master spreadsheet that Jeff has created and will share with FREP treasurers.
  - 7) Discuss recent attendance trends and plan for FY23-24 meetings versus Noon Networks. Brief discussion on the fact that our attendance at our meeting/programs has been falling with some being just Executive Committee folks with a couple of others joining. Becky's observations borne out by checking our sign in sheets suggests that our Noon Networks are more popular than the membership meetings with a program. This may be due to the time (noon versus 1pm) and the topic. While we strive to provide topics of interest for both, sometimes we guess wrong. We discussed the possibility of changing away from our schedule of noon networks and meetings in alternating months. It was agreed that changing all to a noon time slot may be better for folks. EC meetings can be at 10 or 10:30 instead of 11 and be fit in before Noon Networks as needed. We will continue to develop this idea as we develop the programs for next year, which leads into the next agenda item.
  - 8) Brainstorm 2023/2024 Meetings/Noon Networks/Activities: Below are the remaining dates and programs planned for 2023, and the regular meeting dates for 2024. We brainstormed briefly for 2024 program ideas, which are listed below, not associated with any specific dates or speakers yet.
    - Dixie Creek restoration by Brad Andreson, Algonquin for June
    - Hackmatack NWR grant from Rep Underwood restoration project
    - Funding, grants, etc. at January meeting with elections – bring in USEPA, Jeff Edstrom IEPA, and others.
- Oct. 11, 2023 FREP Noon Network – Tour of Pingree Grove Forest Preserve restoration project  
Nov. 8, 2023 FREP Membership Meeting & Program -- Equity in Nature Access and Environmental Justice by Alison Paul, TCF, location TBA

Dec. 2023 FREP Holiday Party – Rob Linke has offered to host again, with perhaps a wildlife talk by Pam Otto

**Brainstorm additional topics to fill in programs for 2024:**

January 10, 2024 FREP Membership Meeting & Program

February 14, 2024 FREP Noon Network

March 16, 2024 Annual Fox River Summit

April 10, 2024 FREP Noon Network

May 8, 2024 FREP Membership Meeting & Program

June 12, 2024 FREP Noon Network

July 2024 FREP Picnic

August 14, 2024 FREP Noon Network

September 11, 2024 FREP Membership Meeting & Program

October 9, 2024 FREP Noon Network

November 13, 2024 FREP Membership Meeting & Program

9) Old Business

One Earth Film Festival plans for 2024. Sponsor a virtual screening this year?

10) Adjournment – at 11:50am

**FREP Noon Network**

**Program:** Pingree Grove Tour

**Presenters: Jeff Mengler, Dave Kraft, Hey and Associates, Inc., Shawn Sinn, Lisa Woolford, ILM, Bill Graser, Kane County Forest Preserve District**

Pingree Grove Forest Preserve contains a large marsh complex that was historically habitat for several state-listed species including the yellow-headed blackbird. It remains habitat for the state-listed Blanding's turtle. The marsh currently lacks significant patches of open water due to dense growth by invasive species (e.g., narrowleaf cattail and common reed). Open water conditions within the marsh are critically important for migratory waterfowl, as well as the state endangered species historically present in the marsh. Water currently exits the marsh through a large culvert controlled by a railroad and therefore Forest Preserve District lacks the ability to manage water levels. The Forest Preserve District used Hey and Associates to design a hydrologic restoration project that used other methods to try to restore appropriate water levels and habitat for these protected species since changes to the outlet controlled by the railroad was not an option. The Forest Preserve District hired ILM to implement the design by Hey using amphibious equipment to reduce impacts. Representatives from Hey, ILM and the Forest Preserve District will be on hand to provide insights into this innovative habitat/hydrologic restoration project.