



Fox Waterway Agency
Regular Meeting Minutes
January 28, 2026

Recording Secretary: David W. McArdle

1.0 Call to Order & Roll Call 7:00 p.m.

Chairman Blake

Meeting conducted by Chairman Blake

Present: Chairman Wayne Blake, Directors Chuck Haling, Christine Stochl, Jason Hettermann, Dan Mitchell, Christian Farrell and Alan P. Kirk

Absent: None

FWA Also Present: Agency Attorney David W. McArdle, Executive Director Joe Keller, Field Superintendent Rob Bowman, Advisory Committee Chairwoman Pat Smarto

2.0 Pledge of Allegiance

3.0 Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Director Haling made a motion to approve the December 10, 2025 regular Meeting Minutes. The motion was seconded by Director Mitchell. A roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Directors Haling, Stochl, Hettermann, Mitchell and Kirk

Absent: None

Abstain: Director Farrell

Nay: None

The Motion carried.

4.0 Treasurer's Report & Acceptance of Bills & Other Financials

4.1 Treasurer's Report

Director Mitchell provided the Treasurer's Report which reflects a cash balance of \$203,740.69 through 12/31/25.

MOTION: Director Mitchell made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. The motion was seconded by Director Haling. A roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Directors Haling, Stochl, Hettermann, Mitchell, Farrell and Kirk

Absent: None

Nay: None

The Motion carried.

4.2 Approval of Bills

Director Mitchell presented the monthly bills for payment and ratification of bills previously paid as follows: December bills prepaid total \$170,534.87; January bills prepaid total \$99,948.82; additional checks paid during the month total \$9,361.76; and bills remaining to be paid total \$130,274.04; for a total amount of bills paid and to be paid of \$410,119.49.

MOTION: Director Mitchell made a motion to ratify and pay all the outstanding bills including approval of debits and checks prepaid totaling \$410,119.49. The motion was seconded by Director Kirk. A roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Directors Haling, Stochl, Hettermann, Mitchell, Farrell and Kirk

Absent: None

Nay: None

The Motion carried.

4.3 A/R Report

Director Mitchell reported on the accounts receivables as \$5,973.00, \$-0- of which is over 120 days past due.

5.0 Old Business

5.1 DCEO Pole Barn Update.

Director Farrell informed the Board that weather is delaying progress; completion is extended to Spring, 2027 with a completion in June, 2026.

5.2 Trinski Island Update.

Director Stochl informed the Board that plans are being updated and will be filed upon completion; Final height of the retaining wall is still undetermined.

6.0 New Business

6.1 MOTION: Director Hettermann made a motion to lease headquarter boat slips to *All Marine Services* for 2026 season and authorize the Executive Director to negotiate and execute new Lease Agreement in that regard. The motion was seconded by Director Haling. After discussion, roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Directors Haling, Stochl, Hettermann, Mitchell, Farrell and Kirk

Absent: None

Nay: None

The Motion carried.

6.2 MOTION: Director Mitchell made a motion to approve the proposed 2026 FWA Preliminary Budget in compliance with the Illinois Budget Act. The motion was seconded by Director Stochl. After discussion, roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Directors Haling, Stochl, Hettermann, Mitchell, Farrell and Kirk

Absent: None

Nay: None

The Motion carried.

6.3 MOTION: Director Farrell and the Board discussed the proposed 2026 dredging project list.

6.4 MOTION: Director Kirk made a motion to approve, subject to FWA attorney edits, the proposed FW A Code Chapter 4 Ordinance amendments. The motion was seconded by Director Farrell. After discussion, roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Directors Haling, Stochl, Hettermann, Mitchell, Farrell and Kirk

Absent: None

Nay: None

The Motion carried.

7.1 Executive Director:

- The contract discussed at the last Board meeting to retain the proposed Auditors at an average annual cost of \$20,000 was approved, however, the Lauterbach firm sent to the Executive Director a more attractive proposal saving \$15,000 over three years. This matter will appear on the next Board agenda.

7.2 Advisory Committee Reports & Recommendations

Pat Smarto, Chairwoman, advised the Board as to the following:

- Looking for contacts at Homeowner Associations that include property adjacent to the waterway;
- Discussed grant availability;
- A Rain garden will be proposed to be installed at FWA office property;
- Boat show 2/26-3/1; Board sign up going forward;
- Looking for an appropriate Board meeting to make Committee presentations.

7.3 Field Superintendent Report.

Rob Bowman, reported that:

- Army Corps workshop presented regulations to staff regarding permitting issues;
- Akerman island is completing and should be empty by May 15.

8.0 Directors and Chairman Reports-None

Public Comment:

Justin – Public update on his HOA.

Randy Beyers – Thank you.

9.0 Executive Session

MOTION: At 7:50 p.m., Director Hettermann made a motion to enter Executive Session pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(5) to discuss the potential acquisition of property by the Agency. The motion was seconded by Director Haling. A roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Directors Haling, Stochl, Hettermann, Mitchell, Farrell and Kirk.

The Motion carried.

10.0 Return to Open Session/Adjourn: At 8:03 p.m. the meeting was called to order.

Present: Chairman Wayne Blake, Directors Chuck Haling, Christine Stochl, Jason Hettermann, Dan Mitchell, Christian Farrell and Alan P. Kirk.

No action was taken and Chairman Blake adjourned the meeting at 8:09 p.m.

Approved: 2/25, 2026

