

September 1, 2022 Meeting Minutes
Approved November 3, 2022



Advisory Committee
(appointed by Board of Directors)
Via Zoom Video Conference Call and
Fox Waterway Agency
45 S Pistakee Lake Rd
Fox Lake, IL 60020

----- Minutes -----

1.0 Call to Order

Chair Smarto

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM

2.0 Roll Call

Secretary Basten

Present: Pat Smarto, Laura King, Anne Basten, Dave Corrigan, Tom Fernstrom, John Fischer, and Rob Bryson
Present via Zoom: Alan Golbach, Jason Hetterman

Staff Present: Rob Bowman

Absent: Police, Pam Althoff, Neil Moulis, and Judy Martini

Excused: Don Schnurr, John McGuire, and Ken Fruh

Others Present: Chris Stochl (via Zoom) and Ralph Wenzel

3.0 Review of Minutes and subsequent comment/corrections/approval

The Draft minutes of May 5, 2022 were not provided to the members in advance for review or approval and will be reviewed at the November 3, 2022 meeting along with the minutes from this meeting.

4.0 Reports

4.1 Rob Bowman reported that the Dutch Creek dredging project is finally complete. The crews are now working in Orchard Heights, Nippersink Creek and the Grass Lake/Lake Marie Channel. 3600 tons of rock were installed on Grass Island. Fishing Has No Boundaries is set for September 10, 2022 out of Halings Marina and the Agency is providing 2 boats for those in wheelchairs to experience fishing.

Repairs/improvements to the Agency building have been completed.

Staff has been receiving complaints about weeds and it was explained that weed removal is not a function of the Agency and the Board has discussed adding it in the past, but it was deemed not to be cost efficient.

Rob reminded those present that duck hunting season is approaching and to be careful and that it is illegal to interfere with a legal hunting activity.

There are still some openings for full-time positions and Rob encouraged those present to send qualified candidates their way. Pat Smarto reported that she had been by the dredge equipment today and that it was being serviced.

4.2 Regional (Upper/Lower/Lakes) There were no reports made as water levels had been fairly stable most of the summer.

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5.0 Old Business

5.1 Lyons Prairie & Marsh Erosion – Ralph Wenzel reported that the previous Tuesday evening, the McHenry County Conservation District had authorized the hiring of Hey & Associates to review the situation and propose a plan.

6.0 New Business

6.1 Watershed Project/Upcoming Meetings – Pat Smarto led the discussion. Rob Bryson emphasized that all legitimate projects need to be on the list as part of the plan to enable possible grant funding applications. Funds may not be available if there is not a plan.

Ralph Wenzel asked to speak during the discussion and voiced his concerns about the watershed planning process and had expected a presentation which included all the answers from an organized subcommittee, not a disorganized work in progress.

More discussion about possible educational programs: taking care of the lake and your lawn; water level management the who and why; Storm drain stenciling – knowing where the water comes from; Bioreactors; Using the online mapping resources; and possibly extending the education beyond this project.

7.0 Member Comments

Dave Corrigan stated that he noted this year was the best year of water level maintenance that he can remember. He also commented that he's had no texts on the Waterway App and was concerned that it may not be being used. Pat Smarto noted that there have not been any issues that she was aware of on the waterway this year where a notice was needed.

8.0 Public Comments - None

9.0 Adjournment – 8:00 p.m.

Motion: Laura King

Second: John Fisher

Motion carried