

May 4, 2023 Meeting Minutes
To be approved July, 2023 TBD



Advisory Committee
(appointed by Board of Directors)
Via Zoom Video Conference Call and In-Person
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 7:03 PM

2.0 Roll Call

Secretary Basten

Present: Pat Smarto, Anne Basten, David Corrigan, Neil Moulis, Al Golbach, Rob Bryson, Don Schurr and John Fischer

Present via Zoom: Tom Fernstrom attempted but was not able to connect.

Staff Present: Rob Bowman

Others Present: Rob Rinkenberger

Absent: Police, Pam Althoff, Laura King, John McGuire, Jason Hettermann and Ken Fruh

Excused none

3.0 Review of Minutes and subsequent comment/corrections/approval

The Draft minutes of April 6, 2023, were provided to the members in advance for review or approval
A motion was made to approve the minutes of April 6, 2023, as presented

Motion: John Fischer

Second: Rob Bryson

Motion carried

4.0 Reports

4.1 Rob Bowman reported on the recent meetings of the Fox Waterway Board.

It was noted that Christian Ferrell, Dan Mitchell and Bill Helyer were elected to the Board.

The American Powerboat races "Hurricane on the Chain" race has been approved for Lake Marie on September 23 & 24th with a much smaller footprint (1 mile loop) and will be centered in front of the Sand Bar. The entire lake will be no-wake that weekend. Races will be 10 am -5 pm daily.

Triathlon approved at Lake Front Park for 6/11 – they are currently looking for volunteers to help.

Another Truck purchase was approved for the mechanic to replace very old used one.

3 Full-Time summer maintainers have been hired and a new front desk person – Jody – is in training.
Still need to fill the mechanic's position. Job description posted on the website.

Topsoil sales are going well – Phase II permitting for Wall Street site is in application process for permanent status. West cell of Cooper Farms has been cleared. Machine is moving to Halings at the

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mouth of the Channel. Buoys going in and debris being removed when identified.

Pre-approval Applications for permitting going in with US Army Corps of Engineers for Trinski Island project which now has a much smaller footprint than originally presented but not yet ready for public review. Staff is hoping everything is pre-approved for public review before winter 2023.

4.2 Regional (Upper/Lower/Lakes)

There were no complaints for any of the system water levels. Awaiting buoy installment to be completed in time for Memorial Day weekend.

It was noted that there were 24 people in the last Coast Guard Auxillary boating class.

The Shake the Lake event will be for Lake access only (the had people trying to access the site by land last year) with all activities ceasing before the fireworks start.

5.0 Old Business

5.1 Watershed Project/Upcoming Meetings

Upcoming education meetings: May 5/18 Canada Geese control and then will be on hold until Fall. We need all possible Best Management Practices we think can be done on the watershed submitted ASAP so they can be on the final plan. Please submit them through Pat Smarto.

5.2 Clean up

We will attempt to set up a weekday kayak clean up out of Chain O'Lakes State Park to include a chase boat for collecting the items. Rob Bryson to coordinate. Continue to encourage people to send in pictures of trash removed to Laura. Don & Neil said they would be willing to provide prizes for winners of contests we set up and could maybe get others to contribute.

6.0 New Business

6.1 Advisory Board Application - Rob Rinkenberger

After a brief discussion a motion to recommend approval of Rob Rinkenberger to be appointed to the Advisory Committee was made. Rob worked for the Agency many years ago and has a wealth of knowledge on water quality issues.

Motion: Anne Basten

Second: Neil Moulis

Motion carried

7.0 Member Comments

Laura King has requested to step down as Vice Chair of the Advisory Committee due to lack of time but will still be on the committee. Looking for any advisory members willing to serve as Vice Chair.

After further discussion on the "Soil Shed" it was decided that it would be better to have the public access and maintain a pile at the Wall Street site and people could shovel their own into their own containers or pay \$20 for staff to assist with loading with equipment. This way it is only open when staff is there and no need to haul soil anywhere else.

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We further discussed building awareness of what the Agency staff does. One suggestion was to put a sign on Grass Island with large print about the project and maintenance.

8.0 Public Comments - Rob Rinkenberger shared that there was a new Phosphorus exchange (like carbon credits). Rob is also interested in being on the Advisory Committee and will get a letter in to Pat for our next meeting for a recommendation.

9.0 Adjournment – 8:16 p.m.

Motion: David Corrigan

Second: Rob Bryson

Motion carried

The meeting/boat tour in July will need to be rescheduled due to a conflict with boat races at Blarney Island. The plan is to tour the repairs to Grass Island.