

November 7, 2024 Meeting Minutes
Approved February 6, 2025



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 P.M. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance

2.0 Roll Call

Secretary Basten

Present: Pat Smarto, Anne Basten, David Corrigan, Mike Missak, Rob Bryson, Greg Urban, John Fischer, Holly Garvey, and Don Schnurr

Present via Zoom: Tom Fernstrom

Staff Present: Rob Bowman

Others Present: Director Chris Stochl

Absent: Police, Pam Althoff, and Rob Rinkenberger

Excused Jason Hettermann

3.0 Review of Minutes and subsequent comment/corrections/approval

It was announced by Chairwoman Smarto that Al Golbach has retired from the U.S. Coast Guard and will no longer be attending our meetings. Holly Garvey was asked to come up and ring the bell for her first meeting. The Draft minutes of September 5, 2024, were provided to the members in advance for review or approval.

A motion was made to approve the minutes of September 5, 2024.

Motion: John Fischer

Second: Don Schnurr

Motion carried

4.0 Reports

4.1 FWA Update - Rob Bowman reported that at the September Board Meeting, the Advisory Committee rules and structure had been approved and they had a discussion of social media usage. The October meeting had been light; two new employees had been hired and staff was in the process of getting a traveling mechanic truck up and going for more efficient equipment and vehicle repair. The 2025 meeting schedule and staff holiday schedule were approved. The sticker color for 2025 was approved.

Field staff had removed buoys throughout October. The hydraulic dredge was in port while two mechanical dredging projects were still going while the weather held.

November 7, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Approved February 6, 2025

4.2 Regional (Upper/Lower/Lakes)

There were no updates on the system at this time other than we will be at winter pool by December 1st.

5.0 Old Business

5.1 Volunteer Coordination Update

We will reach out to local high schools to see if water testing projects are going on in the Chain. We've started discussing possible partners for providing volunteer coordination. Currently certain stations are recording turbidity and flora/chlorophyll in addition to the gauge heights and flow speeds.

5.2 Green Infrastructure Grant Update

It was noted that the GIGO (Green Infrastructure Grant Opportunities) was currently open. Rob Bryson encouraged committee members to watch for activity in our communities that might be able to include a recommendation from the Watershed based plan for which a grant application might qualify. He cited the Grant township rain garden was completed as part of local road improvements that may have qualified for grant funding.

5.3 FWA Social Media Policy Creation

A draft of a policy created by the FWA attorney's office was shared in advance but was geared toward the use of personal social media accounts by staff. Our committee is recommending something that could assist staff responses to public questions and comments and will continue to look for suitable samples that encourage engagement with the community.

6.0 New Business

6.1 Website Fix/Redesign

Anne Basten reported that a request has been sent to staff to prioritize the addition of a Key word Search function, updates to the main landing page, addition of a resource page, and addition of a Water Quality page be the highest need after the Store/sticker page updates have been finished by the contractor. The hope is that the store page will be up and running by the end of the year to support sticker renewals.

6.2 Upcoming/Past Videos

Mike Missak spoke about the location of the FWA YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@FoxWaterwayAgency> and encouraged all of the committee members to check out the videos and "subscribe" to the channel. It was planned that the renewals would include information on the video YouTube channel to increase the number of subscribers for possible income in the future.

6.3 2025 Meeting Schedule

The proposed 2025 committee meeting schedule was included in the packet mailing and the group was asked for ideas for the summer boat/tour ideas. Anne Basten suggested a tour of a bioreactor near the Nippersink Creek in McHenry County on McHenry County Conservation District property which was installed through the McHenry County Farm Bureau and has been

November 7, 2024 Meeting Minutes
Approved February 6, 2025

in operation for several years now. Any other ideas should be sent to Chairperson Pat Smarto for consideration.

7.0 Member Comments

Don Schnurr reported that piers were coming out for the season. Pat Smarto shared a story about meeting with some people in Fox Lake and someone had pulled out a copy of our watershed summary document. The plan was to add an addendum to the document and have additional copies printed which will include QR codes to the website and YouTube channel. People are looking at it!

8.0 Public Comments - None

9.0 Adjournment – 8:14 p.m.

Motion: Mike Missak

Second: John Fischer

Motion carried