



Fox Waterway Agency

**Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
(Appointed by Board of Directors)**

March 5, 2026

Fox Waterway Agency
45 S Pistakee Lake Road
Fox Lake, IL 60020
And via Zoom

Regular Meeting of the Appointed Advisory Committee

Attendance

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Pat Smarto at 7:00 p.m.

1a. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Roll Call

Roll Call was taken with the following results:

- Present: Pat Smarto, David Corrigan, Anne Basten, Don Schnurr, Mike Missak, Rob Bryson, Karl Ohlwein, and Chris Poteet
- Excused: Holly Garvey and Kathy Johnson
- Absent: Tom Fernstrom, John Fischer, Greg Urban, John McGuire, Rob Rinkenberger, Connor Lemke, and Pam Althoff
- Staff Present: Rob Bowman
- Others Present: Director Stochl, Director Haling and Gerard Urbanozo

3. Approval of Previous Minutes

Motion: A motion to approve the minutes of January 8, 2026 as presented.

Moved by: Rob Bryson

Seconded by: David Corrigan

Result: Motion passed unanimously

4. Reports

4.1 FWA Update by Rob Bowman. The Board of Directors passed the following items:

4.1.1 leasing of the agency boat slips through a third party for the 2026 season

4.1.2 preliminary budget was moved forward and was posted online for public review

4.1.3 2026 project list was approved and dredging locations will be posted online

- 4.1.4 Chapter 4 of the Ordinances addressing commercial vessels was amended and was made ready for public hearing
 - 4.1.5 A new audit firm was hired to address the grant funding audit requirements
 - 4.1.6 A used F550 service truck was purchased and received
 - 4.1.7 A public hearing was held to hear comments on the revisions to Section 4.03 of the Code of Ordinances which was then passed unanimously.
- 4.2 Regional (Upper/Lower/Lakes)
- 4.2.1 All regions noted that the ice was out and that water levels were at winter pool levels.

5. Old Business

- 5.1. Volunteer Coordination Update – Anne Basten
 - 5.1.1. Chris Poteet will take the Lake County Lake Lovers’ training on 3/12/26
 - 5.1.2. A volunteer work date is being set up for the repair of the FWA ramp and entrance stairs
 - 5.1.3. Volunteer work days are being set up for the installation of the demonstration rain garden outside the agency offices
- 5.2. Website Progress – Anne Basten
 - 5.2.1. Kari Sharp of GetSharp! Was more than 50% done with the website redesign. They were hoping to have it up and running on 4/1/26. The online store was up and running for stickers and they were working on the commercial sales program.
- 5.3. Video Update – Future Topics - Shorts – Be the Messenger – Mike Missak
 - 5.3.1. Rob Bryson and Mike Missak worked on a platform for presentations
 - 5.3.2. A video on Ackerman Island was coming up
- 5.4. Resolution Adoption Outreach – Pat Smarto for Holly Garvey
 - 5.4.1. Village of Johnsbury adopted the Fox Chain Watershed Plan by resolution
- 5.5. Area Water Quality Update – Rob Bryson
 - 5.5.1. Rob Bryson will be presenting to the MS4 working group on the watershed plan
- 5.6. Lake Villa Pollinator Garden – Pat Smarto for Kathy Johnson
 - 5.6.1. On hold until the weather warms up

6. New Business

- 6.1 Boat Show – Feb 26 through March 1
 - 6.1.1 Comments from those who saw the tabling: tri-folds too busy, people liked looking in the book on the lake conditions and putting their homes on the map, and we need to have the weed chart for next year. Some liked the U-shape and others wanted a table in front of them.
- 6.2 501(c)3 Status and Interested Members
 - 6.2.1 If any committee members are interested in serving on the new board, let Pat Smarto know.
- 6.3 HOA Contact List Research – Pat Smarto

- 6.3.1 This is an ongoing project and if any committee members know contact information for any HOA in the area, let Pat Smarto or Karl Ohlwein know.
- 6.4 New Advisory Committee Applicant – Pat Smarto
 - 6.4.1 Director Haling introduced Gerard Urbanozo who then gave some background on why he had applied for a position on the Advisory Committee.

Motion: A motion to recommend appointment of Gerard Urbanozo to the Advisory Committee.

Moved by: Anne Basten

Seconded by: Chris Poteet

Result: Motion passed unanimously.

7. Member Comments

- 7.1 Rob Bryson reported that he had worked with Joe Keller and prepared a draft job description which was then submitted to the UIC Freshwater Lab for a potential summer intern.
- 7.2 Pat Smarto reported that she had reserved a table for the Fox Lake Earth Day event if anyone wanted to work it with her.

8. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

9. Adjournment

Motion: A motion to adjourn was made at 8:07 pm

Moved by: David Corrigan

Seconded by: Rob Bryson

Result: Motion passed unanimously

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