



Fox Waterway Agency

Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes (Appointed by Board of Directors)

May 7, 2026 (Approved)

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.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Roll Call

Roll Call was taken with the following results:

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

4. Approval of Previous Minutes

Motion: A motion to approve the minutes of March 5, 2026 as presented.

Moved by: Rob Bryson

Seconded by: Mike Missak

Result: Motion passed unanimously

5. Reports

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

- 5.1.1 the appointment of Gerard Urbanozo to the Advisory Committee
- 5.1.2 a donation to the Village of Fox River Grove fireworks
- 5.1.3 WRP issued for the Fox Lake Triathlon

- 5.1.4 WRP for sailing regatta on Pistakee Lake for May 16th
- 5.1.5 Draft budget was passed and posted to the website

Field Report:

- 5.1.6 It was noted that the flooding was the 4th or 5th highest since data began being recorded in 1938 and that debris stacked up over successive heavy rains and staff will be dealing with debris until at least the second week of June
- 5.1.7 Staff was splitting time between buoy placement and debris
- 5.1.8 All channels were at no wake. In all, the region was pretty lucky the last six years since the last flooding.

5.2 Regional (Upper/Lower/Lakes)

- 5.2.1 All regions noted that the water levels were receding.

6. Old Business

6.1 Volunteer Coordination Update – Anne Basten

- 6.1.1 ADA Ramp and front entrance work continued with three volunteers including one staff volunteer (Bill Tribbley, Anne Basten and Jodi Hubbel)
- 6.1.2 Implementation of the Rain Garden Grant from The Wildflower Plant Propagation Committee of the Land Conservancy of McHenry County P.E.A.R.L. program was put on hold due to the presence of the cement flood barricades being place where the garden will go. The good news is that future placement of the barricades will have minimal effect once the garden plants are established. Hopefully we will get the garden in before the July holiday.
- 6.1.3 Anne Basten has been volunteering in the office, as time allows, helping with sticker mailing and helping people use the sticker order system online on a laptop.

6.2 Public Outreach Opportunities

- 6.2.1 Pat Smarto reminded everyone about subscribing to the YouTube Page and that we need a lot more subscribers (currently have 286 subscribers) and she asked if anyone was available in April for the Fox Lake Earth Day event.

6.3 Website Progress – Anne Basten

- 6.3.1 The website is mostly up and running. Committee members had a few suggestions: Flip Flop the Office, Topsoil yard and Dam status with the Zone statuses or make the Zone Status more prominent; Post press releases under “Recent News”; have a point person on staff for the website. Any other errors, omissions or suggestions from the Committee member should be sent to Anne Basten

6.4 Video Update – Future Topics - Shorts – Be the Messenger – Mike Missak

- 6.4.1 Several videos are in the works
- 6.4.2 Please follow our YouTube channel

6.5 Resolution Adoption Outreach –Holly Garvey provided report

6.5.1 No new correspondence or adoptions

6.5.2 Holly is looking for any advisory committee members that are willing to attend meetings and reach out to the following municipalities:

- Volo Village
- Spring Grove
- City of McHenry
- Burton Township
- Nunda Township
- City of Wauconda

6.6 Area Water Quality Update – Rob Bryson

6.6.1 Rob Bryson presented a PowerPoint presentation

6.6.2 Rob Bryson reviewed the priorities of the Summer Intern (RJ) which are - Weeds, outreach, and reference page

6.7 Lake Villa Pollinator Garden – Kathy Johnson

6.7.1 Nothing new at this time

6.8 501(c)3 -Pat Smarto

6.8.1 On Hold during budget preparation

6.9 HOA Contact List Research – Karl Ohlwein

6.9.1 No update at this time but if anyone has information or any HOA contacts, please get them in to Pat Smarto

7. New Business

7.1 Welcome Gerard Urbanozo - Pat Smarto

7.1.1 Gerard was not present to be formally introduced.

7.2 Social Media Engagement – Pat Smarto

7.2.1 Pat reported on an upcoming engagement focused on Soil and asked if anyone else would like to attend.

8. Member Comments

8.1 There were no additional Member Comments.

9. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

10. Adjournment

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

Moved by: Rob Bryson

Seconded by: Mike Missak

Result: Motion passed unanimously

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