



**Fox Waterway Agency**  
***Regular Meeting Minutes***  
February 25, 2026

**Recording Secretary:** David W. McArdle

**1.0 Call to Order & Roll Call 7:00 p.m.**

Chairman Blake

**Meeting conducted by Chairman Blake**

**Present:** Chairman Wayne Blake, Directors Chuck Haling, Christine Stochl, Jason Hettermann, Dan Mitchell, Christian Farrell and Alan P. Kirk

**Absent:** None

**FWA Also Present:** Agency Attorney David W. McArdle, Executive Director Joe Keller, Field Superintendent Rob Bowman, Advisory Committee Chairwoman Pat Smarto

**2.0 Pledge of Allegiance**

**3.0 Approval of Minutes**

**MOTION:** Director Haling made a motion to approve the January 28, 2026 regular Meeting Minutes. The motion was seconded by Director Farrell. A roll call vote was taken.

**Aye:** Directors Haling, Stochl, Hettermann, Mitchell, Farrell and Kirk

**Absent:** None

**Abstain:** None

**Nay:** None

The Motion carried.

**4.0 Treasurer's Report & Acceptance of Bills & Other Financials**

**4.1 Treasurer's Report**

Director Mitchell provided the Treasurer's Report which reflects a cash balance of \$354,188.46 through 1/31/26.

**MOTION:** Director Mitchell made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. The motion was seconded by Director Haling. A roll call vote was taken.

**Aye:** Directors Haling, Stochl, Hettermann, Mitchell, Farrell and Kirk

**Absent:** None

**Nay:** None

The Motion carried.

**4.2 Approval of Bills**

Director Mitchell presented the monthly bills for payment and ratification of bills previously paid as follows: January bills prepaid total \$41,986.90; February bills prepaid total \$78,246.05; additional checks paid during the month total \$-0-; and bills remaining to be paid total \$85,291.95; for a total amount of bills paid and to be paid of \$205,524.90.

**MOTION:** Director Mitchell made a motion to ratify and pay all the outstanding bills including approval of debits and checks prepaid totaling \$205,524.90. The motion was seconded by Director Stochl. A roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Directors Haling, Stochl, Hettermann, Mitchell, Farrell and Kirk

Absent: None

Nay: None

The Motion carried.

**4.3 A/R Report**

Director Mitchell reported on the accounts receivables as \$4,620.00, \$870.00 of which is over 120 days past due.

**5.0 Old Business**

**5.1 DCEO Pole Barn Update.** Director Farrell informed the Board that the general contractor is progressing towards 100% compliance with minority quota; work completion expected June 2026.

**5.2 Trinski Island Update.**

Director Stochl informed the Board that updated plan is to be submitted to Illinois DNR this week.

**6.0 New Business**

**6.1 MOTION:** Director Mitchell made a motion to approve audit services from Lauterbach & Amen, LLP in the annual amounts of \$14,700 (2026); \$15,300 (2027) and \$15,900 (2028). The motion was seconded by Director Stochl. After discussion, roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Directors Haling, Stochl, Hettermann, Mitchell, Farrell and Kirk

Absent: None

Nay: None

The Motion carried.

**6.2 MOTION:** Director Haling made a motion to approve the purchase of a 2020 F550 Service truck for \$98,000.00. The motion was seconded by Director Hettermann. After discussion, roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Directors Haling, Stochl, Hettermann, Mitchell, Farrell and Kirk

Absent: None

Nay: None

The Motion carried.

**6.3 MOTION:** Director Kirk requested and Chairman Blake called to order the scheduled public hearing on user fees in section 4.03 of the proposed 2026 fully amended and restated code of ordinances. Copies of the proposed code including section 4.03 were passed out and discussed by the Agency attorney to the people in the audience and everyone was invited to ask questions and provide comments. At the end of the public hearing the Chairman called for a vote to close the public hearing. A motion to close the public hearing was made by director Kirk and seconded by director Mitchell. Roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Directors Haling, Stochl, Hettermann, Mitchell, Farrell and Kirk

Absent: None

Nay: None

The Motion carried.

After the public hearing, Director Kirk made motion to adopt the proposed Ordinance Fully Amending and Restating the Fox Waterway Agency Code of Ordinances, 2026. The motion was seconded by Director Mitchell. After discussion, roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Directors Haling, Stochl, Hettermann, Mitchell, Farrell and Kirk

Absent: None

Nay: None

The Motion carried.

**7. Directors Reports**

**7.1 Executive Director** reviewed the Illinois DCEO letter dated 2/25/2026 approved Business Enterprise Utilization plan for grant No 22-203577.

**7.2 Advisory Committee Reports & Recommendations**

Pat Smarto, Chairwoman, advised the Board as to the following:

- Johnsborg adopted a resolution approving its watershed plan
- The Committee's next meeting is scheduled for March 5, 2026.
- Presentation was then made by Rob Bryson regarding water quality issues in the Waterway and lakes.

**7.3 Field Superintendent Report.**

Rob Bowman, reported that:

- Staff and equipment ready to get back to work.
- Discussed budget/personnel.

**8.0 Directors and Chairman Reports-**

Chairman Blake: Noted Gerard is meeting with Pat regarding water quality.

Directors Haling, Stochl, Hettermann, Mitchell, Farrell and Kirk: None

**Public Comment:** Rob Bryson: Pistakee Yacht Club's Sunfish Regatta – will be looking for no wake zone permit.

**9.0 Executive Session**

**MOTION:** At 8:10 p.m., Director Mitchell made a motion to enter Executive Session pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(5) to discuss personnel and litigation. The motion was seconded by Director Haling. A roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Directors Haling, Stochl, Hettermann, Mitchell, Farrell and Kirk.

The Motion carried.

**10.0 Return to Open Session/Adjourn:** At 8:40 p.m. the meeting was called to order; no action was taken.

Present: Chairman Wayne Blake, Directors Chuck Haling, Christine Stochl, Jason Hettermann, Dan Mitchell, Christian Farrell and Alan P. Kirk.

No action was taken and Chairman Blake adjourned the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Approved: 3/25/ 2026

  
Director Haling, Secretary

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