

April 3, 2025 Meeting Minutes  
Approved May 1, 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 7:00 P.M. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance

### 2.0 Roll Call

Secretary Basten

Present: Pat Smarto, Anne Basten, David Corrigan, Rob Bryson, Holly Garvey, and Don Schnurr

Present via Zoom: Tom Fernstrom, and Greg Urban

Staff Present: Rob Bowman

Others Present: Director Chris Stochl (via zoom) Director Dan Mitchell, Tom Morgan and 3 interested public.

Absent: Police, Pam Althoff, David Corrigan, John Fischer, John Maguire, Mike Missak, and Rob Rinkenberger

Excused

### 3.0 Review of Minutes and subsequent comment/corrections/approval

The Draft minutes of February 6, 2025, were provided to the members in advance for review or approval.

A motion was made to approve the minutes of February 6, 2025.

Motion: Holly Garvey

Second: David Corrigan

Motion carried

### 4.0 Reports

4.1 FWA Update - Rob Bowman reported on two months of board meetings where the following was approved:

Two pole barns for the agency have passed the permit stage

The Trinski Island permit is now in the public comment stage with some funding from IDNR but plans are not finalized

Special permit for the DamYak challenge on July 19<sup>th</sup> has been approved and fees waived for kayaks for the event.

The contracting of the use of the piers by the dispensary fell through and another contract with All Marine has been signed.

The 2025 project list has been approved but the first manual projects are continuations of ones started in 2024, then moving on. The hydraulic dredge will be working where most needed once an evaluation is made this spring.

April 3, 2025 Meeting Minutes  
Approved May 1, 2025

\$800 donation approved for fireworks. June triathlon permit approved. Another kayak fundraiser permit for the NW Center Against Sexual Abuse was issued and will be held on 9/6/25.

Board approved the Standard Operating Procedures for salaries and wage payments and adopted the 2025 Final Budget.

Field staff are continuing to clean out a cell at Cooper and are getting boats on the water for the start of the season. 400-450 buoys will be going in.

#### 4.2 Regional (Upper/Lower/Lakes)

Chairwoman Smarto reminded everyone with waterfront, to clean up their beaches before the water gets any higher. It was noted that the water levels were already 6" higher since the dam was closed on March 25<sup>th</sup>.

### 5.0 Old Business

#### 5.1 Volunteer Coordination Update

Anne Basten reported that an email will be going out to the people who have signed up to volunteer with some suggested opportunities for some projects at the agency. The priority is to form the Clean up subcommittee to monitor the #FWACleanup hashtag, collect donations of prizes, and award prize winners from the pictures posted online.

#### 5.2 FWA Social Media Policy Creation

This item continues to be on hold.

#### 5.3 Website Updates/ Fix/ Redesign/ Resource Page

The subcommittee met via phone with the IT contractor. A search function for the website is now up and running on all pages and he will be focusing on updating our Resource Page for homeowners, users, HOAs and shoreline owners and will be available for staff to update.

#### 5.4 Video Update – Future Topics – Report Card

There are currently two videos in the works. Others are welcome to submit ideas and scripts and even be in the videos. The current scorecard was shared.

#### 5.5 ILMA Conference

Rob Bryson reported that Rob Bowman was given an award for all the work he has done to help the waterway since he started with the Agency. Rob Bryson, Rob Bowman and Pat Smarto gave a presentation at the conference on our watershed plan implementation which was well received.

### 6.0 New Business

April 3, 2025 Meeting Minutes  
Approved May 1, 2025

**6.1 Bauske Acquisition**

Rob Bowman reported that a press release had been sent out earlier this day which stated that Phase I of the purchase has been completed with the reimbursement by the IDNR of \$1M in grant funding for the acquisition with another \$1M coming at a later date. The property has about 6 acres of land out of the floodplain where the agency can stage equipment, transfer materials and equipment, and access the system for emergencies including blockages and other needs. The use of the buildings and piers will be determined at a later date.

**6.2 Intern Opportunity**

Rob Bryson has been working with the UIC freshwater laboratory regarding providing an intern to help study the weed management policy within the system and the effect of the various permitted options on water quality as well as helping develop resources for the watershed based plan implementation to improve water quality. Rob worked with Executive Director Keller to develop the scope of work.

**7.0 Member Comments**

Anne Basten reported that McHenry and Lake County Planning Departments are working together to complete a watershed plan for the balance of the Fox River below Pistakee Lake to where the previously approved plan ended.

Chairwoman Smarto asked for volunteers to help out at the Earth Day table on April 27<sup>th</sup> at the Lakefront Park in Fox Lake. Also, the Zebra Mussel Foundation could use support in encouraging the College of Lake County to develop a limnology program to study our freshwater systems in NE Illinois.

**8.0 Public Comments**

Tom Morgan on his training for water quality testing through the Lake County Lake Lovers and several lakes within the watershed have been included. Tom will work with Rob Bowman to facilitate testing on first and third Tuesdays to collect as much data as possible in the time allotted.

**9.0 Adjournment – 7:42 p.m.**

Motion: Holly Garvey

Second: David Corrigan

Motion carried