

May 2, 2024 Meeting Minutes  
Approved July 18, 2024



**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**

Vice Chair Corrigan

Meeting called to order at 7:00 P.M.

**2.0 Roll Call**

Secretary Basten

Present: Anne Basten, David Corrigan, Al Golbach, Greg Urban, Mike Missak, Rob Bryson, John Fischer and Don Schnurr

Present via Zoom: Tom Fernstrom

Staff Present: Rob Bowman

Others Present: None

Absent: Police, Pam Althoff, John McGuire, and Rob Rinkenberger

Excused: Pat Smarto, Neil Moulis and Jason Hettermann

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

Start here The Draft minutes of February 1, 2024 were provided to the members in advance for review or approval.

A motion was made to approve the minutes of February 1, 2024, with corrections to attendance.

Motion: Don Schnurr

Second: Al Golbach

Motion carried

**4.0 Reports**

4.1 FWA Update - Rob Bowman reported that several fishing tournaments and fundraisers were given waivers on a limited number of day use stickers for their events: Antioch HS bass fishing; Take a Vet Fishing; Catching Bass and Kicking Cancer's Ass; and, Lakes Community HS. A lease is being negotiated with Smokehouse Holdings re: dock and parking area. ShamRocks the Fox withdrew their request for water restrictions and the DamYak event WRP was approved. Carmichael Construction was approved for the building of two barn like structures at Wall Street and L10 for a cost not to exceed \$1,267,734 with \$1M being paid by a DECO Grant. The Board adopted the Chain O' Lakes Watershed Based Plan as presented and approved the 2024 Agency Operating budget as required.

Rob Bowman reported that the field crew was busy emptying a Cooper Farm cell of the remaining soil to move to Wall St for mixing and sale. The other, smaller cell at Cooper is 50% full. Staff will be topping off Ackerman Island first then moving to the Cooper partially filled cell. Rob then explained again why the winter drawdown had been implemented bringing the water down 12"-16" on the lakes

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for the winter to allow for spring rains or spring melt and is why the river did not flood immediately with this week of rain as there was some capacity to handle the rain.

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

Chairman Smarto advised the group that Friends of Lake Catherine & Channel had applied for a grant to cover an aerator and were waiting for approval. The FWA board had approved being the backup agency should the Friends group default before the end of the 10 year grant contract. The FWA would only be responsible for maintenance of the equipment and would become the default owner of the equipment.

**5.0 Old Business**

**5.1 Watershed Project/Upcoming Meetings**

Rob Bryson shared a PowerPoint presentation on how to use the watershed project maps available through the Lake County website. He noted that the three top projects are the Petite Lake Park (Lake Villa Township) Justin noted that a study with Hey & Associates has been approved to be completed so far and they hope to include the small island in the harbor area; Lake Co Forest Preserve District's Lake Marie restoration (which is in the plans for a few years from now);and, a sediment removal project near Grass Lake that we hope to tie in with work being done at Chain O' Lakes State Park (this would be a long term project).

There is currently a need to create a watershed working group and a watershed coordinator position to keep track of everything from grants, projects, and volunteers. Greg noted that it might be something where the participating working group agencies could contribute to the position.

**5.2 Clean up Ideas /2024 Plans / IOFRD – 9/21/24**

Rob Bryson then shared another PowerPoint he created on the trash he has found on Pistakee Lake and noted that the trash accumulates over time and he and his wife have found old and new trash on their kayak excursions. Rob noted that hot spots for large amounts of stuff are at abandoned docks which are hard to access. Pat Smarto suggested PWCs might get in there but those familiar with those watercraft explained the risks of wave action, etc. It was also noted that there are not many places where the shoreline can be accessed by land for younger groups like scouts. Discussion about a 1 day event versus a month long event resulted in a recommendation that a contest be set up for the entire month of June and seek out gift cards for winners. Other ideas were using a "Bingo" card of types of trash, free use of kayaks or canoes for collecting debris, an "Adopt a Shoreline" program, and a challenge your neighbor or rival to generate interest. All activity needs to be on social media.

The consensus was we also need someone designated to oversee social media postings to promote the clean up and other FWA activities on a regular basis. Mike Missak offered to help establish a YouTube channel for the agency where short videos and longer videos could be posted to highlight the background work of the agency which can be set on a private setting until the release is reviewed by the Executive Director. Once there are more than 1000 followers consistently, Google automatically sets up an advertising program where the FWA could collect a minimal income to help pay for part of an employee's time.

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Another project that needs to be completed is the maintenance of the HOA contact information so we can focus the educational outreach to these groups and promote keeping trash, runoff, chemicals, landscaping waste, etc. out of the waterway by keeping the neighborhoods clean and Best Management Programs (BMPs).

It was decided that too many boats are out of the water in late September and October to make a very productive clean up month since there is little public access from shore.

**6.0 New Business**

**6.1 Volunteer Coordination/Opportunities**

Future ideas besides those related to clean up include a photo contest and ore volunteers getting trained on the short watershed plan presentation who can go out and give presentations to local groups. Reemphasized the need for a staff person to coordinate watershed related activities and volunteers could be part of that oversight. Could be through the FWA or another agency or organization of the watershed working group.

**7.0 Member Comments**

None

**8.0 Public Comments - None**

**9.0 Adjournment – 8:34 p.m.**

Motion: Rob Bryson

Second: Mike Missak

Motion carried