

November 6, 2025 Meeting Minutes
Approved January 8, 2026



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, Don Schnurr, John Fischer, Kathy Johnson, Chris Poteet, and Mike Missak

Present via Zoom: Greg Urban

Staff Present: Rob Bowman

Others Present: None

Absent: Police, Pam Althoff, John Maguire, Tom Fernstrom, and Rob Rinkenberger

Excused Holly Garvey, Conner Remke and Karl Ohlwein

3.0 Review of Minutes and subsequent comment/corrections/approval

The Draft minutes of September 4, 2025, were provided to the members in advance for review or approval.

A motion was made to approve the minutes of September 4, 2025.

Motion: Rob Bryson

Second: Mike Missak

Motion carried

4.0 Reports

4.1 FWA Update - Rob Bowman reported on the most recent board meetings of September and October.

The pole barns are still under construction but the contractor ran into a situation and is attempting to rectify the qualification of some of the work under the terms of the grant agreement.

The Trinski Island permit is still pending and a reassessment is being completed on the quality and quantity of the wetlands which will need to be mitigated.

Several employees were recognized for their work with Fishing with No Boundaries

Pat Smarto was recognized with a Good Neighbor Award for her volunteer work with FWA and donated her honorarium to the agency.

The Board approved WRP (Waterway Restriction Permits) for a high school level fishing tournament.

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The Board approved: the 2026 meeting and holiday schedules, the appointment of Chris Poteet, Karl Ohlwein and Kathy Johnson to the Advisory Board, the color of the 2026 stickers and formally recognized the acceptance of the Fox Chain Watershed Based Plan by the IEPA.

All the buoys are out, washed and stored for the season. Dredging is just being ended for the season as staff is taking advantage of the higher than normal water depth.

4.2 Regional (Upper/Lower/Lakes)

No one had anything unusual to report as the water levels were not yet being drawn down for the winter due to upriver construction at the State Park. Rob Bryson noted that the water temperature of the waterway had gone down from 70 degrees to 50 degrees in the last 7 days due to lake turnover and dropping air temperatures.

5.0 Old Business

5.1 Volunteer Coordination Update

Anne Basten reported that the volunteer project to paint the disability ramp and entry steps fell through due to timing issues with public access, supply purchases and now weather. We will try again in the spring.

5.2 Website Updates/ Fix/ Redesign/ Resource Page

RFP's were due the day after this meeting and the goal is to have a functional webpage with online sticker renewals and purchases as well as our resource information that is easy to maintain.

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5.3 Video Updates – Future Topics – Report Card – Shorts – Be the Messenger

The Team is working on a few more videos and also needs footage of anything people can supply for shorts including photos or 10-15 second videos of happenings on the water or wildlife. Send them to Pat who will get them to Mike. Mike Missak reported that the agency Facebook page is up to 14,000 followers (250 on YouTube). Please share the videos and posts so that we can get a greater reach.

5.4 Shovel Ready Projects – Non-Governmental Grant Opportunities

New member, Chris Poteet, met with a Lake County Stormwater Commission staff member to learn more about their grant offerings and was educated in the application process. He is willing to assist HOAs apply for grants with the next letting going out in early December with an expected amount available of about \$200K to be divided amongst qualifying applicants. FWA staff will keep Chris and interested applicants aware of grant opportunities as they become available. Chris also had some questions about watersheds, watershed plans, and other related issues and will meet with Anne Basten to go over some of these questions.

5.5 Resolution Adoption Outreach

Holly Garvey is contacting various municipalities and governmental agencies to seek adoption of the Fox Chain Watershed Based Plan by Resolution. Chairwoman Smarto will attend meetings as her schedule allows.

6.0 New Business

6.1 Lake Villa Pollinator Garden

Chairwoman Smarto shared that Grant Township was expanding one of their parks with a Pollinator garden to be installed next year. The new garden can be another resource to show homeowners what they can incorporate into their own yards.

6.2 Area Water Quality Update/Leaves

The presentation prepared by Rob Bryson has been postponed to our January 8th, 2026 meeting due to us running out of time at this meeting. Rob did share that Illinois Lakes Management for statistics that state that 60% of the annual phosphorus load in urban areas is from leaf litter getting into waterways.

7.0 Member Comments

Mike Missak asked if a summer internship had been included in the upcoming budget. Rob Bowman did not know.

8.0 Public Comments

There were no public present to comment.

9.0 Adjournment – 8:25 p.m.

Motion: Mike Missak

Second: Don Schnurr

Motion carried