

May 1, 2025 Meeting Minutes
Approved July 9, 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 7:02 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, Don Schnurr, John Fischer and Mike Missak

Present via Zoom: Tom Fernstrom, and Greg Urban

Staff Present: Rob Bowman

Others Present: None

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

Excused

3.0 Review of Minutes and subsequent comment/corrections/approval

The Draft minutes of April 3, 2025, were provided to the members in advance for review or approval. A motion was made to approve the minutes of April 3, 2025.

Motion: Mike Missak

Second: Holly Garvey

Motion carried

4.0 Reports

4.1 FWA Update - Rob Bowman reported on the most recent board meeting.

The Trinski Island permit is still out for public comment on the ACOE website. This is the first step on this approximately 15 acre shoreline stabilization project. The final outline is narrower to allow for better flow around the island. Next it will move on to the IEPA, DNR and may need additional adjustments.

The ground has been broken and prepped by staff for the new pole barns at L-10 and Wall St.

Tom Fernstrom asked about appropriate land down river and Rob Bowman stated the best start would be property out of the floodplain or wetlands with road access.

The Board approved WRP (Waterway Restriction Permits) for Blarney Island for 5/22 through 8/28/25. Another WRP was approved for the Shake the Lake event on 7/3-7/6/25. Fox Lake has their fireworks event scheduled for 7/28/25.

There is an opening for a FWA Director in McHenry County as Bill Hellyer did not run and the deadline for being appointed to the board is coming up soon.

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Field staff completed clearing out a cell at Cooper, started removing abandoned duck blinds, removing piers, etc. Following up on speeders on the system by installing the buoys now that the lakes are up to summer pool.

4.2 Regional (Upper/Lower/Lakes)

No one had anything unusual to report as the water levels had just reached summer pool in the lakes and still a little low downriver.

5.0 Old Business

5.1 Volunteer Coordination Update

Anne Basten reported on progress on a few of the projects pending. Supplies are ordered for the entry ramp upgrade and a location has been identified for top soil for clearing in the parking lot. Some of the plants have been obtained for out by the FWA sign. A request had been received from a group raising funds for the parks by setting a paddling record on the Fox River. They had requested an escort through the lakes during the early morning hours. Unfortunately the interested volunteers did not have their boats in the water in time to assist. The gentlemen made the record and were on the lakes about 5 hours earlier than expected so the escort was not necessary. Several emails have gone out to volunteers and we are getting a minimal response. Most are waiting for an “event” instead of long term commitments.

5.2 Website Updates/ Fix/ Redesign/ Resource Page

The resource page is up and running but a few other items are missing due to the removal of pages tied to an email address. The links to the volunteer and newsletter signup forms are being recreated also. The plan is to replace the whole website next year.

5.3 Video Updates – Future Topics – Report Card

The Team is working on a few more videos and also needs footage of anything people can supply for shorts. Pat is working with an HOA group on a biochar video.

5.4 New Intern

Rob Bryson reported on the activities for an intern who has been hired for this summer mainly focusing on collecting data and analyzing the impact of week control projects in the system. The intern is affiliated with the University of Illinois Chicago Freshwater Lab

6.0 New Business

6.1 Ladies of the Chain

Pat Smarto and Holly Garvey reported on a recent presentation held at Crabby J's before the start of the official boating season with about 50 ladies attending.

6.2 Resolution Adoption Outreach

Now that elections are over, it is requested that Advisory Committee members help us get a resolution accepting the Fox Chain Watershed Based Plan adopted. A request for assistance will go out soon with the list of those local governments which need to be approached.

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6.3 July Boat Tour

Pat Smarto suggested a land based tour of raingardens or other watershed plan solutions. The majority present were in agreement.

6.4 2025 Schedule

Pat Smarto suggested that our schedule for next year be to meet every other month instead of the current schedule where we don't meet most of the winter.

6.5 Advisory Committee Applicant

A request to be considered for this committee was received from Conner Lemcke.

Motion: A motion was made to recommend the appointment of Conner Lemcke be appointed to the Citizen's Advisory Committee.

Move: Rob Bryson

Seconded: Don Schnurr

Motion carried.

7.0 Member Comments

There were no additional comments

8.0 Public Comments

There were no public present to comment.

9.0 Adjournment – 7:42 p.m.

Motion: Anne Basten

Second: David Corrigan

Motion carried