

September 7, 2023 to be approved November 2, 2023



Advisory Committee

(appointed by Board of Directors)

In-Person and via Zoom

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 pm

2.0 Roll Call

Secretary Basten

Present: Pat Smarto, Anne Basten, David Corrigan, Tom Fernstrom, Al Golbach, Rob Bryson, Rob Rinkenberger, John Fischer, Don Schnurr (via Zoom) and Director Jason Hettermann

Staff Present: Rob Bowman

Others Present: Kristen Wooden

Absent: Police, Laura King, Pam Althoff, John McGuire, and Ken Fruh

Excused Neil Moulis

3.0 Review of Minutes and subsequent comment/corrections/approval

The Draft minutes of July 6, 2023, were provided to the members in advance for review or approval. A motion was made to approve the minutes of July 6, 2023, as presented.

Motion: Rob Rinkenberger

Second: Don Schnurr

Motion carried

4.0 Reports

4.1 FWA Update

Rob Bowman reported that "Fishing has no boundaries" was coming up on 9/9/23 and that Anne Basten had been appointed to the Ethics committee of the board. Audit was under way. The Yacht Club requested a water restriction for their gala. The bid from HR Green for the Wall St building was pending grant approval. Friends of Lake Catherine and Channel Lake requested funds for an aeration project a percentage of their matching funds. The Board was amending the code for violations of commercial stickers specifically expired ones. Buoys were to start being removed on 10/1/23.

4.2 Regional (Upper/Lower/Lakes)

Nothing to report.

5.0 Old Business

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5.1 Watershed Project / Upcoming Meetings

Chairwoman Smarto reminded those present of the upcoming Stakeholder Meetings on 9/21 at 3 pm and 7 pm. Minor Maintenance Dredging was scheduled for 10/19/23 and a date was being confirmed for a program on Septic systems for November.

5.2 Clean Up Ideas / 2023 Plans

There was some brainstorming within the group including prizes, discount on stickers, raffle items, litter grabbers, but nothing substantial yet.

6.0 New Business

6.1 Data Collection on Lake/McHenry County Phosphorus Ordinances

Chairman Smarto asked for a volunteer from the group to start looking up existing phosphorus reduction ordinances for the watershed plan process. There were no volunteers. Anne will reach out to the outside volunteers.

6.2 Review of Watershed Goals and Objectives – Vote for the Top 3

Chairman Smarto asked for the group to help rank the Watershed Goals and Objectives. The vote was not in yet.

7.0 Member Comments

Dave noted that the water seemed cleaner this year in addition to being at a consistent level.

Anne reported that the Fox River Study Group was promoting that the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACOE) had approved the removal of 7 dams on the Fox River below Algonquin. The Algonquin and McHenry Dams would remain. Rob Rinkenberger reported that at the Fox River Commission meeting it was noted that Echo Lake in WI is keeping their dam and that there is a lot of work going on, on both sides of the border.

It was noted that there has not been much presence by the McHenry County Sheriff on the waterway.

8.0 Public Comment

Christine Wooden of Antioch and owner of a business in Antioch asked for the assistance of the Agency to allow the business to straighten out/repurchase the correct waterway stickers for some of their rental boats. Apparently 11 boats were recently seized for various violations including incorrect stickers. She stated they had returned all of their stickers and were now in limbo as they were told they could not buy replacement stickers at this time. Apparently, there was more to the story that this committee was not aware of. Rob Bowman was to pass her request on to Joe Keller to respond.

9.0 Adjournment – 8:04 p.m.

Motion: Al Golbach

Second: Tom Fernstrom

Motion carried