

Fox River Ecosystem Partnership
Membership Meeting
Wednesday January 21, 2009
Algonquin Village Hall

Present: Karen Miller, Kane County; Katie Parkhurst, Village of Algonquin; Holly Hudson, CMAP; Tim Pollowy, Hey & Assoc.; Jeff Mengler, USFWS; Nancy Williamson, IDNR; Cindy Skrukrud, Sierra Club; Kevin Rische, Trillium Native Landscapes; Michelle Zimmerman, Village of Algonquin; Jim Eby, Batavia Park District, Alicia Law, McHenry Co.; Mark Phipps, McHenry Co., Spence Kelly, Baxter & Woodmen; Hal Cattron, FRWRD; Linda Yunker, Tallgrass Restoration; Ben Mason, Village of Algonquin; Kim Sarmento, Bonstroo; Nancy Burgess, Barrington Land Trust; Sue Harney, Dundee Township

President Miller called the meeting to order at 1:10 pm.

Approval of Minutes from Nov. 19 Motion by Eby, second by Mengler. Hudson corrected minutes to read that Flint Creek Watershed received a Chicago Wilderness Excellence in Conservation award. Approved.

Treasurer's Report Miller stated Executive Committee recommends approval of the Fiscal 2009/no grants column as the budget for 2009. Motion by Pollowy, second by Harney. Approved. Miller provided forms for membership renewals.

Ecosystem Administrator's Report- Williamson reported there will be no IDNR Ecosystem grants solicitation in 2009 and that a new IDNR director has been appointed by the Governor.

Funding

- a) Kane County Riverboat Grant- Miller reported FREP has submitted a grant for a rain garden initiative in partnership with Kane-DuPage SWCD, Illinois Extension and Fox Valley Park District.
- b) Chicago Wilderness Corporate Council- Miller reported FREP is working with three other ecosystem partnerships to solicit funding. Linda Yunker is the lead on this and reported that the proposal will be presented in April.

319 Grants Hudson reported that four projects awarded FY09 grants are getting underway. IEPA is updating its application form for FY10 grants with a due date of August 1. The FREP Water Resources will assist grant applicants.

Committee Reports

- a) Fox River Study Group- Skrukrud reported that presentations on FRSG activities are posted at the FRSG website: www.foxriverstudygroup.org
- b) Government Relations- Mengler reported our annual Conversations on Conservation with our legislators will be held March 6. Senator Michael Noland and Representative Kay Hatcher invited to give keynote addresses followed by panel of other legislators who attend.

- c) Lakes- Hudson reported that CMAP is working with Lake County on a model lake biodiversity and recovery plan.
- d) Water Resources- Hudson reiterated that the committee will help groups with their 319 grant applications.

CMAP Partnership- Miller reported the Executive Committee voted to become partner with CMAP on their regional 2040 plan. Hudson reported there will be a Community Conversation on environmental issues for the 2040 plan in partnership with Borden Library's Elgin Alive series in March.

Election of Officers- Mengler presented the slate of officers: Karen Miller, President; Tim Pollowy, Vice-President; Jason Pettit, Treasurer; Katie Parkhurst, Secretary. Mengler made motion in support of slate, second by Hudson. Approved.

Cook County Watershed Management Ordinance- Skrukrud reported that a final meeting of the committees advising the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago on the draft ordinance was held at the end of 2008. The draft ordinance will be released for a 60-day public comment period in Spring 2009.

Noon Networks- Miller reported February Noon Network switched to evening Community Conversation in March. Future Noon Networks include Dixie Briggs Fromm Stream Corridor Restoration at Algonquin Village Hall on April 15 and an August 19 program on Valley Lakes Pond & Wetlands Project in Round Lake. FREP is still seeking a program for the June meeting.

New Business- Tim Pollowy is preparing a presentation on cultural sustainability and is looking for stories on cultural barriers to sustainable practices.

Program- Miller introduced Michelle Zimmerman from the Village of Algonquin who discussed the naturalization of stormwater basins. Algonquin has funding from development fee imposed by the village within Woods Creek watershed and fee in lieu money for filling of isolated wetlands. Zimmerman provided photos showing progress of retrofits and discussed initial community resistance to changes followed by support. A sample project timeline and costs were presented. Hudson suggested that an official watershed-based plan would be helpful for receiving outside funding. Zimmerman reported that reduced facility maintenance was the key benefit that pushed the village to this retrofit program, besides the water quality and habitat benefits. The village produces informational brochures on each project to inform residents.

Meeting adjourned at 2:20 pm.