

Fox River Ecosystem Partnership  
**Membership Meeting**  
Wednesday, November 18, 2009  
Prairie View Education Center, Crystal Lake

Present: Deanna Doohaluk, Hey and Associates; Karen Miller, Kane County; Katie Parkhurst, Village of Algonquin; Holly Hudson, CMAP; Nancy Williamson, IDNR; Linda Yunker, Tallgrass Restoration; Sue Glavan, Fox Metro Water Reclamation District; Eva Kiss, Fox Metro Water Reclamation District; Karen Clementi, Deuchler; Trish Burms, Geneva Park District; Tim Girmschied, Liberty Prairie Conservancy; Judi Thode, Lake Zurich Parks Department; Kerry Leigh; Deb Chapman, McHenry County Conservation District; Jody Kubitz, ENTRIX; Patsy Mortime, Flint Creek Watershed Partnership; Ders Anderson, Openlands; Gabe Powers, McHenry County Conservation District; and Becky Hoag, FREP

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

Approval of Minutes from September 16, 2009—Motion by Hudson, second by Doohaluk. Minutes were approved as corrected.

Treasurer's Report—Miller provided a July 1, 2009- November 17, 2009 income and expense statement. Membership dues are low this year, approximately \$2,000 less than last year. Miller stated that FREP will follow up with those who have not renewed yet for this year and hoped that personal phone calls would encourage those to renew memberships. The current balance is \$6,125.59.

Ecosystem Administrator's Report—Williamson reported that the ecosystem partnerships are moving under the Office of Resource Conservation within the IDNR. Once this is done the official name Partners for Conservation will be used for the ecosystem partnerships. There is still no money available.

EPA 319 Grants— Hudson reported the 2006 grant cycle projects are finishing up final reports on their projects. The 2008 grant cycle projects are almost complete or ready for construction. Some of these projects may be featured in upcoming Noon Networks.

CMAP will work with FREP for the 2011 grant cycle. FREP will promote the 319 Grant program at the January meeting. The Water Resources Committee will have a follow up meeting to help interested parties submit good grants.

Kane County Rain Garden Initiative—Miller announced that FREP, in partnership with the Kane-DuPage Soil and Water Conservation District and the University of Illinois, installed a rain garden at the University of Illinois Extension Service Research Farm in St. Charles. The FREP website will be completely redone to provide more information regarding rain gardens as part of the grant. Hoag requested any information on existing rain gardens be forwarded to her for inclusion on the website.

Hoag mentioned that the April 21<sup>st</sup> Noon Network will be a rain garden demonstration at U of I Extension Service Research Center. April 24<sup>th</sup> will be a workshop in the morning to teach people about rain gardens and then a public open house in the afternoon to show them the rain garden. Hagen-Moeller is developing a middle school curriculum as a major education component of the grant requirements.

Cook County Watershed Management Ordinance—Miller stated the plan is available for public review and comment now. Williamson encouraged people to review and support the ordinance.

CMAP GO TO 2040—Hudson thanked everyone for their participation in the GO TO 2040 planning process that CMAP has conducted. The comprehensive plan for the seven county region will include land use and transportation. The preferred scenario is available on the CMAP website for review and comment now. Please support the plan.

January Officer Elections and Budget Preparation—Miller stated that annual elections of officers will be held in January. If you are interested in a position please contact her. Also the budget will be presented in January.

Future Meetings and Noon Networks- The December Noon Network is tentatively scheduled for Duke's Ale House in Crystal Lake to learn about the "Green Drinks" organization. If you have ideas for future meetings (topics and locations) please let Hoag know.

Lake County Vision for Land Preservation—Tim Girmscheid, Liberty Prairie Conservancy, presented the Lake County Vision. This vision is what the County should look like in 2030, when built out. The goal is to have at least 20% of the land permanently preserved. To be on track for this about 1,000 acres of land per year need to be preserved. At this time municipal park land is not included because there is no legal commitment that this land would not be developed in the future with ball fields or recreation centers. Girmscheid would like FREP to adopt this vision plan. Miller stated the Executive Committee will consider this at the January meeting.

New Business—Williamson announced that a group has proposed to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service a request to create a National Wildlife Refuge in the Nippersink Creek Watershed area (including portions in Illinois and Wisconsin). The proposal is for the Hack-ma-tack National Wildlife Refuge, meaning Tamarack in Algonquin Indian. This area is home for many Whooping Cranes and other wildlife. FREP is supporting this effort.

Meeting adjourned at 2:10 pm.

Program- McHenry County Restoration Projects including Nippersink Bottoms and Monteloma Springs. The program was presented by Gabe Powers, Restoration Ecologist, McHenry County Conservation District.

Respectfully Submitted,

Katie Parkhurst  
FREP Secretary