

**ROCK RIVER WATERSHED GROUP
MEETING MINUTES
ROCK RIVER WATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT
APRIL 14, 2021**

Greg Cassaro called the Rock River Watershed Group to order at 10:00AM. The meeting was held both via Webex and in the Board Room at the Graceffa Administration Building, 3501 Kishwaukee Street, Rockford, Illinois. Non-voting members attended through Webex, Board members attended in person.

Attendees responded to roll call.

Board members present: Jeff Reininger, South Beloit; Dan Barber, Rockton; Adam Lanning, Rochelle; Brent Anderson, Belvidere; Ed Cox, Rockfalls; Josh McNitt, Dixon; Rob Boyer, Freeport; Michael Christensen, RRWRD; Sean Von Bergen, Winnebago County; Greg Cassaro, RRWRD.

Cassaro opened the floor for discussion of last month's meeting minutes.

Cassaro asked that a motion be made to approve the minutes.

Barber made the motion.

Anderson seconded.

Cassaro called for a vote.

All AYES were declared.

Minutes from last month's meeting are approved.

Cassaro turned the floor over to Barber for the Treasurer's Report. Barber noted that the bank account has sent out its second statement of funds, which currently sit at around \$44,000 after having cut one official check to the District as a pay back.

Cassaro opened the floor for discussion of the Treasurer's Report.

Cassaro asked that a motion be made to approve the Treasurer's Report.

McNitt made the motion.

Lanning seconded.

Cassaro called for a vote.

All AYES were declared.

Treasurer's Report is approved.

Moving on to Old Business, the consulting firm Deuchler sent over their proposal and scope of work for the Board to review. Cassaro opened the floor for discussion. Lanning stated that the price seemed good, to which Barber agreed, adding that the scope covers everything that

the Group asked for. Cassaro was also in agreement and asked if there was any further discussion to be had on the Deuchler proposal.

Cassaro asked that a motion be made to accept Deuchler's scope of services and proposal for a cost of time and material not to exceed \$75,000 plus \$2500 in direct costs.

Lanning made the motion.

Barber seconded.

Cassaro called for a vote.

All AYES were declared

Deuchler's proposal is accepted.

Next in Old Business, the Group transitioned to a discussion of the dues structure for agency members. Lanning reminded the Group that per the bylaws, dues are due by June 1. While the Group is aware of the upfront costs to retain Deuchler's services, Deuchler is unable to provide comprehensive pricing on the sampling portion of the project until November, leaving unknown costs to consider. The Group deliberated between making the cost per active account \$3 or \$4. At this, Boyer asked if the agency members' dues could be set at \$1/active account until November. Then, when Deuchler is able to provide additional information on the sampling costs, the Group could reconvene the dues structure discussion. Reininger responded that \$1/active account from each agency member would cover the upfront Deuchler cost of services. Further discussion led the Group to consider \$1.40/active account. This would result in a total of about \$165,000 in the bank account to cover the known Deuchler costs as well as any additional unknown costs down the road.

Cassaro asked that a motion be made to assess dues at \$1.40/serviceable account with the understanding that when and if more funds are needed as the group progresses, the Board will address it at that time.

Boyer made the motion.

Anderson seconded.

Cassaro called for a vote.

Reininger, South Beloit – NAY

Barber, Rockton – NAY

Lanning, Rochelle – NAY

Anderson, Belvidere – AYE

Cox, Rockfalls – NAY

McNitt, Dixon – NAY

Boyer, Freeport – AYE

Christensen, RRWRD – NAY

Cassaro, RRWRD – NAY

The motion did not pass. The floor opened for more discussion.

Reininger asked the Group if \$1.40/active account couldn't be agreed on, what number would be feasible for each member? Several agencies were willing to pay the full \$4/active account from previous discussions despite what the Group determined would be the minimum due per active account. However, this would result in many agencies financially contributing different amounts, and would need to be credited at a later date when each member is brought up to the same cost per account. Additionally, Reininger noted that South Beloit budgeted for \$4/active account in a general fund where the money will be removed if not used. In order to come to a consensus until

more information becomes available and the cost per active account could be reconsidered, Cassaro asked the Group if they would be willing to approve of \$2/active account. The Group responded in general agreement that they would take the information back to their respective boards.

Cassaro asked that a motion be made to set the dues at \$2/unit for this fiscal year.

Reininger made the motion.

Christensen seconded.

Cassaro called for a vote.

Reininger, South Beloit – AYE

Barber, Rockton – AYE

Lanning, Rochelle – AYE

Christensen, RRWRD – AYE

Anderson, Belvidere – AYE

McNitt, Dixon – AYE

Boyer, Freeport – NAY

Cox, Rockfalls – AYE

Cassaro, RRWRD – AYE

The motion carries for \$2/serviceable account for this fiscal year, June 1 through June 1.

Also in Old Business, Cassaro asked the Group to consider the dues structure for associate members, keeping in mind that these members are under no obligation to be a part of the Group. Cassaro stated as a point of reference that KREP (Kishwaukee River Ecosystem Partnership) charges their associate members about \$100/year to be a part of the Group. Barber recommended that the Group table the discussion on the associate members' dues structure until after more information is provided by Deuchler.

Cassaro asked for a motion to be made to table the discussion.

Barber made the motion.

Reininger seconded.

Cassaro called for a vote.

All AYEes were declared.

The last item in Old Business is the date of annual submittal of agency's active accounts. The discussion will be tabled for the time being but Cassaro asked that each member keep it in mind for further discussions.

Cassaro asked the Group if there were any other New Business, or reports from officers or committees. Lanning stated to the Group that he has been in touch with ISU and they are interested in coming out to give a presentation on their sampling abilities. Cassaro asked if they would be able and willing to come to the Group's next meeting for a presentation. Steven Hall was on the call and further offered that there are several members within the Sierra Club that may be able to volunteer to help out with the sampling. Action items for the next meeting include setting up the ISU sampling presentation to occur at the Group's next meeting. The Group should also consider when to schedule the annual meeting as stated within the bylaws. Lastly, a reminder that dues are due on June 1. Any agency that would like to pay their dues upfront

instead of waiting for June are welcome to. Barber will be sending out invoices. Cassaro asked the Group if there were any additional comments before the meeting adjourned, to which no member responded. The next meeting will be scheduled **Wednesday, May 12th at 10:00AM.**

Cassaro asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Reininger made the motion.

Barber seconded.

The meeting adjourned at 11:07AM.