

**ROCK RIVER WATERSHED GROUP
MEETING MINUTES
ROCK RIVER WATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT
JANUARY 13, 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, voting members and officers attended in person.

Attendees responded to roll call for voting members of the board.

Voting Board members present: Jeff Reininger, South Beloit; Dan Barber, Rockton; Adam Lanning, Rochelle; Greg Cassaro, RRWRD; Michael Christensen, RRWRD; Anne George, Woodstock; Brent Anderson, Belvidere; Ed Cox, Rockfalls; Josh McNitt, Dixon; Rob Boyer, Freeport.

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.
Boyer 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 stated that the Group still does not have the bank account set up and needs further assistance from the RRWRD attorney. Christensen is going to coordinate with the attorney Ed Fitzgerald and work to get the bank set up prior to March 1, 2021.

Cassaro asked that a motion be made to approve the Treasurer's Report.
Reininger made the motion.
Cox seconded.
Cassaro called for a vote.
All AYES were declared.
Treasurer's Report is approved.

Moving on to Old Business, Reininger asked that the remaining agencies who have not yet submitted their active account, master meter numbers, or permit renewal dates please do so. Cassaro also asked that we revisit the previous meeting's discussion on the pledge of \$5000 from each agency to be used as Group startup funds. Hearing no opposition, these funds are due to the Group by March 1.

The discussion moved to the RFQ process for the Group's engineering consultant. Each agency had an opportunity to send the RFQ to their preferred engineering firm. RRWRD sent the RFQ out to

several firms but unfortunately have not received good feedback on the firms' ability to participate. Troy Stinson with Strand was on the call and stated that his firm would not be able to respond to the RFQ as their participation could be considered a conflict of interest. Responses to the RFQ are due by February 1. If the Group doesn't receive sufficient RFQs by this date, the Group may revisit discussions on the context of the RFQ and put it back out on the street.

Moving on to New Business, Cassaro opened the floor to discussion of the new Rock River Watershed Group logo, created by Cox's wife. A sample of 3 logos were offered for the Group to choose from, with Reininger noting that all were wonderful choices. Ultimately, one was chosen and placed on the first invoice provided to each agency present at the meeting.

Reininger offered that a motion should be made to adopt the new logo.

Reininger made the motion.

Barber seconded.

Cassaro called for a vote.

All AYE's were declared.

The new Rock River Watershed Group logo is approved.

Cassaro asked the Group if there were any other reports from officers or committees. Hearing no response, Cassaro moved on to action items for the next meeting. Barber noted that the biggest action item for the next meeting would be sifting through the received RFQs and consider bringing the firms in for formal presentations. Cassaro noted that each agency is welcome to take the received RFQs back to their individual agency's engineering departments for review. Troy Stinson chimed in that the North Branch Chicago River Watershed Workgroup recently submitted RFQs for their NARP to be due on December 21, 2020. It might be valuable for the Rock River Watershed Group to reach out to this watershed group to gain insight on contacted firms and estimated costs.

Additionally, Christensen will continue to work with RRWRD attorney Ed Fitzgerald and Barber to get the bank account set up. Barber added to that, noting that each agency must get their active account information to Reininger as soon as possible so the Group can determine the cost per account required for the Group to operate successfully. George then asked the Group if we want to recruit more agencies on the Kishwaukee River. Cassaro responded that we can consider following up with agencies that were initially disinterested in participating, but the Group should keep in mind that additional agencies and sections of river also means additional sampling that the Group is required to complete.

The Group discussed the scheduling of next month's meeting date. **Wednesday, February 10th at 10:00AM** was established as the next meeting date. Voting members will be asked to attend the meeting in person, non-voting members through Webex. Cassaro asked the group if there were any additional comments or concerns before the meeting adjourned, to which no member responded.

Cassaro asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Cassaro made the motion.

Reininger seconded.

The meeting adjourned at 10:35AM.