

**ROCK RIVER WATERSHED GROUP  
MEETING MINUTES  
FOUR RIVERS SANITATION AUTHORITY  
JULY 13, 2022**

Greg Cassaro called the Rock River Watershed Group to order at 10:29AM. The meeting was held in the Board Room at the Graceffa Administration Building, 3501 Kishwaukee Street, Rockford, Illinois. The meeting was open for in-person attendance by both Board and non-voting members.

Attendees responded to roll call.

Board members present: Greg Cassaro, FRSA; Dan Barber, Rockton; Adam Lanning, Rochelle; Anne George, Woodstock; Brent Anderson, Belvidere; Matt Trotter, Rock Falls; Josh McNitt, Dixon; Michael Christensen, FRSA; Sean Von Bergen, Winnebago County; Jim Grant, Harvard.

Also in attendance was Ed Fitzgerald and Tim Hanson of FRSA, and Pat Kelsey of Fehr-Graham with Ryan Helgerson the Illinois State University summer intern.

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Cassaro opened the floor for discussion of last month's meeting minutes.  
Cassaro asked that a motion be made to approve the minutes.  
Anderson made the motion.  
Barber seconded.  
Cassaro called for a vote.  
All AYES were declared.  
Minutes from last month's meeting are approved.

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Cassaro turned the floor over to Barber for the Treasurer's Report. Barber informed the Group that all dues have been received from each Group entity. Including a pending invoice to be paid, the current account balance rests at \$611,464.82. The pending invoice from Fehr-Graham amounts to \$18,218.21.

Cassaro asked that a motion be made to approve payment to Fehr-Graham for the amount of \$18,218.21.  
Anderson made the motion.  
Christensen seconded.  
Cassaro called for a vote.  
All AYES were declared.  
Payment to Fehr-Graham is approved.

Cassaro asked if there were any other items for the Treasurer's Report. Christensen presented an additional invoice to the Group for the amount of \$1027.50. This is the second of

two payments to Stahr Media for their work in developing the Watershed website. This payment will take the Group through to the next year.

Cassaro asked that a motion be made to approve payment to Stahr Media for the amount of \$1027.50.

Christensen made the motion.

Barber seconded.

Cassaro called for a vote.

All AYES were declared.

Payment to Stahr Media is approved.

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Moving on to Old Business, Cassaro updated the Group on the status of the state tax exemption application approval. The application was initially denied but Cassaro, Christensen, and Overman filed an appeal with the IEPA for additional review and the application was approved.

Additionally, the IEPA reached out to the RRWG email address along with the permit holders who submitted a permit extension request. The purpose of this correspondence was to ask for more information on the extension. Kelsey has looked into this and has calls out to various IEPA representatives including Brant Fleming. Kelsey anticipates that this matter should be resolved quickly since a verbal approval was already given during the IEPA telephone call on April 21, 2022. The IEPA also recommended that the RRWG get in touch with Albert Ettinger who is an attorney that currently represents the Sierra Club and was a point of contact for the environmental groups responsible for the language of the NARP. Cassaro and Lanning stated that they didn't feel bringing Ettinger in was necessary, to which the Group agreed. Kelsey concurred, noting that permit issues should remain between the permittee and the agency. The RRWG will respond to the IEPA's email and relay our intent to look into the matter, after which Kelsey will be communicating with the IEPA to answer their supplementary questions.

Kelsey provided a progress report for the sampling in which the first round of in-river discreet sampling has been logged. Kelsey hopes for the Sonde units to arrive around the 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> of the month, at which point they will be put into play immediately for continuous monitoring. The invoice approved earlier in the meeting for Fehr-Graham was to provide materials for the harnesses and anchors necessary to keep the equipment in place in the river.

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In New Business, Cassaro posed the option to forego an August meeting of the RRWG due to lack of subject matter. Lanning agreed this could be a good idea as the Group could reconvene in September and review the available sampling data provided by Fehr-Graham. Barber responded that he would agree with skipping the August meeting however asked the Group how they would approve of the Fehr-Graham invoice for the Sonde units should it come in before a September meeting. Anderson suggested the Group pre-approve of the purchase since the RRWG already knows it's coming and how much the account balance sits at.

Cassaro asked that a motion be made to pre-approve the Fehr-Graham invoice for the Sonde units.

Anderson made the motion.

Barber seconded.  
Cassaro called for a vote.  
All AYEs were declared.

Payment of Fehr-Graham invoice for Sonde sampling units has been approved.

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Action items for next meeting include communicating with the IEPA to resolve the permit modification request. Fehr-Graham will continue discreet sampling and hopefully start continuous monitoring soon.

With no further discussion, the Group will next meet on **Wednesday, September 14<sup>th</sup> at 10:00AM.**

The meeting adjourned at 10:56AM.