

**ROCK RIVER WATERSHED GROUP
MEETING MINUTES
FOUR RIVERS SANITATION AUTHORITY
SEPTEMBER 14, 2022**

Greg Cassaro called the Rock River Watershed Group to order at 10:01AM. 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; Jeff Reininger, South Beloit; Dan Barber, Rockton; Adam Lanning, Rochelle; Anne George, Woodstock; Brent Anderson, Belvidere; Josh McNitt, Dixon; Michael Christensen, FRSA; Sean Von Bergen, Winnebago County.

Also in attendance was Pat Kelsey and Leonard Dane of Fehr-Graham, and Ed Fitzgerald of FRSA.

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

Cassaro turned the floor over to Barber for the Treasurer's Report. Barber informed the Group that after the approved payment of the Sonde equipment went through, the account balance now sits at \$469850.55 with no outstanding bills.

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

Moving on to Old Business, Cassaro asked the Group for a progress report from the entities that requested a NARP deadline extension. Rochelle and Belvidere responded that their

request has been submitted. Woodstock is still working on the request but George noted that she will push to get it done this week.

Kelsey then provided the Group an update on several items, the first of which being an email the RRWG received from Kaushal Desai of the IEPA. Desai suggested the RRWG work with Albert Ettinger but the Group did not find that necessary. Kelsey has relayed this information to Desai but Desai is still adamant in the recommendation. Kelsey is waiting for additional communication back from Brant Fleming of the IEPA as to the nature of Desai's request. Kelsey is confident that this matter should get resolved without a hitch. To include in the correspondence, Kelsey asked the extension entities to send him a copy of their submittal so that Brant Fleming can be aware of the Group's progress.

As far as the matter of the Group's sampling progress, significant rainfall affected the river elevation and water temperature to delay sampling. Sampling will resume in 2023. In the meantime, the Sonde sampling units will be stored with Fehr-Graham until they can be put to use again. Dane noted that he has attempted to reach out to Brant Fleming several times to inform him of the sampling setback and to get some feedback the following year's sampling but hasn't heard anything back yet. Dane assured the Group that the IEPA will see the effort the RRWG has been putting forth and will credit the delay appropriately to inclement weather. Kelsey informed the Group that the delay would affect the budget; a budget revision will be prepared and presented by the December/January board meeting.

In New Business, Cassaro notified the Group of a request from Stephen Dennison of Engineering Enterprises, on behalf of the Hampshire wastewater facility. Hampshire has found that they have a special condition in their permit that encourages them to join a watershed, so they would like to join the RRWG. Cassaro opened the floor for discussion on the request. Lanning responded that Hampshire is too late and the Group has long since closed the open membership period. Von Bergen agreed, stating that if Hampshire was allowed membership, it would pose a whole new series of questions and modifications to the workplan and dues structure. Kelsey also concurred; the addition of Hampshire would incorporate an extra 4 sampling points that the RRWG doesn't have the Sonde units to spare. The consensus of the Group was adding membership at this time would be extremely complex if not impossible to meet the Group's NARP deadline. Cassaro will call Stephen Dennison to discuss with him the complexities of additional members at this point and request that Hampshire formally request membership to join RRWG. The formal request will be brought before the entire board at the November meeting.

Action items for next meeting include Cassaro reaching out to Engineering Enterprises.

With no further discussion, the Group will next meet on **Wednesday, November 9th at 10:00AM.**

The meeting adjourned at 10:38AM.