

**ROCK RIVER WATERSHED GROUP
MEETING MINUTES
FOUR RIVERS SANITATION AUTHORITY
MARCH 8, 2023**

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; Matt Trotter, Rock Falls; Michael Christensen, FRSA; Cory Bradshaw, Sterling; Jim Grant, Harvard; Rob Lamz, Marengo.

Also in attendance was Pat Kelsey of Fehr-Graham, Brian Valleskey of Geosyntec, and Ed Fitzgerald and Tim Hanson of FRSA.

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

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

Barber made the motion.

Anderson seconded.

Cassaro called for a vote.

All AYE's 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 the current account balance including recent payments to Fehr-Graham and Siefert sits at \$431,144.08. Barber is working with Siefert in order to complete the annual financial report requested by the Illinois Attorney General. This form is required by organizations that classify themselves as charitable and must be submitted within 6 months from the conclusion of the group's fiscal year. Cassaro noted that the bylaws do not explicitly lay out the fiscal year for the RRWG. Cassaro proposed the Group adopt a January through December fiscal year to which the rest of the Group agreed. This would result in the financial report being due to the Illinois Attorney General in June.

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 AYE's were declared.

Treasurer's Report is approved.

Moving on to Old Business, the Group is still waiting to hear back from the NPDES permit extensions that were submitted to the IEPA. While at a conference last week, Cassaro met Scott Twait from the Bureau of Water and asked that he look into the matter. Twait acknowledged that he was aware of the requests made by the RRWG to Brant Flemming and would reach out to Flemming in order to move it along. Kelsey noted that he has also reached out to Flemming recently but still has not heard anything back. Kelsey asked that everyone who submitted for an extension request send him a copy of their letters, for which Kelsey will compile the letters as a whole and submit to the IEPA as a re-request.

Also in Old Business is the matter of the Fehr-Graham revised contract. Kelsey reminded the Group that due to unforeseen weather circumstances last sampling season, conditions were not right for peak algae bloom and the sampling had to be postponed. Fehr-Graham's revised contract would propose two new sampling points in order to have a continuous picture of the sampling during the season, in addition to covering the price hike by Pace Analytical laboratories and the employment raise of an internal Fehr-Graham employee. If approved, the difference in contract cost is \$40,283 to go into effect July 1. The Group discussed the proposed revisions and asked the Fehr-Graham team to provide clearer documentation that outlines the price increases brought on by Pace Analytical, as well as more information as to why the additional sampling pulls would be necessary. Kelsey agreed to take the Group's concerns back to his management and more information will be provided to the Group at large prior to the next meeting. At the next meeting, the Group should be read up on the options and ready to proceed to the next stage of the discussion.

Wrapping up the meeting, Valleskey provided the Group with a brief presentation on the sampling model draft and how the data pulled would come into play for the overall model. Copies of the presentation will be provided to all members.

Action items for next meeting include the dispersal of documentation by Fehr-Graham and Geosyntec; sampling model presentation, detailed information on items contained within the Fehr-Graham revised contract. Barber will work to complete the RRWG fiscal report for the Illinois Attorney General. Kelsey will look into and confirm if Fehr-Graham will be receiving help from ISU again this upcoming season.

With no further discussion, the Group will next meet on **Wednesday, April 19th at 10:00AM.**

The meeting adjourned at 11:09AM.