

**ROCK RIVER WATERSHED GROUP  
MEETING MINUTES  
FOUR RIVERS SANITATION AUTHORITY  
NOVEMBER 9, 2022**

Greg Cassaro called the Rock River Watershed Group to order at 10:09AM. 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; Josh McNitt, Dixon; Sean Von Bergen, Winnebago County.

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

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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.

Reininger seconded.

Cassaro called for a vote.

All AYE's were declared.

Minutes from last meeting are approved.

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Cassaro turned the floor over to Barber for the Treasurer's Report. Barber informed the Group that the current account balance, excluding two outstanding invoices in need of approval, is \$473,464.35. The Group received two invoices from Fehr-Graham for the amount of \$30,249.89 and \$824.41 for services rendered.

Cassaro asked that a motion be made to approve payment of the invoices.

Reininger made the motion.

Lanning seconded.

Cassaro called for a vote.

All AYE's were declared.

Payment of outstanding Fehr-Graham invoices are approved.

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Moving on to Old Business, Cassaro asked the Group for a progress report from the entities that requested a NARP deadline extension. Rochelle, Belvidere, and Woodstock responded that they are waiting to hear back from the IEPA on their approval. Kelsey noted that

he has been assured by Brant Flemming at the IEPA that the requests have been received and they are going to handle them but could not offer a timeframe of when the requests may be approved.

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In New Business, Cassaro reminded the Group that the bylaws stipulate the Group hold an “annual meeting” in order to approve of the dues structure. Previously this took place in March. The Group agreed that we should keep to a similar timeline and have the next annual during the March meeting. The dues structure will be formally approved at the annual meeting however Cassaro asked the Group to consider what the cost per account will be prior to the annual meeting. The reason for this being that Four Rivers Sanitation, among other entities, have budget requests due prior to the March meeting, and the dues need to be taken into consideration for allocation. Cassaro stated that he felt confident the dues wouldn’t be set to over \$2/active account as a benchmark for each entity to submit to their finance department. Barber and Reininger are going to draft a budget estimation spreadsheet to see if \$2/account would adequately cover any anticipated expenses for 2023-2024.

Cassaro also provided the Group with an update to a request made by the Hampshire POTW to join our watershed. Cassaro informed Hampshire through their engineering consultant Stephen Dennison of the complexities of adding another POTW this late in the game. Hampshire decided to go the route alone and sample their 4 sampling points. Dennison then asked if the Group would consider exchanging data on their sampling if the cooperation could be mutually beneficial. Hampshire would be responsible for their own sampling at their data points but would share their findings and vice versa with the RRWG in order to better map the river. The Group determined that they are not opposed to the proposition of sharing information.

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Action items for next meeting include the potential modeling draft provided by Fehr-Graham. Kelsey informed the Group that Fehr-Graham will continue working on the draft but no estimate was available yet of when it would be ready to present. Woodstock, Belvidere, and Rochelle will continue trying to receive feedback from the IEPA on their deadline extension. Barber and Reininger will draft and send out a budget estimation spreadsheet in the next few days.

With no further discussion, the Group will next meet on **Wednesday, January 11<sup>th</sup> at 10:00AM.**

The meeting adjourned at 10:36AM.