

**ROCK RIVER WATERSHED GROUP
MEETING MINUTES
FOUR RIVERS SANITATION AUTHORITY
MAY 10, 2023**

Greg Cassaro called the Rock River Watershed Group to order at 10:00AM. 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; Cory Bradshaw, Sterling; Jim Grant, Harvard; Laura Williamson, Marengo.

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

Cassaro opened the floor for discussion of last meeting's minutes. There was a small correction made to the minutes and provided to members attending the meeting in which the Group is not definitively aware of the IEPA's purview in determining RRWG membership.

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

Reininger made the motion.

Grant 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 reminded the Group that copies of the dues invoice were emailed out as well as paper copies available at the meeting for anyone who needs it. There are two pending expenses incurred from the Group of \$445 to Stahr Media for the website renewal as well as \$31,695.58 to Fehr-Graham for the contract.

Cassaro asked that a motion be made to approve the Treasurer's Report.

Reininger made the motion.

Lanning seconded.

Cassaro called for a vote.

All AYES were declared.

Treasurer's Report is approved.

Moving on to Old Business, the revised Fehr-Graham contract amendment has officially been signed and executed, confirmed by Kelsey and Fitzgerald.

More substantially in Old Business is the election of officers. The bylaws state a term of 3 years to be re-elected at the annual meeting. Cassaro and Fitzgerald discussed the parameters of the bylaws and determined that it left the election of officers as “should” take place at annual meeting, but that the bylaws were written early in the RRWG process as the election of officers and the annual meeting were not yet scheduled. Given that the term for the current officers isn’t set to expire until October 2023, Cassaro asked the Group if the bylaws should be amended to specify these revised time frames or leave the bylaws as-is and modify the current terms. Fitzgerald concurred, noting that the officers can choose to step down early to hold a new election or finish out the current terms. Barber suggested that since the May meeting is to be the annual and the dues being distributed at this time frame, the election of officers should take place after this, potentially for the June meeting. Cassaro proposed to the Group that the current term of officers expire in June and a new election be held at this meeting, to which the rest of the Group agreed. Cassaro asked if there was any formality required for an officer to step down to which Fitzgerald answered he doesn’t believe so but will check and inform the Group. If a formal resignation is required, they will need to be ready by next meeting.

In New Business, the 2023-2024 dues need to be formally set amongst the Group. Previous discussions landed the Group at \$2/active service account.

Cassaro asked that a motion be made to set the dues at \$2/account.

Barber made the motion.

Anderson seconded.

Cassaro called for a vote.

All AYEs were declared.

2023-2024 dues are set to \$2/active service account, payable by June 2023.

Also in New Business is an update to the Dixon Correctional facility’s interest in joining the RRWG. While Cassaro has not been successful in his attempts to discuss this with a representative at the facility, McNitt of Dixon was. McNitt learned that the correctional facility approved plans to hire their own consultant, so they will no longer be seeking to join the RRWG.

The last item in New Business was presented by Overman. The RRWG received a message on their email address from Andrew Kolste of Constellation Energy – Byron Generating Station. This facility received at \$10,000 grant to divide amongst four parties that are striving to improve environmental conditions. Overman answered questions from Kolste on how the RRWG was self-funded and the environmental factors the NARP is looking to target. Overman will reach back out to Kolste in a few days to follow up on the potential to receiving a portion of this grant.

Moving into Reports of Committees, Lanning provided a brief overview of what the subcommittee discussed that morning. The subcommittee decided it will start meeting on a monthly basis prior to the regular meeting in order to keep up with the upcoming sampling events, which start in July. Lanning also informed the Group that he will be attending a sampling event in order to observe the process. This opportunity can be available to all Group members should they be interested.

The last report came from Fehr-Graham and Geosyntec. The new sampling season's intern is named Kara Fowler who is an ISU student starting on Monday. She will be attending the next meeting to introduce herself to the Group. Valleskey stated that Geosyntec received an email from Albert Ettinger who is an attorney representing multiple non-profits. Ettinger reached out to Geosyntec requesting that their clients, ours and other watershed groups, share information on the implementation process of the NARP. Valleskey noted that he would be passing along this initial message but advised that Geosyntec not play the point of contact between these dialogues. Cassaro asked Valleskey to forward the request from Ettinger so the members of the RRWG may review the message and decide accordingly how to respond.

Action items for next meeting include Fehr-Graham forwarding the email request from Albert Ettinger. Fitzgerald will look at the language of the bylaws and determine if formal resignation letters are required for RRWG officers. Dues are required for submittal by June. Overman will get more information from Constellation about the potential donation.

With no further discussion, the Group will next meet on **Wednesday, June 14th at 10:00AM**. The subcommittee will meet on **Wednesday, June 14th at 9:30AM**.

The meeting adjourned at 10:36AM.