

Meeting Name: Fox River Flood Commission Meeting

Date of Meeting: 6/19/2019

Time: 10:00 am

Location: City Hall, Aurora, Illinois

Purpose: Initial Meeting about the Fox River Flood Commission

Attendees: see attached list (quorum not reached)

Meeting Agenda: see attached

Meeting Minutes

The meeting began at 10:10 am

Welcome and Introductions -Chair Loren Wobig, Director IDNR Office of Water Resources and Commission Chair began with a welcome and introductions

(Due to a lack of quorum February and April meeting minutes could not be approved.)

Public Act 100-0730. Recap of Goals and Directives - Steve Altman, IDNR, completed a:

- quick review of Public Act 100-0730, the status of the appointments and what is required by the act
- discussion of the status of appointments 20 of the 33 appointments have been made, making it difficult to achieve quorum as we need 17 committee members in attendance to take a vote
- discussion of what the act requires in the report, explaining that today's meeting would address:
 - Extent and Character of the Affected Areas – Survey results and insurance data
 - Current Shortfalls in Existing Flood Control Practices in the Fox River Watershed.
 - Small Group Discussion and Consensus on Primary Shortfalls.
 - Discussion on Basic Structure and Formation of an Alliance

Extent and Character of the Affected Areas – Survey results and insurance data - Steve Altman lead the discussion on existing data sources showing the extent and character of the watershed. The following sources of data were discussed:

- watershed mapping
- Fox River survey findings
- comments on ISWS website combined with comments from FEMA Risk Map Discovery process
- FEMA Risk Map discovery reports and data
- flood insurance claims data including repetitive loss properties
- Letters of Map Change plot on floodplain maps to indicate poor mapping
- floodplain maps and study dates
- county hazard mitigation plans
- zoning maps
- open space maps
- local repetitive loss area analysis
- Comprehensive plans

Discussed survey results. Only 14 communities had completed the survey with less providing comments on the interactive maps. The results would be discussed at the next meeting after more communities respond. Steve was asked about the survey and sending the survey to others. Steve agreed that the survey can be distributed to anyone to provide us with as much information as possible.

Current Shortfalls in Existing Flood Control Practices - Steve Altman and Marilyn Sucoe lead a discussion on existing flood control practices.

Fox River Dams - Commissioner Pete Wallers asked about the operations of Stratton Dam. Chair Loren Wobig again explained that the dam was not designed as a flood control facility. The dam provides very little flood control Lake County, explained 90000 ac-ft of water and that the dam is quickly overcome. Steve Altman recalled the misconceptions both up and downstream of the dam. Marilyn Sucoe, IDNR asked for clarification on the statutory requirements for operating the dam for recreation on the Chain. Loren explained that an operations plan has been developed and is available on the IDNR website. Pete Wallers expressed concern with the lack of understanding along the river by residents and official as to the purpose and capabilities of the dam. Wesley Catoor, IDNR explained that Stratton has about 9 inches of storage versus 15 feet available in downstate dams. Also explained that this year they were never able to maintain any winter storage due to high lake levels.

Mapping – The floodplain mapping is outdated, and the rainfall calculations used at the time of the study are now considered to be low. Scott Lincoln with the NWS explained that their rainfall analysis shows increased rainfall of 15 to 20% that produces 50 to 60% increases in runoff but with urbanization they are finding an 80% increase in measured water in the river.

Urbanization – A question was asked about how urbanization and detention impact flooding. General discussion concluded that you only store so much runoff. Loren Wobig mentioned that NIPC's research showed that the timing of releases from detention can actually worsen flooding.

Rain gages - The groups discussed the overall need for more rainfall gages. The NWS owns very few gages. The NWS has a volunteer gage, USGS gages have a majority of the gages. Mike Warner, Lake County and Scott Lincoln mentioned the loss of the rain gages in the watershed. Specifically, Scott Lincoln explained that if the USGS rain gage is no longer working, vegetation growth affecting the data, etc. they just turn them off. Tony Charlton mention that DuPage County is paying USGS for helping them with the gages. DuPage County networks with waste water treatment plants and municipalities and once a year they calibrate the gages. Mike Warner expressed hope that this commission could help communities' partner to pay for the gages. Loren Wobig discussed that the report can discuss the importance and need for funding for a rain gage network. Having a network of partners can help keep the funding.

Zoning, stormwater codes etc. Joanne Colletti, McHenry County asked questions: How can we determine if our codes working? Are we seeing post-FIRM flooding? Are our freeboards high enough? Paul Osman mentioned that Illinois has the fewest post-FIRM claims but we could narrow down for the Fox River, how many post-FIRM flood claims we have versus pre-FIRM.

Detention basins - Marilyn Sucoe discussed issues with maintaining small detention basins and the fact that restrictors are often pulled. Loren Wobig mentioned that the Chain of Lakes are the basins for the upper Fox watershed but the lakes are surrounded by homes.

Pete Wallers asked if increasing the use of Best Management Practices (BMPs) to increase infiltration. Kane County code rewrite is looking at increasing BMP usage. Is that needed in other counties?

Sandbagging – Steve Altman asked about sandbagging. Who is paying for sandbagging? If these homes flooded would they be better off as they could be acquired and be eligible for buyout funds.

Tony Charlton discussed the need for comprehensive planning. Comprehensive regional planning was then discussed. There was a concern regarding the ability to find places for regional basins. Marilyn Sucoe raised concerns that most community comprehensive plans don't even address floodplain. It was also mentioned that each community's plan doesn't coordinate with other community plans around them. The watershed need a watershed wide plan. Carolyn Schofield mentioned that comp. planning could be used to help concentrate buyouts instead of having the buyouts scattered.

Education – Joanna Colletti raised concerns about educating residents about elevation and buyouts. as a need for the watershed. Need to educate residents, the floodplain residents along the river and the lakes don't want to elevate and they don't want to take a buyout. This plan could talk about

Buyouts – Discussed as being piece meal. Loren discussed that the plan could target areas for buyout.

Hazard Mitigation Plans – Discussed that the county plans could be better.

Cost of Flooding was discussed.-How are the costs spread out after a flood? Flood insurance covers cost only for property owners with flood insurance. Hard costs after a flood are easier to quantify but then there are soft costs like stress and lost productivity that are hard to quantify. Discussed that it can be hard to get a disaster declaration unless Cook County is hit. Lake County didn't get a disaster from their recent flooding. Joanna Colletti mentioned that most of the homeowners sandbag but they are just a sandbag away from flooding.

Joe Keller, Fox River Agency has been asking to get some of the property taxes to come back to the watershed to help with open space preservation and buyouts. Could this commission be used to help get the money needed to for example buy quarries in the future for flood storage. Loren Wobig explained that the plan could discuss long range funding options.

Flood insurance was discussed as needed to help people recover but we don't have enough policies.

Next Meeting

Consensus was that the next meeting will be scheduled for September and an online poll will be used to select the best date. Planned location will be Aurora City Hall.

Adjournment – 12:20 pm

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Fox River Flood Commission - Sign In Sheet			
Name	Organization	Email address	Meeting Attendance 6/19/19
Commission Members			
Governor	Jim Joe Keller	Fox Waterway Agency	joe@foxwaterway.com
Speaker	Richard Keehner, Jr.	Village of Villa Park, Manager	rkechnerjr@inwillapark.com
Speaker	James Murphy		jmurphy@msclawfirm.com
House Minority	Matthew Prochaska	Kendall Co Board	mprochaska@co.kendall.il.us
House Minority	Judy Martini	Lake Co Board	Jmartini@lakecountyil.gov
House Minority	Carolyn Schofield		c.schofield@sbcglobal.et
Senate Minority	Linda Pederson	Lake Co Board	lpederson@LakeColl.gov
Senate Minority	Craig Munson	Resident	
Senate Minority	Peter Wallers	EEL	pwallers@eelweb.com
DuPage Co	Jim Zay	DuPage Co Board - Stormwater Chair	James.Zay@sbcglobal.net
DuPage Co	Janice Anderson	City of Naperville	JTPA1963@gmail.com
Kane Co	Matt Brolley	Village of Montgomery	brolley@ci.montgomery.il.us
Kane Co	Chris Kious	Kane County Board	Kkious@kanecoboard.org
Lake Co	Donnie Schmidt	Village of Fox Lake	schmitd@foxlake.org
Lake Co	Mike Warner	Lake Co Stormwater Mgmt Commission	MWarner@lakecountyil.gov
McHenry	Joanna Colletti	McHenry Co	JSColletti@co.mchenry.il.us
McHenry	Mark Kownik	Village of Cary, Mayor	mkownick@caryillinois.com
Will	Randy Jessen	Village of Plainfield	rjessen@goplainfield.com
Will	Mark Phipps	City of Aurora (Fox River Ecosystem Partnership)	mphippis@aurora-il.org
IEEMA Director/ Designee			
Chair	Loren Wobig	Office of Water Resources	Loren.Wobig@Illinois.gov

Nick Pothman - Willco Exec.

Municipal/County Staff					
	Matt Asselmeier	Kendall County	masselmeier@co.kendall.il.us		
	Anthony Chariton	DuPage Co Stormwater Director	chariton@dupageco.org		
	Colin Duesing	Will County	planning@willcountylanduse.com		
	Brian Gift	LaSalle County	BGIFT@LASALLECOUNTY.ORG		
	Rob Linke	Kane Co Environmental & Water Resources	linkerobert@co.kane.il.us		
	Anne Wilford	Kane Co Environmental & Water Resources	WilfordAnne@co.kane.il.us		
	Jodie Wollnik	Kane Co Environmental & Water Resources	WollnikJodie@co.kane.il.us		
IDNR Staff					
	Munib Ahmad	IDNR/OWR	Munib.M.Ahmad@illinois.gov		
	Steve Altman	IDNR/OWR	Steve.Altman@illinois.gov		
	Bill Boyd	IDNR/OWR	William.Boyd@illinois.gov		
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	Paul Osman	IDNR/OWR	Paul.Osman@illinois.gov		
	John Palmieri	IDNR/OWR	John.Palmieri@illinois.gov		
	Ted Penesis	IDNR Communications	Ted.Penesis@illinois.gov		
Co-Chair	Marilyn Sucoe	IDNR/OWR	Marilyn.Sucoe@illinois.gov		
	Liana Winsaur	IDNR/OWR	Liana.Winsaur@illinois.gov		

Stakeholders and General Public			
Megan Andrews	Fox River Study Group	megan.andrew@il.nacdn.net	
Emily Brawley	The Conservation Fund	Ebrawley@conservationfund.org	
Sharon Bush	Grand Victoria Foundation		
Sue Davis	USACE - Chicago	Susanne.J.Davis@usace.army.mil	<i>Susanne Johnson</i>
Kate Evasic	CMAA	kevasic@cmmap.illinois.gov	
Lisa Haderlein	Land Conservancy of McHenry Co		
John Kunio	Resident	andrea1147@msn.com	
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Dan Lobbes	The Conservation Foundation	cllobbes@theconservationfoundation.org	
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Jeff Mengler	Fox River Ecosystem partnership		
Jarin Rudsell	USACE - Rock Island	Jarin.E.Rudsell@usace.army.mil	
Joel Schmidt	USACE - Chicago	Joel.L.Schmidt@usace.army.mil	
Cindy Skrukurd	Fox River Study Group		
Mike Sutfin	Ottawa resident		
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<i>Stobhan Greene</i>	<i>WWITL</i>	<i>sgreene@wwitl.org</i>	
		<i>gathermygreene@charh.com</i>	

