



# Fox Waterway Agency

## Minutes

December 16, 2015

**Recording Secretary: Danielle Hartig**

**1.0. Call to Order & Roll Call 7:05 p.m.**

Chairman Blake

**Present:** Directors Phil Bartmann, Chuck Haling, Bill Hellyer, James Meyer, Dan Mitchell, Michael Shields and Chairman Wayne Blake

**FWA Also Present:** Agency Attorney David McArdle, Randy Sweet of the Advisory Committee, Executive Director Joe Keller

**2.0. Pledge of Allegiance**

**3.0 Public Hearing**

**MOTION:** Director Meyer made a motion to conduct a public hearing regarding discussion and possible action on changing user permit sticker fees for all classes of boats and watercrafts. The motion was seconded by Director Haling. A roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Directors Bartmann, Haling, Hellyer, Meyer, Mitchell, and Shields

Nay: None

The Motion carried. Public Hearing opened at 7:06 p.m.

### Comments from the public

- Ken Fruh (McHenry, IL): He believes it is unfair to have the personal watercraft fee the same as the boat fees.
- Tim Sommer (Round Lake, IL): He would vote for a uniformed fee across all categories.
- Bob Alvarez (Elk Grove Village, IL): He was curious to know what factors were driving the sticker fee increase (many issues such as not receiving the buoy grant in full, FEMA project issues, the need to accomplish more dredging projects, the need for more crews and working equipment, etc.).
- Gordon Tulland (Spring Grove, IL): He has lived on the waterway for many years and his taxes are much higher than people who do not live on the lake. Also believes that personal watercraft fees should not be as costly as a boat sticker and that out of town users should pay more than the people who live on the system. He felt that there are many ways to accomplish the goals of the FWA without taxing/increasing fees for regular users.
- Chris Allen (McHenry, IL): He wondered if the FWA could create/enforce their own ordinances so that more money from those tickets comes back directly to the FWA (currently, the FWA receives nothing from any tickets written on the system). Later commented that the FWA is ultimately needed; supports the increase if it means better systems.
- David Zipp (Ingleside, IL): Pointed out that the FWA could create and enforce their own ordinances. He suggested that the personal watercraft fee should be lower than a boating sticker. Also mentioned his desire for a plan of action to assure constituents that sticker fees would not be raised every year due to a lack of planning on the FWA's part.
- Andy Martin (Spring Grove, IL): Wondered if the FWA would consider adjusting/lower sticker fees for people who have attended educational classes. Also questioned if raising sticker prices in 2016 would be a sustainable increase or if the FWA would have to raise fees again in consequent years.
- Chris Stochl (Fox Lake, IL): Pointed out the need for the FWA to have an action plan; felt that if the FWA is asking for more money, they should have a plan in place that details what activities they will undertake and how the money will be allocated.
- Aaron McCormick (Waukegan, IL): Wondered if the Agency has discussed issuing bonds.
- Berry Lemke (Johnsburg, IL): Also supported charging nonresidents more to use the systems. Also mentioned that if the FWA tries to go after property tax money, taxes will go up even more. Suggested that soil buyers should come pick up the material themselves so the FWA does not have to truck it to them.
- Greg Szekeres (Fox Lake, IL): Thanked everyone for their time and commitment, mentioned that a \$20 increase is not going to break him, but did support an action plan to see where the money is going and what it will be used for.
- Tom Helms (Lake Villa, IL): Believes that a small increase is well justified being that it has been six years since the last increase.

**MOTION:** Director Bartmann made a motion to close the public hearing regarding discussion and possible action on changing user permit sticker fees for all classes of boats and watercrafts. The motion was seconded by Director Meyer. A roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Directors Bartmann, Haling, Hellyer, Meyer, Mitchell, and Shields

Nay: None

The Motion carried. Public Hearing closed at 8:17 p.m.

### **3.0. Approval of Minutes**

**MOTION:** Director Haling made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 2 Planning and Public Hearing meetings, as well as the November 18, 2015 Board Meeting. The motion was seconded by Director Bartmann. A roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Directors Bartmann, Haling, Hellyer, Meyer, Mitchell, and Shields

Nay: None

The Motion carried.

### **4.0. Treasurer's Report & Acceptance of Bills & Other Financials**

#### **4.1 Approval of Treasurer's Report**

Director Bartmann provided the Treasurer's Report. He stated there was \$87,323.66 on hand.

**MOTION:** Director Bartmann made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. The motion was seconded by Director Haling. A roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Directors Bartmann, Haling, Hellyer, Meyer, Mitchell, and Shields

Nay: None

The Motion carried.

#### **4.2 Approval of Bills**

Director Bartmann explained the bills totaling \$45,950.18.

**MOTION:** Director Bartmann made a motion to approve the list of Bills. The motion was seconded by Director Hellyer. A roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Directors Bartmann, Haling, Hellyer, Meyer, Mitchell, and Shields

Nay: None

The Motion carried.

### **6.0 New Business**

**6.1**

**MOTION:** Director Hellyer made a motion to approve an updated Code of Ordinance for 2016. The motion was seconded by Director Mitchell. Ordinances will be available on [www.foxwaterway.com](http://www.foxwaterway.com). A roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Directors Bartmann, Haling, Hellyer, Meyer, Mitchell, and Shields

Nay: None

The Motion carried.

**6.2**

**MOTION:** Director Meyer made a motion to approve the Resolution for State of Illinois and Federal Surplus Property Program participation. The motion was seconded by Director Haling. A roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Directors Bartmann, Haling, Hellyer, Meyer, Mitchell, and Shields

Nay: None

The Motion carried.

**6.3**

**MOTION:** Director Bartmann made a motion to approve a temporary budget. The motion was seconded by Director Haling. FWA will end 2015 with -\$50,000. A roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Directors Bartmann, Haling, Hellyer, Mitchell, and Shields

Nay: Meyer

The Motion carried.

**6.4**

**MOTION:** Director Shields made a motion to approve the transfer of IDNR equipment/property to the FWA. The motion was seconded by Director Mitchell. A roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Directors Bartmann, Haling, Hellyer, Meyer, Mitchell, and Shields

Nay: None

The Motion carried.

**6.5**

**MOTION:** Director Mitchell made a motion to approve an ordinance amending Chapter 4 of the FWA Code, increasing user fees. The motion was seconded by Director Hellyer. A roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Directors Bartmann, Hellyer, Meyer, and Mitchell

Nay: Haling, Shields

The Motion carried.

**8.0 Reports**

**8.1 Executive Director**

**Executive Director Keller informed the Board:**

- Thanked everyone for coming; being new to the Agency, he has fresh eyes and a new vision for the Agency.
- Over the last few weeks, he has met with the IDNR & FEMA. FWA hopes to receive \$167,000 in FEMA money next year.
- The FWA headquarters has been stripped entirely and cleaned out; thanked the crew for all their hard work.

**8.2 Advisory Committee Reports & Recommendations**

**Chairman Randy Sweet advised the Board:**

- The Committee is on winter break, the next meeting is February 4, 2016.

**8.3 Field Superintendent**

**Rob Rinkenberger informed the Board:**

- The FWA headquarters has been stripped
- Reliable Sand & Gravel has wrapped up
- They are gearing up for Coopers Farm & a long inter of maintenance
- With the approve sticker increase, he will redo the dredging schedule to present to Lake County in 2016.

**9.0 Board Comments**

**9.1 Directors**

- Haling: Thanked Rob & the team for all their hard work & a great job on the building.
- All the Directors wished everyone a Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, & a Happy New Year

**9.2 Chairman**

- Wished everyone a Merry Christmas & Happy Holiday

**11.0 Executive Session**

There was no motion for an Executive Session.

**12.0 Adjournment**

**MOTION:** Director Bartmann made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Director Haling. A voice vote was taken. The motion was approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_, 2016

Chuck Haling, Secretary