



## Fox Waterway Agency Board of Directors Strategic Planning Meeting

Thursday, December 5, 2019, 1:30 p.m.

Fox Waterway Agency Headquarters  
45 S. Pistakee Lake Road  
Fox Lake, IL 60020

Recording Secretary: Kathy Loftus

**1.0 Call to Order & Roll Call 1:40pm Chairman Blake**

**Present:** Directorys Chris Allen, Chuck Haling, Jim Meyer, Jason Hettermann, Christine Stochl, and Chairman Wayne Blake

FWA Also Present: Executive Director Joe Keller, Field Superintendent Rob Bowman, Advisory Committee Randy Sweet

**2.0 Open Meeting:** Joe Keller explained meeting to hear Board of Director strategy for 2020. Distributed a paper with 2 questions for board members.  
Addressed the Mission Statement and Goals, and Long Term Plan

**3.0 Randy Sweet recommendation**

Randy Sweet spoke of Planning, Process, and Implementation. Recommended a long term plan, possibly 5 or 10 years, identifying buckets and path. FWA could benefit from such plan.

Director Meyer suggested looking at past 10 year plan.

ED Keller could dig up old 5-10 year plan. Some items have been done.

Chairman Blake mentioned funds in Springfield were pulled resulting in many items not able to accomplish.

ED Keller mentioned the need to find more funds to support agency needs.

**4.0 Chairman Blake addressed need to get a handle on incoming water**

Director Meyer: Need to identify "what the problems are" and "costs"

Director Haling: Could test tributaries and runoff and present as need for funds

Determine what are the challenges, gages, benchmarks for testing

Director Allen: Identify more toxic chemicals used along the waterway and get local goverment/county backing to inform residents. Assistance for creating sediment traps.

Field Superintendent Bowman: Watershed Plan involves sediment traps at early stages.

Director Allen: Look at events that we can bring to the area to promote tourism which could encourage State funds.

Chairman Blake: Possibility of getting on list as "Homerule", own entity instead of sub list item under DNR. Could either benefit or be a disadvantage to the Agency.

Three problems areas: Weeds, sediment, high water

Chairman Blake stressed importance of getting permits before proceeding due to lengthy wait time.

**5.0** ED Keller brought up topic of flooding with concern that this may be the "new normal". Would like Board of Director input on representing FWA at upcoming meetings.

Recommendations made to fight flooding included:

More dredging to increase amount of water waterways can hold - true for Spring thaw

Use retention ponds to hold water until levels change, and then ponds to be opened. Would need support from Stormwater Mgmt.

Open Algonquin damn slowly and sooner.



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### 6.0 Chairman Blake brought up Treatment of Weeds and Algae

Chairman Blake suggested that FWA could take on treatment ourselves with a spray boat. Need to get certification. Would this be charged for or no charge? Should it be jobbed out to subcontractor? Contractors may be limited as to distance. State may allow agency to deal with larger areas.

### 7.0 Discussion regarding ways to bring in more revenues to help fund projects

Randy Sweet mentioned Web or App advertising. Could have Silver/Gold/Platinum Plans for exposure/advertising on website. Should give thought to ability to take down advertising in the event that advertising is linked to a scandal or undesirable relationship.

ED Keller brought up dirt options, to be able to sell unprocessed dirt, offer delivery of dirt. Need to consider road restrictions, waivers, etc.

### 8.0 Directory Meyer addressed the 2020 Preliminary Budget

Directory Meyer: What projects are included in the budget?

Field Superintendent Bowman addressed the issue of trucking costs, including HOAs and road access issues and costs. Trucking and disposal fees are 2 of the highest costs. Could HOAs help offset these costs?

At one time not too long ago, thought was given to asking residents to pay for trucking since they typically benefited the most from channel dredging.

ED Keller mentioned that the budget at this stage only included \$100,000 for trucking.

The dredging policy states that factors may be considered when selecting where to dredge.

Director Meyer clarified what we need with a dewatering facility.

ED Keller recalled the Lake County Forest Preserve past discussions regarding processing sites and partnering up.

Director Meyer discussed various specifics and characteristics of potential dredging sites.

Bottom line, agency needs to make decisions on trucking costs and how they factor in when determining dredging sites.

Field Superintendent Bowman mentioned that plans include looking at projects for next year and finishing up a few areas started in 2019. Also looking into a couple of projects south, and trying to obtain contact info for discussions.

Director Meyer emphasized need for specific job cost estimates.

### 9.0 Chairman Blake asked what the Agency is focusing in on in Springfield? Who will address Motor Fuel Tax? How much money do we need to spend to make more money? The need for Lobbyists to push on our behalf.

Director Meyer suggested that we first need legislative agenda prior to going downstate and the Board of Directors must all be in agreement as to the needs of the agency and the direction it needs to take.

Chairman Blake mentioned creating a video showing what the agency does and also the need to budget for lobbying efforts.

**Meeting adjourned at 4:57pm.**

Dec 12, 2019