



**AGENDA ITEM EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Agenda Item number: 3.b

Title: Active River Project Update – Information Only

Presenter: Chris Adesso

Meeting: Government Services Committee Date: May 22, 2017

Proposed Cost: \$ N/A Budgeted Amount: \$ N/A Not Budgeted:

**Executive Summary** *(if not budgeted please explain):*

The Active River Task Force wishes to provide the Council Committee updates on the status of topics pertaining to the Active River Project/Concept. The Task Force offers the attached information to the Committee. A member of the Task Force will be available at each of the Government Services Committee meetings to respond to any questions or comments that the Council Committee may have.

**Attachments** *(please list):*

- \* April 3, 2017 - Task Force Meeting Minutes
- \* April 17, 2017 – Task Force Meeting Minutes
- \* May 1, 2017 – Task Force Meeting Minutes

**Recommendation/Suggested Action** *(briefly explain):*

None – For information only.

**MINUTES  
ACTIVE RIVER TASK FORCE MEETING  
ST. CHARLES  
JOHN RABCHUK, CHAIRMAN  
APRIL 3, 2017**

**Members Present:** Chair. John Rabchuk, Trish Beckjord, Rick Brems, Holly Cabel, Jim Enck

**Members Absent:** Chris Adesso, Chris Bong, Monica Meyers, John Wessel

**Others Present:** Phil Held, Ed Werneke, Isabel Soderlind

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was convened by John Rabchuk at 8:05 a.m.

**2. Minutes Review and Approval**

Motion was made to accept and place on file the minutes of the March 6, 2017 Active River Task Force meeting minutes.

Motion by Rick Brems second by Holly Cabel to accept and place the minutes on file.

Voice vote: Ayes: unanimous; Nays – None Absent: C. Adesso, C. Bong, M. Meyers, J. Wessel

Motion carried at 8:07 a.m.

**3. Fox River Watershed Study Requirements (Trish & Karen)**

Trish Beckjord mentioned that Karen Laskowski had all the information regarding the Fox River watershed. Karen however was not in attendance; therefore Trish requested the discussion on this agenda item be postponed until the next meeting.

**4. Member Organization Updates**

**A. St. Charles Park District**

**i. Update on Boy Scout Island**

Holly Cabel mentioned Ferson Creek is the focus for the Park District right now. The OSLAD project and signage is being installed. The storage rack system for the skulls and new dock will be installed. This project will also include the plant base shoreline stabilization on the creek side; the project will not affect the sandy shore area. The park will be closed most of the spring into the summer.

This phase of the project is for the parking lot and additional boat slips only.

**ii. Schedule Presentation of Engineering Feasibility Study to the St. Charles Park District Board Commissioners**

Holly mentioned the Feasibility Study presentation could be scheduled for the 2<sup>nd</sup>

St. Charles Park District Board meeting in April. Greg Chismark can give an overview of the Feasibility Study to the Park Board at that April 25 meeting.

The group then discussed the focus of this presentation.

Holly would like to be notified if and when Greg would be presenting so that she can get this on the agenda.

## **B. City of St. Charles**

- i. Engineering Feasibility Study Presentation to City Council at the Government Service Committee (GSC) Meeting

Chris Adesso was not present at the meeting. John Rabchuk however mentioned that Chris and Greg Chismark may be giving a preliminary overview of the Feasibility Study at the April 24 GSC meeting. This meeting would focus on the findings of the Feasibility Study and whether the project was feasible. The discussion may also include the status of the dam, maintaining the upper pool, hydrology, siltation findings, etc.

The final presentation regarding the Feasibility Study will be given at the May or June Government Services meeting. This meeting may also include basic concept drawing(s), recommendations and preliminary related costs.

## **C. River Corridor Foundation**

- i. Bob Leonard Walkway Landscaping & Furnishing Project

No updates were given at this meeting.

- ii. Kiwanis Signature Project Ideas Request

Per John Rabchuk two signature projects have been proposed for Kiwanis:

- Tree House
- Splash Park-for kids in the downtown area
- Some type of marsh bird sanctuary along the kayak trail in the Boy Scout Island Lagoon area is another possibility. Trish Beckjord is playing with this concept for a potential presentation.

- iii. Facebook and Website Updates

Once the feasibility study is presented and finalized, Phil Held suggested posting the information on Facebook. In addition, the posting could include offering presentations to organizations interested in knowing more about this project; this would be an opportunity to promote the project to the public.

## **5. Update on Second Meeting with Potential Corporate/Philanthropic Funding Source**

### **A. List of Potential Philanthropic Donors/Sponsors Discussion Update - Solicitation of Philanthropic Funding for Design and Phase I Engineering**

John Rabchuk shared a preliminary list of potential corporate and philanthropic donors, sponsors and foundations for the design phase of this project. Discussion and comments were made.

Trish Beckjord also recommended researching the following to the list:

- Trust of Public Lands – 606
- Illinois Solar Energy Foundation

Rick Brems also mentioned that there are many companies that conduct this type of fund raising service; other cities have utilized this type of assistance for similar projects. This is an option that this group could research in the future.

## **6. Marketing, Publicity and Community Outreach**

A presentation to Pottawatomie Garden Club is scheduled for Monday, July 24, 2017 from 1:00-1:45 p.m. at Baker Methodist Church.

## **7. Other**

### **A. Floating Island Presentation from David Yocca Update**

Trish Beckjord mentioned she connected with David Yocca from the Conservation Design Forum. He stated he was open to meeting with the ARP or the River Corridor Foundation and share his professional knowledge of floating islands versus marsh, pros and cons. Discussion. A decision was made to postpone this presentation to a later date.

### **B. Fox Valley Sustainability Network Presenting “GreenTown”**

Trish Beckjord mentioned the Fox Valley Sustainability Network was presenting an all day workshop on “GreenTown” on Thursday, April 27 at the Two Brothers Restaurant, 205 N Broadway, in Aurora. Topics to be presented:

- The Blue Zones: 9 Lessons for Living Longer From the People Who've Lived the Longest by Dan Buettner
- Designing Healthy Communities by Richard J. Jackson with Stacy Sinclair
- Sustainable Urbanism: Urban Design with Nature by Douglas Farr, Foreword by Andres Duany
- The Human City: Urbanism for the Rest of Us by Joel Kotkin
- Making Healthy Places: Designing and Building for Health, Well-Being, and Sustainability by Andrew L. Dannenberg, Howard Frumkin, and Richard J. Jackson

Trish felt it may be a good networking opportunity and exposure for this project if some of the members in this group attended. For more information go to:

<http://www.foxvalleysustainabilitynetwork.com/events/>

## **8. Adjourn**

The next meeting is scheduled for April 17, at 8:00 a.m. at the Baker Memorial Community Center.

Motion by John Rabchuk to adjourn the meeting, second by Holly Cabel.

Voice vote: Ayes: unanimous; Nays – None Absent: C. Adesso, C. Bong, M. Meyers, J. Wessel

-Motion carried at 9:16 a.m.

MINUTES

ACTIVE RIVER TASK FORCE MEETING

BAKER COMMUNITY CENTER, ST. CHARLES, ILLINOIS

JOHN RABCHUK, CHAIRMAN

APRIL 17, 2017

Members Present: Holly Cabel, Chris Adesso, Trish Beckjord, John Rabchuk, Jim Enck,

Members Absent: Rick Brems, Chris Bong, Monica Meyers, John Wessel

Others Present: Ed Werneke, Tom Anderson, Phil Held, Candy Boulay, Tony Zehnder

Visitors Present: none

Call to Order

The meeting was convened by John Rabchuk at 8:03a.m.

Minutes Review and Approval

Motion to accept and place on file the minutes of the April 3, 2017 Active River Task Force Meeting. Motion by Chris Adesso, second by Holly Cabel to accept and place the minutes on file.

Voice vote: unanimous; Nays – None; Absent: Rick Brems, Monica Meyers, Chris Bong, and John Wessel

Motion carried at 8:03 a.m.

Member Organization Updates

Holly Cabel stated she recently updated the Park Board of Commissioners on the Active River Project. The Engineering Feasibility Study may be presented at the July 11, 2017 Board Meeting. John Rabchuk asked if there may be an interest in having a special meeting between the agencies to allow more time to discuss the subject. Holly stated she thought the subject could be covered at a regular Board Meeting and it may be difficult to gather all Board members together for another meeting. Jim Enck stated a special meeting may indicate more detailed information would be provided. Chris Adesso stated due to the City beginning a new fiscal year there are time constraints with many business items on the City Council's agenda; a separate meeting may not be feasible at this time. Chris also stated: the City would be taking a lead on the RFQ; a meeting will be held next week to speak with regulators. More information will be

be provided, concepts may be fine-tuned and a presentation may be made in June. Jim Enck and Chris Adesso both stated John Rabchuk should not attend other meetings until the Feasibility Study is complete.

Chris Adesso stated when presenting the conceptual plans to the City the plans should answer the following questions: is the engineering feasible; does it require a permit; what is the cost to construct; who would own the property. The focus should remain on these answers; show what potential issues could be brought up during the process.

John Rabchuk stated input should be sought from local business; bring them in on the process.

John Rabchuk stated Kiwanis is looking for a signature project. Possible projects include a tree house and a splash park in the downtown area.

John Rabchuk stated through the Park District or River Corridor, the wetlands, trails and lagoon will become important issues, being beneficial to the environment.

#### Fox River Watershed Study Requirements

Trish Beckjord stated she had concerns about the concepts as they appear to be finalized; the next steps should provide earlier concepts. Chris stated the concepts are very preliminary in design; since there isn't a scope provided at this stage; items shouldn't be listed at this time. Trish stated the public should only see preliminary concepts. Jim Enck stated his past experience has shown it is advisable to pull back on designs and not show so much detail at this stage in the process. Phil Held stated the three plans as shown should show they are conceptual at this point in time.

Discussion took place regarding water level and flooding on Route 31; there is siltation behind the dam which changes water levels; moving the dam north would eliminate some of the flooding which currently takes place.

Trish Beckjord stated a future scope should address fish passage and habitat; it may be done in stages.

Trish Beckjord stated questions should be asked of IDNR as related to dam safety; ownership and operations; this project does a lot for dam safety.

#### Potential Corporate/Philanthropic Funding Source

John Rabchuk stated he has met with a potential philanthropic group and indicated the group is inquiring whether the Active River Project is ready to commit and go public. The group is asking for more information on the project.

John Rabchuck stated: as related to funding, a foundation would be set up under the River Corridor Foundation and funds could be used for the project (a 501C3) and administered by the

Community Foundation. The agency to release the contract may be the City, in conjunction with the Park Board and River Corridor Foundation.

Adjournment

The next meeting is scheduled for May 1, 2017 at 8:00 a.m. at Baker Community Center in the Peterson Lounge.

Motion by Trish Beckjord, seconded by Chris Adesso to adjourn the meeting.

Voice vote: unanimous; Nays – None; Absent: Chris Bong, Rick Brems, Monica Meyers, and John Wessel

Motion carried at 9:11 a.m.



**MINUTES  
ACTIVE RIVER TASK FORCE MEETING  
ST. CHARLES  
JOHN RABCHUK, CHAIRMAN  
MAY 1, 2017**

**Members Present:** Chair. John Rabchuk, Chris Adesso, Trish Beckjord,  
Rick Brems, Holly Cabel

**Members Absent:** Chris Bong, Jim Enck, Monica Meyers, John Wessel

**Others Present:** Tom Anderson, Phil Held, Isabel Soderlind, Ed Werneke Tony Zehnder

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was convened by John Rabchuk at 8:05 a.m.

**2. Minutes Review and Approval**

Motion was made to accept and place on file the minutes of the April 17, 2017 Active River Task Force meeting minutes.

Motion by Trish Beckjord second Rick Brems, to accept and place the minutes on file.

Voice vote: Ayes: unanimous; Nays – None Absent: C. Bong, J. Enck, M. Meyers, J. Wessel

Motion carried at 8:07 a.m.

**3. Fox River Watershed Study Requirements**

Trish Beckjord mentioned that Karen Laskowski had all the information regarding the Fox River watershed. Karen however was not in attendance. This discussion will be postponed until Karen attends the next meeting.

**4. Member Organization Updates**

**A. St. Charles Park District**

- i. Engineering feasibility study presentation and discussion scheduled for July 11, 2017.

Holly Cabel will schedule the presentation of the Engineering feasibility study to the St. Charles Park District Board for the July 11, 2017 meeting. The presentation will be similar to that being presented at the Government Services Committee meeting. (See item below for more detailed information.)

**B. City of St. Charles**

- i. Engineering Feasibility Study Presentation to City Council at the Government Services Committee Meeting June 26, 2017

Chris Adesso will schedule the Engineering Feasibility Study presentation for the June 26 Government Services Committee meeting. Greg Chismark from WBK and Chris Adesso will focus on the results of the study. The members of this group discussed the following points to capture in the presentation:

1. Recap of the feasibility study and findings.
2. Is this project and construction possible?
3. Recap the preliminary discussion with the IDNR.
4. Present basic concept drawing(s).
5. Present estimated cost of Phase I/Design Engineering and approximate construction cost depending on the concept.
6. Questions and feedback from Council.

The following action items were also discussed:

1. Meet with property land owner(s) who have water access to the river to discuss the project and request their support.
2. John Rabchuk will ask Mark Koenen for another item to be placed on the June 26 Government Services Committee meeting agenda. This item will include the request the City's support of Phase I/Design Engineering phase of the project. John will cover the meetings held with various philanthropic/foundation groups and their commitment to date. This task force however needs the City's (and St. Charles Park District) support including some type of financial commitment for the project to move forward.

ii. Update on IDNR Discussions

Chris Adesso and Greg Chismark discussed the project with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (hereafter referred to as "IDNR"). Chris mentioned it was a positive meeting, and according to John Rabchuk, Greg also agreed. Overall, IDNR did not see any "red" flags regarding issuing the project a permit or any issues with the purpose of the project.

IDNR had a very favorable reaction to making the dam safer and lower. The agency feels the permitting process will be straightforward with relocating the dam as long it is no longer being used for its original intention. There is an existing check list that will be given to those managing the project with jurisdictional "rules" that would need to be reviewed.

IDNR mentioned a couple a couple of items that will need to be addressed moving forward:

1. IDNR will require another public agency to own and operate the newly constructed dam another public agency would need to be assigned.
2. Depending on the concept chosen, project may need to address the riparian rights with those properties that have water access to the river. An attorney would need to be assigned to address this matter. (There are currently four owners who have riparian rights, City of St. Charles, Baker Hotel, Salerno's,

& Carroll Towers.)

**C. River Corridor Foundation**

A meeting to present the Feasibility Study to River Corridor Foundation will be scheduled for July 19, 2017. Presentation will be similar to that presented at the City's Government Services Committee meeting and the St. Charles Park District Board.

**5. Update on Second Meeting with Potential Corporate/Philanthropic Funding Source**

**A. Update on Corporate/Philanthropic Donors Meeting on April 28, 2017**

John Rabchuk had a follow up meeting with corporate/philanthropic foundation donors on April 28, 2017. It was a very positive meeting and both have offered a financial commitment of up to \$100,000 for each of the next 2 to 3 years based on the city's commitment to the project.

The corporate donor has strong affiliations with other related corporate foundations and they have mentioned that they will be instrumental in referring the Active River Project to these other foundations.

Other sources of funding include may include pledges from local families and a number of private foundations that operate under the Community Foundation of the Fox River Valley umbrella..

**B. Donor Requirements**

- i. Discussion on the Creation and Management of an Active River Fund under Community Foundation Umbrella

John Rabchuk briefly discussed establishing an Active River Foundation account under the River Corridor/Community Foundation so donations can be appropriately administered.

**6. Marketing, Publicity and Community Outreach**

**A. Pottawatomie Garden Club Presentation**

A presentation to Pottawatomie Garden Club is scheduled for Monday, July 24, 2017, from 1:00-1:45 p.m. at Baker Methodist Church.

**7. Other**

**A. Update from Trish Beckjord on the GreenTown Fox Valley Symposium**

Trish Beckjord updated the task force on the Wisconsin Illinois River Trail presentation at the GreenTown Fox Valley Symposium last week. Karen Miller, Executive Planner from Kane County Development and Community Services Department led the discussion on improving the water quality, habitat and recreational amenities of the Fox River.

Trish Beckjord recommended Karen be invited to one of the River Corridor Foundation meetings and give a 15 minute presentation on this topic; it may open some funding opportunities. John Rabchuk recommended Trish call Karen and see if she could speak at the June River Corridor Foundation meeting.

**B. District 303 High School Students Water Testing Program.**

John Rabchuk mentioned the District 303 high school students conducted their first water testing of the river last week.

**8. Adjourn**

The next meeting is scheduled for May 15, at 8:00 a.m. at the Baker Memorial Community Center.

Motion by Chris Adesso to adjourn the meeting, second by Holly Cabel.

Voice vote: Ayes: unanimous; Nays – None Absent: C. Bong, J. Enck, M. Meyers, J. Wessel

-Motion carried at 9:11 a.m.