

MINUTES
FOX RIVER DAM JOINT TASK FORCE
THURSDAY, MARCH 28, 2024
6:00PM, COUNCIL CHAMBERS
2 E. MAIN STREET

1. Call to Order

Heather McGuire, City Administrator, called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

2. Roll Call

Present: Mike Kies, Conrad Newell, John Rabchuk, Ald. Ryan Bongard, Jim Cooke,
Ald. Bryan Wirball, Brian Pohrte, Bob Thomson, Ald. Paul Lencioni

Absent: None

3. Elect Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary

Motion by Lencioni, second by Wirball to elect Jim Cooke as Chair of the Fox River Dam Joint Task Force.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Kies, Newell, Rabchuk, Bongard, Cooke, Wirball, Pohrte, Thomson, Lencioni. Nays: None. **Motion Carried**

Motion by Lencioni, second by Bongard to elect Conrad Newell as Vice Chair of the Fox River Dam Joint Task Force.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Kies, Newell, Rabchuk, Bongard, Cooke, Wirball, Pohrte, Thomson, Lencioni. Nays: None. **Motion Carried**

Motion by Wirball, second by Bongard to elect Mike Kies as Secretary of the Fox River Dam Joint Task Force.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Kies, Newell, Rabchuk, Bongard, Cooke, Wirball, Pohrte, Thomson, Lencioni. Nays: None. **Motion Carried**

Summary of Discussion(s):

City who is offering their administrative support during these meetings, two administrative team members will be present at each meeting.

4. Adopt Rules of Order and Public Comment Rules

Summary of Discussion(s):

- Rules of order and public comment rules
- Run meeting by Robert rules-strictly on public comment policy.
- The City of St. Charles policy does not reflect a time limitation on public comment; if the task forces would like to add a time limitation, they should insert. Time limits will be at the authority of the chair, they will allow 5 minutes for public comment to extend or suspend-motion.

5. Set Goals

Summary of Discussion(s):

- Set Goals: This a volunteer committee, not official committee of the City of St. Charles or Park District.
- Suggestions for future meetings; host meetings; alternate locations.
- Present to City Counsel and Park District with information and/or facts of what the river would be like with or without the dam.
- The committee is only to gather information to make a recommendation.
- Impact of the community, will offer presenters and presentations.
- Present to counsel with information/facts of what the river would look like with or without the dam.
- Conrad is a natural resource consultant in various agencies. The process called "scooping" is used in both Federal and state laws to craft what an analysis of a project's impact would look like and the task force could use this methodology and then invite the community to give opinions. Conrad recommends goals that are broad, then open to the general public.
- The goal is not to come with a suggestion or proposal.
- IDNR/Army Core needs a commitment by March 2025; reports and information.
- A recommendation to remove/does not guarantee that the removal would happen if there is no funding. There is a cost sharing metric.
- IDNR is the owner of the Dam.
- City intent is to explore all options and positions before taking a stance.

- The state does have the cash on hand for Dam removal, but we are a ways out.
- Dam removals usually take 10-20 years to make a decision.
- The recommendation is to push the state/feds that we need more time than a year.
- The goal of the take force is to be completed by March 1st
- Timeline needs to be flexible and be dynamic based on the information that is gathered.
- Goals will be a running agenda.
- Public Works will be presenting the presentation next meeting.

6. Discuss Necessary Resources

- The next agenda/meeting can discuss the history of the Dam and how we got here.
- Presentation for next meeting can be 20mins regarding the history.
- Questions are about hydrology-consider obtaining a consultant. Resolutions points preapproved by the counsel and the park district and split evenly-25k threshold.

7. Set Meeting Schedule

- Suggestions for future meetings; host meetings; alternate locations.
- Meeting at same location with the city providing Administrative supports.
- Record meetings/email Heather with what documents needed.
- Task force will need to provide dates for meeting days and times. Looking more towards Thursdays.
- Dates of meetings will be posted on City Website or possibly Park District.

8. Set Next Agenda

9. Public Comment

John Trankina
Charlene Paradise
Tim Harbaugh
Brandt Richter

Steve Bertheau
Tom Capek
Patrice Bertheau
Christian Pilapil
Wayne Valley
Greg Rusnak

10. Adjourn

Motion by Bongard, second by Wirball to adjourn the meeting at 7:17 pm.

Voice Vote: Ayes: Kies, Newell, Rabchuk, Bongard, Cooke, Wirball, Pohrte, Thomson, Lencioni. Nays: None. **Motion Carried**