April 1835 James T. Gifford described the Fox River as:

“The Fox is the finest stream I ever saw, it has uniformity in this state a limestone bottom, its current uniform and gentle, its waters pure and is abundantly supplied with fish.”
Water Uses

• 1835 Mr. Gifford and Mr. Kimball agree to construct a dam for a flour mill and a saw mill.

• 1837-38 the first bridge was constructed.

• 1838-39 the first Dam was constructed.

• 1848 construction began on the first railroad.

• 1850 Elgin population was 2,359.

• 1851 Elgin was the third most important manufacturing town in Illinois.
River Discharges

• The late 1800’s saw the construction of combined sewers to get sewage out of neighborhoods and to the Fox River.

• The dam also made Elgin a major supplier of ice to the Chicago area in the early 1900’s.

• By the winter of 1908/09 the Chicago Board of Health condemned ice from the Fox River.

• The Sanitary District Act of 1917.

• 1922 Elgin population was 28,359.

• 1922 Residents of Elgin voted 480 to 131 to form the Sanitary District of Elgin.
Wastewater Treatment

• Interceptor sewers and wastewater plants construction of the began in 1924.

• The Treatment Plants went online in the fall of 1926.

• In 1930 the Illinois State Department of Health is a detailed report on the condition of the Fox River.

• Additional improvements where slow due to the depression and the start of WW II.

• Post war 1950’s saw growth and improvements to the sewer systems to prevent sewer backup in Elgin.
Sanitary District of Elgin

• In the 1960’s the North WWTP was constructed to prevent sewer backups and reduce overflows.

• In 1969 the Village of South Eglin voted to join the SDE

• The 1970’s and the Clean Water Act sparked numerous improvements and service expansions.

• In 1972 SDE agreed to take over operations of the Elgin Mental Health Hospital Wastewater Facilities.

• 1972 Fox River had Phosphorus limits assigned, later changed to River above the chain of lakes.
1983 The Village of West Dundee signed an agreement for SDE to provide WWTP.

1990 The Sanitary District of Elgin became the Fox River Water Reclamation District.

1994 FRWRD agreed to take over operations of the Skyline Water and Wastewater Facilities.

By 2003 all Skyline wastewater was transported to the FRWRD South WWTP.
Fox River Water Reclamation District

• In 2001 The Fox River Study Group was created to …

• In 2003 the West WWTP was expanded from 1.5 MGD to 5.0 MGD with a Biological Nutrient Removal option.

• Since 2002 FRWRD has spent over $50 million on plant expansions, upgrades and lift station replacement projects.

• 2010 FRWRD submitted its Long Term Control Plan (LTCP) to the IEPA to address the District’s only CSO.
QUESTIONS?