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Southeastern Wisconsin Fox River Commission Meeting Minutes

Friday, January 21, 2022- 1:00 PM

Alan Barrows opened the meeting and served as the meeting Chairperson in place of Katelyn Bratz who was not able to attend.

1. Call meeting to order, - 1:02
2. pledge of allegiance, roll call and verify quorum.

Commissioners and (alternates)- 9 for quorum		
Representing	Name	Attended (yes/no, by phone)
Kenosha County	Andy Buehler	N
Racine County	Chad Sampson (Jon Grove)	(Y)
Waukesha County	Alan Barrows, Vice Chair (Leif Hauge)	Y
City of Waukesha	Robin Grams (Doug Koehler)	Y
Town of Mukwonago	Katelyn Bratz, Chair (Barb Holtz)	(Y)
Town of Vernon	Lee Manthey	Y
Town of Waterford	Jim Pindel (Shelley Tessmer)	Y
Town of Waukesha	Ken Miller	N
Village of Big Bend	Larry Long	Y
Village of Mukwonago	Wayne Castle	Y
Village of Waterford	Fred Koeller (Al Sikora)	Y
Village of Rochester	Wayne Jensen, Treasurer	Y
Town of Burlington	Russ Egan	Y
City of Burlington	Donny Hefty	Y
Town of Wheatland		
Village of Salem Lakes	Bill Hopkins	N
SEWRPC	Tom Slawski (non-voting), Secretary	Y
WDNR	Sara DeBruijn (non-voting)	N
WDNR	Rachel Sabre (non-voting)	Y



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	Quorum Numbers	12
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Guests	
Representing	Name
Kenosha County	Mark Jenks
Resource Environmental Solutions	Mark O'Leary
Resource Environmental Solutions	Gregg Breese
Waukesha County Land Resources Division, LCD Conservation Specialist	Matt Herrick

3. Check that Audio Recorder is running.
4. Approval of minutes from previous meeting held December 3, 2021.
 - a. Donny Hefty made a motion to approve the minutes.
 - b. Fred Koeller seconded the motion.
 - c. Motion passes
5. Treasurer's Report.

Wayne Jensen summarized the Treasurer's report that covers both November and December. Most recent expenses include the newspaper notices for Racine, Kenosha, and Waukesha counties as well as the Salt Workshop in November and closing the Reidy project in December. This provided an ending balance of \$109,017.01 in the money market account. Total available balance for projects in year 2022 (ENUM 22 held by WDNR) is \$23,494.96 and a copy of this report is appended to these minutes.

- a. Donny Hefty made a motion to accept the treasurer's report
- b. Russ Egan seconded the motion
- c. Treasurer report was approved

Old Business

- d. Fox River 2022 Summit – Tom Slawski

Tom Slawski summarized the full agenda for the upcoming Summit on March 17, 2022. It will be a full day event and most notably we have two keynote speakers that include WDNR Secretary Preston Cole and John Jansen, and more information can be found at the Southeast Fox River Partnership website here at

[2022 Fox River Summit | waukeshafoxriver \(southeastfoxriver.org\)](https://www.southeastfoxriver.org/2022-Fox-River-Summit)

Jim Pindell noted that we have not yet taken a vote on whether the Commissioners and alternates and elected officials will be paid for attending the Summit, like we have done in the past. Alan agreed and that he would entertain a motion to fund Commissioners, alternates, and elected officials to be paid by the SEWFRC for attending the upcoming



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Fox River Summit, and this motion was moved forward by Fred Koeller and seconded by Jim Pindel and motion passed unanimously. During discussion Wayne Jensen asked we would pay in one large lump sum or individually. Jim Pindell said that in the past it was much easier to reimburse paid registrations individually, and it was decided that is the best way to do it again this year.

Barb Holtz asked if you register virtually is there a different cost? Tom responded that there is no difference in cost to attend in person versus virtually and the price is \$41.50 per attendee. The planning team has seriously considered participant safety in designing the event and all attendees are encouraged to follow the current CDC COVID guidelines at the venue. However, this is a public event, and there may be individuals that will not be wearing a mask. Therefore, we have developed a virtual option for anyone would be uncomfortable in that environment. Registration can be found here at <https://www.southeastfoxriver.org/>

e. SEWRPC Survey from Waterford dam to Illinois border – Tom Slawski
Tom Slawski has shared the work with Foth and RES, and there is nothing new to report. Alan noted that Waukesha County continues to use the draft maps of priority parcels to reduce nonpoint source loads for targeting priority areas for phosphorus and sediment removal in agricultural areas, which have been extremely useful and helpful for project planning. He noted that those ArcMap datasets are available for the entire watershed area of the Fox River and available for all communities and just contact SEWRPC if you need copies. Donny Hefty also noted that those draft maps have also been working great for project planning as part of the City of Burlington’s Department of Public Works Adaptive Management permitting program.

f. John Kojis Farm Field gully repair project
Jon Grove noted that this project closed and requested that it be removed from this agenda. Alan replied that we would remove this from the agenda. Jim Pindel noted that we can drop these from the agenda, but that we need to keep them in the treasurer’s report until we get clearance from WDNR to reimburse the Commission.

g. Report on Fox River Park Project
Alan Barrows noted that continue to work on permitting with WDNR. Because this project exceeded \$100,000 total cost, it required County Board approval. This was recently approved by the County and it is now budgeted as a capital project.

h. Zanella Shoreline Restoration project –
Jon Grove noted that this project closed and requested that it be removed from this agenda. Alan replied that we would remove this from the agenda and keep it in the treasurer’s report until we get clearance from WDNR to reimburse the Commission.

i. Reidy Shoreline Restoration Project –
Jon Grove noted that this project closed and requested that it be removed from this agenda. Alan replied that we would remove this from the agenda and keep it in the treasurer’s report until we get clearance from WDNR to reimburse the Commission.

j. Schultz Shoreline Protection Project-
Jon Grove noted that they are working on the permitting for this project and plan to work on it in 2022.



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6. New Business

- a.** Report on activities of the work being done by Foth and RES--Gregg Breese and Mark O'Leary gave a summary of their progress to date using a powerpoint presentation entitled "SEWFRC Ecological Funding Implementation Plan Status Update". A copy of the PowerPoint presentation is appended with these minutes and general discussion was summarized below:

This presentation or some version of this presentation is planned to be given by Gregg at the Fox River Summit. This is seen as a great opportunity to invite new stakeholders and landowners to add to the list of potential partners and projects. They then reviewed several elements of the presentation that included the draft prioritization process, initial results and site investigation tool, grant matrix detail, stakeholder engagement, and the RCPP grant application progress.

The following main elements were agreed to be either followed up on or needed to be developed further as this project proceeds:

Review draft stakeholder list and proposed outreach

RES recognized that development of the stakeholder list will likely require one or more additional meetings and that they need input and help from SEWFRC to develop and refine the stakeholder list. RES requested that SEWFRC review and update the draft stakeholder list from page 20 of the presentation, so we can begin to add to it and develop our list of landowner contacts.

Review funding matrix

Review approach to project prioritization-using a combination of GIS information and they are willing to go into more details if necessary. They tried to sort and categorize each priority project to help identify potential funding sources, and the tool is designed to easily find sites and data layers associated with each location (meta data- project type, name of grant, funder, gis layers, description of grant, money and match, and deadlines), then it links back to grant categories that were flagged. Using the GIS prioritization that was developed by the SEWRPC, the project team is incorporating all this this information as a framework for this effort.

RCCP grant

RCCP grant deadline is April 13th, 2022, which is much earlier than previously thought. The RCCP will be submitted at the watershed scale boundary at the \$10 million maximum level with 50% match. Only private land projects can be used for funding nonpoint source pollution reduction activities, but public projects can be used as a match. So, communities actively engaged in Adaptive Management as part of WPDES permits, County Land Conservation Department activities, and MS4 activities could be used as potential match for this larger grant. Going bigger to watershed scale would allow public match cost-share for additional communities both



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inside and outside the boundaries of the SEWFRC to help achieve the grant matching funds. The RCCP grant can be shared across state lines. Hence, the Fox Waterway Agency has been a partner and potentially could be used as a cost share for the grant. However, RES will need to look into this. Nonetheless, RES will need letters of support from communities outside the SEWFRC boundary in support of this grant.

Next steps/Clarification

RES is working to clarify on whether RCCP funds can be spent on the mainstem of the Fox River, it might only be allowed on tributaries.

RES will develop a template letter agreement for communities/potential project partners inside and outside the jurisdictional boundary of the SEWFRC so that potential partners can better understand what match looks like to and to be able to communicate that to willing landowners.

Send info for Adaptive Management coordination with RCCP grants-(this question arose from Donny Hefty who asked “Are sites already enrolled in Adaptive Management areas for WWTP’s still eligible for match in the proposed RCCP grant program?” Reach out to the following WWTP’s that have approved Adaptive Management plans within the Fox River watershed:

- City of Burlington WWTP
- Village of Mukwonago WWTP
- Western Racine County Sewerage District

Reach out to other counties within the SEWFRC (i.e., Waukesha and Kenosha counties) for additional project specific landowners/project lists.

Need to determine how much of their Land Conservation Departments are allowed to serve as match in support of the RCCP grant program for counties both within (Kenosha, Racine, Waukesha) versus outside (Walworth) the SEWFRC boundary.

Need to determine the best approach to handle grant administration for projects proposed as part of the RCCP grant program (note-SEWFRC have no staff to administer grants)

Need to determine if match for this RCCP grant can come from organizations outside WI (in the state of IL), specifically the Fox Waterway Agency’s (FWA) boundary is contiguous with the SEWFRC’s boundary at the state line, and the FWA conducts significant dredging and other projects that would seem appropriate match. Note that the SEWFRC and FWA have been seeking to collaborate in some sort of grant project for years, so this RCCP grant may be that opportunity.

Funding Issues for FOTH & RES

Jim Pindel noted that he has been trying to determine how and when will the money get to the SEWFRC in order to be able to pay FOTH & Res for this project. To date



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he has not had much luck, but he continued to follow up on an email from last November from Sara Deburg who claimed to be “working on getting the funding and contract put together for the enumeration for the Fox River Commission in this last budget, and I hope to be able to get that to you by next week”.

b. North Tichigan Road Shoreline Restoration Presentation–

Jon Grove gave a brief summary that this project consists of 3 separate landowners with severely eroded shoreline and Chad Sampson gave formal presentation at the last meeting. Requesting \$17,000 cost to the Commission for this proposal. Wayne confirmed that we have \$25,000 available Jim Pindel noted that with our new restrictions we would have to handle these as 3 separate projects, because of the \$9,000 limit per lake shoreline project. The project will be billed out as \$5,300 per parcel per project. Based on the grant scoring criteria checklist it was determined that the project attained a total score of 48, which exceeds the funding minimum criteria requirement. Therefore, Alan motioned to approve the project for funding and this was seconded by Jim Pindel. Motion passed unanimously.

c. 2021 – 2030 SEWFRC Implementation Plan – Tom Slawski & Alan Barrows

No additional updates for this to report from Tom or Alan.

d. Election of Officers –Alan Barrows

Jim Pindel made a motion to nominate Katelyn Bratz, Chair, Alan Barrows, Vice Chair, Wayne Jensen, Treasurer, and Tom Slawski, Secretary officers for SEWFRC. Seconded from Russ Egan, and no other nominations for Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, or Secretary were provided. Alan entertained a motion to close the nominations and cast unanimous vote for Katelyn Bratz, Chair, Alan Barrows, Vice Chair, Wayne Jensen, Treasurer, and Tom Slawski, Secretary. That motion was provided by Larry Long and seconded by Robin Grams. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Reports & Updates

a. Report on activities of Fox Waterway Agency of Illinois – FWA or Tom Slawski

No updates provided.

b. Report on future of the Echo Lake Dam in Burlington-

Donny Hefty stated that all the information related to Echo Lake dam and supporting documents regarding alternatives being considered, including costs, are on the following website at [Echo Lake Dam | Burlington, WI - Official Website \(burlington-wi.gov\)](http://www.burlington-wi.gov/echo-lake-dam). He also mentioned that dredging is likely to be considered as part of the future of this impoundment.

c. Report on Fox River Watershed TMDL progress – Rachel Sabre

Rachel noted that monitoring will continue through at least June 2022.

d. Report on the Fox Watershed Mitigation Plan- Tom Slawski

Nothing new to report.



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e. Watershed Protection Committee of Racine County-
Jon Grove noted that there is a Winter Workshop February 11, 2022, and it is free to register. Key speaker is Dave Brown, a nationally renowned speaker, and all are encouraged to attend. See website for more details [Watershed Protection Committee of Racine County, WI \(wpcracinecounty.org\)](http://wpcracinecounty.org).

f. SEWFRC Website – Al Sikora or Alan Barrows
Alan reminded the group that anyone completing projects to please send photos and details so our website remains up to date.

8. Correspondence

Tom Slawski noted that he sent an EPA Releases CWSRF Best Practices Guide for Financing Nonpoint Source Solutions! on 1/12/2022. See website link here at [CWSRF Best Practices Guide for Financing Nonpoint Source Solutions: Building Successful Project Funding \(EPA 841-B-21-012\)](#)

Miscellaneous Issues –

Alan introduced a new Waukesha County staff member Matt Herrick to the group. Matt is the new Conservation Specialist for the Waukesha County Land Resources Division.

Waukesha County is set to acquire funds through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). Working to use these funds for water quality requirements. Water quality and stormwater management projects are potentially available for funding through ARPA.

Next Meeting and Location is February 18, 2022, at the Village of Mukwonago at 1pm.

Motion to Adjourn the meeting given by Donny Hefty
Jim Pindel seconded the motion
Motion Passes