

Commission members present:

Al Sikora (Village of Waterford) (Chairman)
Don Scott (Town of Vernon) (Vice-Chairman)
Francis Stadler (Village of Big Bend)
Ron Peterson (Village of Big Bend)
Alan Barrows (Waukesha County)
Doug Koehler (City of Waukesha)
Robert Bartholomew (Town of Vernon)
Barb Holtz (Town of Mukwonago)
Randy Craig (Town of Vernon)
Mary Pindel (Town of Waterford – Alternate)
Shelley Tessmer (Town of Waterford)
Jim Ritchie (Wisconsin DNR)
Tom Slawski (SEWRPC)
Jim Pindel (Town of Waterford) (Secretary/Treasurer)

Commission members absent:

Randy Meier (Town of Waterford)
Dean Falkner (Village of Mukwonago)
Chad Sampson (Racine County)
Ken Miller (Town of Waukesha)

Also present: Dan Treloar of Kenosha County and Michael Schwar a resident of the Town of Vernon.

At 1:05 PM, Chairman Al Sikora called the SEWFRC meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Roll call was taken and a quorum was confirmed.

Minutes The minutes from the December 5, 2014 meeting were reviewed. It was motioned by Bob Bartholomew that the minutes be approved and seconded by Randy Craig. The minutes were approved unanimously.

- a) **Treasurer Reports** – The Treasurer’s Report for December 2014 was reviewed first. In summary we started the month with \$128,121.11 in our money market account. We received an interest payment of \$20.76 leaving us with a final balance of \$128,142.87 at the end of the month. The undedicated grant funds left in ENUMs 18 and 19 amounts to \$59,305.40. Jim Pindel pointed out that the WWMD dredging permit application had incurred over \$50,000 in expenses in 2014 and that Don Baron of the WWMD assured him that the project would be closed out about the end of the first quarter of 2015. So this project will be used to completely finish off all the ENUM-18 and start the deductions against ENUM-19. Jim Pindel said that he received a phone call and confirming email from Chad Sampson stating that he had a conversation with Julie Anderson of Racine County asking her how our commission would go about getting the \$10,000 allocation that was included in the 2015 Racine County budget. Julie told Chad to have us send a letter to

the interim County Executive Peter Hansen. Jim said he would send this requesting letter.
Old Business

a) Fox River Partnership Summit: Tom Slawski or SEWRPC Tom said that he would need help putting the information materials and registration application, using PayPal, on our website as we did last year. Al said that he would help him get it done. Then Tom asked if anyone would volunteer to make a presentation at the Summit about our commission and what we have accomplished in the last year. Since no volunteers came forward, Tom said he would make the presentation. Tom said he was prepared to send out a blast of invitations to all past attendees as well as all municipalities along the river, legislators and affiliated organizations. Shelly Tessmer asked if it would be appropriate for us to invite Scott Gunderson to be a speaker or at least be an attendee. It was pointed out that Scott Gunderson was one of the original founders of our commission and that he might want to present how and why we were commissioned. Tom went on to enumerate some of the presentations and authors as listed here:

- The fox Chain O'Lakes Health Report for 2014 by Kathleen Paap
- Meeting municipal EPA responsibilities with students & social media Gary Swick, Friends of the Fox River and Deb Perryman
- Fox River Water Action Volunteer Monitoring Program in Wisconsin by Jayne Jenkins Program coordinator, Waukesha County Parks and land Use
- How we did it to develop the National Rock River Water Trail in WI & IL by Frank Schier Rock River Trail initiation Founder & Coordinator
- How to talk to and engage Farmers The ST. Croix/Red Cedar River Basin Farmer-Led Watershed Council Project by Julia Olmstead UW-Extension Watershed Project coordinator.
- Birds, waters, landscapes & People, with the potential application in the Fox River basin by Jeb Barzen International Crane Foundation, Director of Field Ecology

Francis Stadler asked where the Summit would be held and he was advised it will be at the same location as the last two years.at the Veterans Terrace in Burlington. All commissioners were encouraged to attend and learn from the event.

b) Mukwonago River shoreline restoration at WE Energies Site. Alan Barrows said that after our last commission meeting he met with Dean Falkner and they decided to go approach WE Energies and do that portion of the project only. They can use Villages trail to gain access to the property. Alan said he hoped that when Alex Seifert sees what the completed project looks like on the WE Energies property he will want to get on board and do his property. Jim Pindel asked what portion of the entire project the WE Energies property amounted to and Alan said it represented about 75% of the project shoreline.

c) Big Bend Boat/canoe launch retaining wall fence & vegetation – Francis Stadler said that it was the same as last meeting. We will have to wait till

things thaw out next spring to get some work done.

- d) Wood Drive Erosion Control Project – Chad Sampson was not present. Jim Pindel said that he received an email from Chad saying that there was nothing to report on any of the three projects that he is working on. All three projects will have to wait until spring when things thaw out and work can be done.
- e) Malchine Farm field Erosion Control – Chad Sampson was not present see item (d) above.
- f) Highway 164 Ravine repair Project: - Chad Sampson was not present see item (d) above.
- g) Waterford Impoundment ESR Project Dredging Permit: - WWMD. Jim Pindel reported that there has been communication back and forth between the WDNR and the WWMD represented by Graef Engineering. Many items have been resolved but a few need to be negotiated and resolved. The main issue still seems to be whether a General Permit or Individual Permit is required. Jim said there is a meeting scheduled for 1/29/15, to hopefully resolve these issues. So there will be more to report next month.
- h) Schuetze Playground Storm Water Abatement: - David Burch. Doug Koehler said that he had talked to David Burch and that we were only a part of a larger scale overall project. They had obtained funding from other organizations and that funds have been transferred to the Parks Department. The expectation is that the project will go forward this coming spring.
- i) Town of Vernon Farm field Gully repair: Alan Barrows said that he turned in the paperwork for this project just before the meeting started. The only items that still need to be completed to finalize the project is proof of payment to two of the contractors. As soon as Alan has this proof he will scan and forward it to Jim Pindel and Jim Ritchie, at which time the project will be closed out. The one thing Alan does not have at this point is a good after picture showing the swale fully planted and grown, which will not be available until sometime next summer.

New Business

- a) Consideration of expanding the Commission's jurisdiction south to the Illinois border Tom Slawski said that he successfully had a date to make a presentation to the Town of Salem, which is 2/9/15 at 7:00 PM, he said that Jim Pindel has agreed to accompany him for this presentation. Tom said he has not received a response from Sue Gerber of Silver Lake concerning our presentation to them. Tom asked Dan Treloar of Kenosha County if he had any suggestions of how to reach Sue. Dan said Tom should call her and offered to give Tom her phone number.

- b) Consideration of how we operate with a larger membership base: Jim Pindel said that he had nothing new to bring up at this time and added that anyone who has an idea should write it down and bring it to the commission at our next meeting.
- c) Possible diversion of City of Waukesha water treatment plant discharge away from the Fox River: Jim Ritchie said that it is the same as last month. The WDNR has received clarifications from the City on some items. It is expected that the Environmental Impact Statement will be ready late this spring. At that time it will be open to public comment and discussion.

Reports and Updates

At this point Francis Stadler brought up the fact that we have over \$59,000 available in ENUM-19 and he asked why we couldn't select some areas shown in the GIS map provided by Graef Engineering where we needed to stop erosion from coming into the Fox River. Francis asked why we couldn't just come up the river and shore up the shoreline wherever it needed it. It was pointed out to Francis that wherever the erosion exited, we needed to identify the landowner involved and get permission to do the work there. Although not mentioned, we would also look for a 10% cost share from the landowner. Francis was commended for his initiative in this regard and it was mentioned that all the river municipalities should be thinking the same way he is. Jim Pindel pointed out that there were 19 sites identified in Waukesha County that need erosion control addressing. At this point Alan Barrows said that he wanted a hard copy of the GIS mapping study to keep on file for the County. Jim Pindel said he had one with him and gave it to Alan after the meeting.

- a) Report on activities of Fox Waterway Agency (FWA) of Illinois –Tom Slawski said that he had nothing new to report and he would make sure that they were invited to the Summit.
- b) Progress toward designation as a “National Water Trail” – Village of Waterford. Al Sikora said that he knew that the Village was very excited about this program but had nothing to report at this time. Jim Ritchie added that the Village had applied for grants from the WDNR for canoe/kayak launches, one to be located at the Waterford Dam and the other to be located at the Rochester Dam. He said that the Village was awarded a Stewardship grant for both of these launches. This was done in cooperation with Racine County who owns the location at the Rochester Dam. Tom Slawski said that he had encouraged them to at least provide a booth and display at the Summit to show their intentions and progress.
- c) SEWFRC Website – Al Sikora said he had no updates at this time.

Correspondence –

- a. 12/7/14 Mark your calendars notification from Jim Pindel to all commissioners and friends of the commission.

- b. 12/10/14 Email forwarded by Al Sikora regarding Update: FEMA floodplain maps for the Upper Fox Watershed
- c. 1/7/15 Email from Tom Slawski to the Village of Silver Lake requesting to be put on their agenda for us to make a presentation. Also included a draft MoU.
- d. 1/7/15 Email from Tom Slawski to the Town of Salem requesting to be put on their agenda for us to make a presentation. Also included a draft MoU.

Miscellaneous Issues –

Shelly Tessmer announced the upcoming annual Fox River CAUSE sheephead tournament which will be held at the Tichigan Lions Club on February 28, 2015. There will be food and door prizes. There is a \$20 admission fee all of which is used to support fish stocking in the Waterford impoundment. Last October the Fox River CAUSE provided \$4000 worth of fish (1500 fish in all) stock to the impoundment. The WDNR selected the varieties to be stocked and they choose large and small mouth bass.

Al Sikora pointed out that the WWMD was holding a meet and greet affair at the Cruise Inn tomorrow night from 4:00 to 6:00 PM. All are invited to attend and meet the WWMD staff and fellow riparian owners.

It was motioned by Francis Stadler and seconded by Ron Peterson that the meeting be closed and the motion carried unanimously.

Meeting Closed at 1:50 PM

THE NEXT OFFICIAL MEETING WILL BE Friday, February 27, 2015 at 1:00 PM. (Meeting Location: Town of Vernon Fire Station #1, W233 S7475 Woodland Lane, Big Bend, WI 53103.)