

**Commission members present:**

Barb Holtz (Town of Mukwonago) (Vice-Chairperson)  
Robert Bartholomew (Town of Vernon)  
Chad Sampson (Racine County)  
Francis Stadler (Village of Big Bend)  
Doug Koehler (City of Waukesha)  
Shelley Tessmer (Town of Waterford)  
Alan Barrows (Waukesha County)  
Tom Slawski (SEWRPC)  
Michelle Scott (Wisconsin DNR)  
Jim Ritchie (Wisconsin DNR)  
Mary Pindel (Town of Waterford – Alternate)  
Jim Pindel (Town of Waterford) (Secretary/Treasurer)

**Commission members absent:**

Al Sikora (Village of Waterford) (Chairman)  
Dean Falkner (Village of Mukwonago)  
Ken Miller (Town of Waukesha)  
Randy Meier (Town of Waterford)  
Ron Peterson (Village of Big Bend)

**Also present:** Dan Treloar of Kenosha County, Jim Bergles of the City of Burlington, Paul Kling of the WWMD and Barbara Messick of the Village of Waterford.

At 1:02 PM, Vice-Chairperson Barb Holtz 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 11, 2015 meeting were reviewed. It was motioned by Bob Bartholomew that the minutes be approved and the motion was seconded by Francis Stadler. The minutes were approved unanimously.

**Treasurer Reports** – The Treasurer’s Reports for December 2015 was reviewed. In summary we started the month with \$86,078.31 in our money market account. We received an interest payment of \$14.62 leaving us with a final balance of \$86,092.93 at the end of the year. The undedicated grant funds left in ENUM-19 & 20 amounts to \$181,182.29. It was motioned by Doug Koehler that the treasurer’s report be accepted and it was seconded by Francis Stadler. The motion carried unanimously.

**Election of Officers for the Calendar year of 2016:** Francis Stadler nominated the existing officers for their respective positions and the nomination was seconded by Alan Barrows. The nominations carried unanimously.

**Old Business**

- a) Fox River Partnership Summit: Tom Slawski said that the Summit date of 3/18/16 is coming up fast. Tom said that he does not have the full agenda ready yet but has most of the speakers lined up. One of the keynote speakers will be Aaron Thompson of the UW extension who will be talking about the emerging science of watershed planning, addressing the need to understand the social content. Tom said he is trying to get Harald (Jordy) Jordahi the director of America's watershed initiative who will discuss the report card for the upper Mississippi River watershed. Frank Veraldi of USACE Chicago District will talk about Fox River connectivity and habitat. Brian Daly of the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning will discuss the Algonquin – Carpentersville Fox River corridor plan. Joseph Keller of the Fox Waterway Agency of Illinois will give an update on what they are doing to preserve their waterway. Jim Pindel will do an update of our activities. Jeffrey Mengier of Hey and Associates will present the Fox River ecosystem partnership and northeastern Illinois invasive plants. Todd Levin of Carrol University will talk on mussels and Tim Plude of the WDNR will make a presentation on the Starry Stonewort and the potential implications for the Fox River. Jim Pindel reported that Al Sikora told him that the website for the Summit could be viewed at [SEWFRC.org/summit](http://SEWFRC.org/summit) and that the PayPal means of paying for admission was included and working. Shelley Tessmer asked for the price of admission and Tom said it was \$35 per person in advance and would be \$50 per person at the door. It was motioned by Shelley Tessmer and seconded by Alan Barrows that the commission would reimburse any commissioners who attend the Summit for their attendance fee. The motion carried unanimously. Tom asked for a 50% cash advance of the funds we dedicated for this summit and a check for \$2750 was given to Tom. Tom said he would forward the Summit brochure to Jim Pindel for distribution to the whole commission and also asked that we would sign up as soon as possible.
- b) Mukwonago River shoreline restoration at WE Energies Site. Alan Barrows said that he has not had any contact with WE Energies for a couple months now and had nothing to report.
- c) Big Bend Boat/canoe launch retaining wall fence & vegetation – Francis Stadler Alan Barrows pointed out that at our last meeting he gave some information he found on the internet advising what kind of native plants could be planted at this site. David Burch a landscape architect for Waukesha County was working on a design for the plantings at this site but Alan had not received it yet.
- d) Wood Drive Erosion Control Project – Chad Sampson said that there has been quite a bit of activity on this project and the Malchine farm field this last week. Chad said that he has received bids from the contractor to do the work on both of these projects. The costs have come in higher than he originally expected and so Chad requested increasing the cost share from the commission from \$5,000 to \$6,000 for the Wood Drive project and from \$6,000 to \$15,000 for the Malchine

farm field project. The reason for the large increase for the Malchine farm field project is that a 15" diameter tile which runs all the way down from STH 164 through the entire farm field cost \$15,000 plus \$4 per foot for installation. The rest of the funds needed Chad is getting from state funds he has available. Jim Pindel said that we have the funds available to cover these increases. Shelley Tessmer motioned to make the increases to both of the projects and Bob Bartholomew seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Harry Bauman the farmer downhill of the Malchine farm field expressed some concerns about the ascetics and some of the details like being assured that all the laterals will be connected back into this large main 15" tile. Jim Pindel asked if the projects would be completed by 6/30/16 and Chad said he told the contractor he must be finished by the end of May.

- e) Malchine Farm field Erosion Control – This project report was made in conjunction with the previous report in (d) above.
- f) Waterford Impoundment ESR Project Dredging Permit: - Paul Kling reported that things are moving slowly. The WDNR has required more testing and are questioning how much silt will run back into the river and percolate down into the ground water. They do not have a specific date for submitting the permit application and there are a few land access issues to resolve. Chad Sampson said that he has received a few phone calls from landowners concerning the piping and disposal site. Paul said to refer these calls to him. He also said that another big issue is to determine just how much phosphorus they will be removing from the river.
- g) Schuetze Playground Storm Water Abatement: - David Burch was not present and Doug Koehler said that now that the weather has turned cold work has stopped and will not be completed until spring. Doug went on to say that the playground area had been moved to make room for the rain garden.
- h) Graefenauer Shoreline Restoration: Alan Barrows said that the contract has been signed and the work will be completed in two parts. The shoreline is populated with mostly buckthorn and honeysuckle and the first phase will be brush removal. The brush will be cut down to ground level and then an herbicide will be applied. This work will be started this coming week. Alan said that he has received shoreland cutting permit and this area is an environmental corridor which requires stringent controls. Alan said that he personally developed a map of all the existing trees which he submitted with the permit application. Alan said that he expected phase 1 to be completed before our next commission meeting and it included perimeter sediment controls in case any erosion occurred due to the brush removal. Phase 2 will start around June 1<sup>st</sup> which will include installation of 580 feet of biologs, plants and seeding. It is sort of a belts and suspenders approach to make sure no erosion occurs.

### **New Business**

- a) Consideration of expanding the Commission's jurisdiction south to the Illinois border Jim Pindel pointed out that Tom Slawski and himself testified before the senate committee on natural resources and energy and the assembly committee on natural resources and sporting heritage. Tom Slawski pointed out that Senator Mary Lazich testified with us before both committees and was very enthusiastic and energetic for our cause. The senate bill passed the full senate last Wednesday and the assembly will vote on it when they come back into session on February 8<sup>th</sup>. We were given a tentative date of April 16<sup>th</sup> for Governor Walker to sign the bill into law and were invited to attend the signing. Jim asked the group for their thoughts on whether we should attend and if we should invite others to attend. The consensus was that we should attend and invite, or at least make them aware of the event, all the legislators involved as well as our commissioners and other organizations concerned with the Fox River such as the WWMD, Friends of the Mukwonago River and the For River CAUSE. Based on this discussion, Jim Pindel will send out an invitation to all the concerned entities as soon as a firm date is established, requesting a RSVP.
- b) Review of SEWFRC Implementation Plan Figure B-3: Jim Pindel asked if this issue could be completed with the addition of a requirement for a "Proof of Satisfactory Completion" form signed by the project sponsor. Alan Barrows stated that he provided two similar forms to Jim Pindel and that he would fashion a new sample or template form appropriate for us before our next meeting.
- c) Consideration of developing a USEPA 9-Key Elements Watershed Management Plan – Jim Pindel recounted that when Andrew Craig made his presentation to the commission, he said that we could choose any sub-watershed or area and develop a 9-Key Elements Plan for that area and then replicate it onto other adjacent areas until ultimately we cover our entire watershed. We don't know where to start and probably should wait for someone or some location to have a need and let them champion the 9-Key Elements Plan for that area. Chad Sampson suggested that we wait until our expansion is completed because it might uncover some new area of need. Tom Slawski said that the Eagle Springs Lake District and the Mukwonago River Initiative were considering reworking the Mukwonago River Protection Plan into a 9-Key Elements Watershed Plan. Once the changes to the state statutes are completed we might decide to annex them into our jurisdiction, thus giving us a starting place. Shelley Tessmer said she thought the Waterford impoundment might be a good place to start, but that would be up to the WWMD to initiate this work.

### **Reports and Updates**

- a) Report on activities of Fox Waterway Agency (FWA) of Illinois – Tom Slawski said that he was able to make contact with Joe Keller the new Executive Director

of the Fox Waterway Agency. Joe Keller has agreed to make a presentation at the upcoming Summit. Tom said that Joe didn't know much about us and that he and Jim Pindel will attend one of their board meetings on 2/24/16 to inform him and their board about us. Tom said that Joe was a businessman and was in the process of straightening out the financial difficulties that the Agency was experiencing.

- b) Possible diversion of City of Waukesha water treatment plant discharge away from the Fox River: Jim Ritchie said that the WDNR has forwarded the Waukesha diversion application for regional review to the other Great Lakes states and Canadian provinces. This review process must be completed within the next 6 months and must be unanimously approved in order to go forward. Michelle Scott pointed out that the application was forwarded on January 7<sup>th</sup>. Jim Pindel asked if we should start monitoring the river for flow and water quality now so that we have a baseline of where we are now in case the diversion goes into effect. Jim said he went back into our old meeting minutes and found that on May 17, 2013 Daniel Feinstein of the USGS made a presentation to the commission in which he cited some typical costs for different gauges. Each type of gauge had a fairly high initial cost and an annual cost associated with it. Jim also mentioned that in March of last year Tom Day of the Eagle Springs Lake Management District made an appeal to us for funding for some water quality monitoring they were doing along the Mukwonago River. They were using volunteers to gather the samples and were having them tested in Stevens Point by a certified lab. The cost of the testing was \$85 per sample. Tom Slawski added that we could utilize the Water Action Volunteers and that he had heard that the water treatment plants were in the process of either starting or were already doing some of this monitoring. Jim Bergles the Director of Public Works for the City of Burlington said that the City of Burlington and five other municipalities were organizing a monitoring and testing program for the Fox River and what we are considering might be redundant with what they are doing. They will be monitoring phosphorus, ammonia, total suspended solids and the normal things a water treatment plant monitors. By the end of March everyone should be signed on and they will be a functioning group. The purpose of their endeavor is to establish exactly where their phosphorus levels are to hopefully avoid large capital expenditures to further eliminate phosphorus discharges from their water treatment plants. When asked if they were monitoring flow, Jim Bergles said that they were only measuring nutrient levels. He also pointed out that the USGS has recently installed a water depth gauge above the Waterford dam which should be operational by now. Shelley Tessmer asked if there were grants available for flow gauges and Jim Ritchie said that he would have to look into it. Tom Slawski said that the SEWRPC gets a special deal from the USGS on the price of gauges but he didn't know exactly what they cost. If our commission collaborated with the SEWRPC some sort of arrangement could be made to help offset the costs. Tom said that they have been losing gauges right along and they are aware of the fact that more monitoring is needed especially along the Fox River. At the end of the day we decided it was premature for us to do anything right now except to gather

information.

- c) Progress toward designation as a “National Water Trail” – Village of Waterford. Barbara Messick of the Village said that they have been moving along; they have developed a mission, a vision, goals and objectives. These are listed on their website as well as their minutes and agendas. Barb said that the County Executives of Waukesha, Racine and Kenosha counties requested SEWRPC to assist in mapping the water trail. Tom Slawski and one of his associates will be joining their core team and doing the work for them. The sister group to the SEWRPC in Illinois will be doing the work for Illinois. Their next meeting is February 8<sup>th</sup> and at that meeting they will be discussing expanding their team and adding some sub-committees. Barb said that she will forward any new information to us.
- d) SEWFRC Website – Al Sikora was not present and we do know that he is presently working on Summit web page.

**Correspondence** –

- a) 12/14/15 Save the date email from Jim Pindel
- b) 12/26/15 Email from Jim Pindel with attached second revision to the State Statutes
- c) 12/31/15 Forward of an email from Barb Holtz with attached notification that Waukesha dumped 1,000,000 gallons of untreated sewage into the Fox River
- d) 1/7/16 Email from Jim Pindel with revisions to the State Statutes attached and comments on the latest revision.
- e) 1/7/16 Emails between Alan Barrows and Jim Pindel agreeing on the payment schedule for the Grafenauer shoreline restoration project.
- f) 1/8/16 Email of News Release that WDNR forwards Waukesha’s diversion application for regional review.
- g) 1/11/16 Email forward of notice of Public Hearing before the State Senate Natural Resources and Energy Sub-Committee with Senate Bill 548 regarding the changes we requested to the State Statutes.
- h) 1/15/16 Email of notification of Public Hearing before the State Assembly Natural Resources and Sporting Heritage Sub-Committee

**Miscellaneous Issues** –

Alan Barrows said that Waukesha County has a rain garden plant sale. The plants come from a nursery near Madison and plants typically cost about \$5 each but the county gets them for about \$1.80 each and sells them at this reduced price. To find what is available search the internet for Waukesha County rain gardens. Orders are due by mid-March and plants are delivered about mid-June. When asked Alan said seed is also available, enough seed to plant 50 square feet would cost about \$5.

Barb Holtz and Jim Ritchie passed around sample signs similar to what we might want to post at project sites. The consensus was that these aluminum signs with a plastic coating were acceptable and the size was good as well. Alan Barrows said he would get a quote on signs for the commission. Barb Holtz added that the signs should be as simple as possible so they can be read at a distance.

It was motioned by Shelley Tessmer and seconded by Francis Stadler that the meeting be closed. The motion carried unanimously.

**Meeting Closed** at 2:14 PM

**THE NEXT OFFICIAL MEETING WILL BE Friday,  
February 19, 2016 at 1:00 PM.** (Meeting Location: Town of  
Vernon Fire Station #1, W233 S7475 Woodland Lane, Big Bend,  
WI 53103.)