

Commission members present:

Al Sikora (Village of Waterford) (Chairman)
Don Scott (Town of Vernon) (Vice-Chairman)
Randy Craig (Town of Vernon)
Randy Meier (Town of Waterford)
Chad Sampson (Racine County)
Francis Stadler (Village of Big Bend)
Ron Peterson (Village of Big Bend)
Alan Barrows (Waukesha County)
Doug Koehler (City of Waukesha)
Jim D'Antuono (Wisconsin DNR)
Jeff Thornton (Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission)
Mary Pindel (Town of Waterford – Alternate)
Jim Pindel (Town of Waterford) (Secretary/Treasurer)

Commission members absent:

Dean Falkner (Village of Mukwonago)
Shelley Tessmer (Town of Waterford)
Barb Holtz (Town of Mukwonago)

Also present: Jim Ritchie and Brian Glenzinski WDNR, Ron Barker of Fox Waterway Agency, Angie Van Scyoc Town of Waukesha, Leif Hauge of Waukesha County and Paul Kling, Dick Kosut and Don Baron of the WWMD.

At 1:07 PM, 2/03/2012, Chairman Al Sikora called the Commission Meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Roll call was taken and a quorum was confirmed.

Minutes The minutes from the December 2, 2011 meeting were reviewed. It was motioned by Francis Stadler and seconded by Randy Meier that the minutes be approved. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Treasurer Reports – The Treasurer's Report for December 2011 was reviewed. In summary we started with \$30,795.69 in our money market account and made \$13.08 in interest resulting in a final amount of \$30,808.77 Jim Pindel reviewed the financial summary for 2011 showing that we grew from a start of \$7,940.19 after income from two checks from the WDNR and annual interest on the Money Market Account and six payments for completed projects, resulting in a final yearend balance of \$30,808.77. The January 2012 Treasurers Report was passed out and indicated a gain of \$13.08 in interest. It was motioned by Alan Barrows and seconded by Randy Meier that the Treasurers Reports be approved. The reports were approved unanimously.

Old Business

- a) Possible boat/canoe launch on Highway ES (pending) – Alan Barrows reported that the project had been completed last year as previously reported. Alan stated that

he had brought with him all the documentation required to complete the project including a cost share agreement, required permits, a photo of the construction site, a short narrative and an invoice from the County. Alan said that he had emailed before and after photos to Al Sikora and Jim Pindel, which Al can use on our Website. Al asked for a narrative for the Website and Alan said that he could revise the narrative in the project package to meet his needs. Alan said that he stops at the project site weekly and that he had added compost filled bottles to catch finds before the water enters into the river. Inspection of the site shows no signs of erosion or settling. Since we are not paying for this project from grant funds, no WDNR review is required and so as soon as we review the documentation provided by Alan we will issue a check to Waukesha County for \$600.00.

New Business

- a) Consideration of expanding the Commission jurisdiction south to the Illinois border. - Jeff Thornton reported that Dan Treloar of Kenosha County had contacted him as result of the discussions at our last meeting requesting some draft language for a resolution by Kenosha County, so that the Kenosha County Board could enter into a MOU (memorandum of understanding) with us as a first step toward Kenosha County becoming a member of the commission. Jeff further stated that Dan is behind us moving toward including Kenosha County within our jurisdiction. Jeff will see Dan next week and should be able to get an update from him at that time.

- b) Mill Creek Gully Erosion Repair Project – Waukesha County. Alan Barrows introduced Leif Hauge a Civil Engineer for Waukesha County. Leif made a Power Point presentation. The project is on a strip of Waukesha County Park land within the Town of Waukesha. The area in question drains a 200 acre field through a 48” culvert. Leif provided a photo showing the runoff through this culvert and drainage ditch a day after a 5” rainfall, the water still running out was about 5” deep and four to five feet wide. One of Leif’s slide showed that the site is clearly within the jurisdiction limits of the commission. Another slide showed how the water from the gully runs into Mill Creek which flows into Pebble Brook which then flows into the Fox River. The distance from the gully to the Fox River is about three miles. One of Leif’s slides showed the gulf ball and larger sized rocks deposited where the gully enters Mill Creek and Leif went on to say that all the smaller debris was carried down the creek and possibly deposited in the Fox River. Leif pointed out that this project is consistent with the goals laid out for the Commission in our new Implementation Plan. Leif said that the Chapter 30 permit has already been approved by the WDNR. Another slide showed the plan for the project including a spill basin to slowdown the water velocity before it enters into an even slope to an even lesser sloped area. There will be a thick rock riprap blanket about two feet thick and about 150’ long. Slope stabilization methods will be employed to protect the closest property owner in the subdivision. Leif stated that the project will require the Chapter 30 permit from the WDNR, the DNR’s water quality certification permit, the

Waukesha County storm water permit, Waukesha County streambank stabilization permit and ask the Town of Waukesha for a conditional use permit. Leif stated that he estimated the total project cost to be \$30,000 and was requesting \$20,000 or 67% of the funds from the commission. The project is intended to start in the middle of August 2012 and be completed by the end of August. Francis Stadler asked if the landowner closest to the project that placed fill near the gully was paying anything and Leif said no because the erosion is not on his property as this time and the work being done will hopefully prevent it in the future. Chad Sampson asked if the County was doing the work themselves and Leif said that he planned to bid the job out. Angie Van Scyoc asked if the profile of the stream will be wider or narrower when the project is completed. Leif said that the profile would be what it was three years ago before the erosion started. Randy Meier asked that since it appears that the development of the subdivision caused this erosion situation is there anything being done to prevent such future situations? Leif said that both he and Alan Barrows are responsible to review new subdivision plans and they do consider the environmental affect. Considering that this is the point at which we would normally vote to accept or reject a project for funding. Jim Pindel reviewed the ten criteria listed in our new Implementation Plan for accepting a project. Since this proposed project met many of these criteria it was decided to go ahead and vote on accepting it. Randy Meier motioned that we accept this project for funding under our new ENUM and the motion was seconded by Ron Peterson. The motion carried unanimously.

- c) Runoff improvement projects – WWMD Paul Kling addressed the commission saying that they were not prepared to make any presentations at this meeting but intended to present four potential projects at our next (March) meeting. These four projects are estimated to have a total cost of \$240,000 and come off of a master list of many projects that the WWMD is considering or has already accomplished. The projects generally address erosion control and storm water runoff. Paul passed out copies of a portion of this master list. He individually addressed the “Grand Drive / Buena Lake Drainage Control Project” because this one is to some extent responsible for the ingestion of silt into Buena Lake (a major problem). An anticipated difficulty with this project is that the runoff comes through a marsh and the WDNR is very particular about what can be done in marshes/wetlands. This situation will have to be addressed in a cooperative manner with the WDNR. Jim Pindel pointed out that we only have \$200,000 of grant money available starting July 1, 2012 and we have already committed \$30,000 to Waukesha County for the Mill Creek project. Jim also pointed out that we could apply for an extension to the new ENUM which would allow projects to go out to June 30, 2014. It is also possible that we could request and get an additional ENUM starting July 1, 2013. Don Baron made some additional comments regarding the WWMD projects and pointed out that when he first talked to the Army Corps of Engineers in 2003, they told him that the WWMD must stop all the sources of silt and erosion into the impoundment before they can do anything about removing (dredging) the silt that has accumulated. This led us

directly into the next agenda item (Eco-System Restoration Project) and so it was covered immediately.

Reports and Updates

- a) Eco-System Restoration Project (Waterford Impoundment) – Don Baron reported that the WWMD has hired Graef Engineering out of Milwaukee to prepare the Preliminary Application for Dredging and so Graef is working directly with the WDNR in this regard. The last meeting between Graef and the WDNR was regarding the location and number of test sites for sediment samples to be taken as a next step in the Permit process. The WWMD will have to obtain variances from some landowners and a public meeting will have to be held to get final approval for the dredging project. Jeff Thornton pointed out that the SEWRPC did an overview of the project considering locating and widening the navigational channel from the iron bridge to the dam in Waterford. Graef Engineering is presently working on calculating the volume of sediment to be removed and then will go forward with the completions of the permit application and packet. Some of the issues that are outstanding are the type of dredging to be done and the dewatering methods to be employed. Jim Pindel added that the Preliminary Application for a Dredging Permit has been submitted to the WDNR and is now under review by them.

- b) Report on activities of Fox Waterway Agency (FWA) of Illinois – Ron Barker the Executive Director of the FWA was present and made the following report. He is spending much of his time looking for funding for various projects they would like to accomplish. He said the sales of Wisconsin topsoil are going well with their largest customer being the City of Chicago. Ron reported that they are now looking for a new 100 acre location to increase the size of the dewatering facilities. The FWA dredges somewhere between 130,000 and 150,000 cubic yards of sediment per year; of that only about 30,000 cubic yards does not come down the river from Wisconsin and northern Illinois. There is no point source pollution north of the Fox Waterway so they do not have to contend with toxic chemicals. Listening to our discussions, Ron said we appear to be at the point the FWA was at some twenty years ago. As we continue to accomplish multitudes of small projects eventually all that is left are larger and much more expensive projects. As an example Ron pointed out that one of his current projects has a budget of 1.8 million dollars. A major project that the FWA is addressing is an island that has eroded from 57 acres down to 8 acres and so they want to build the island back up to 57 acres. Building this island will allow them to deposit dredged sediment locally saving the trucking charges for hauling the sediment away. This island will provide habitat for Turns which are an endangered species. Building this island will save the FWA approximately 8.9 million dollars in trucking costs. As an illustration, Ron said that this amounted to enough sediment to fill dump trucks forming a line from the Fox River Bridge in Fox Lake to the state capitol in Springfield Illinois. A major streambank stabilization project was

accomplished last year at Fox River Springs which is just north of state highway 173 in northern Illinois. The FWA will be doing a streambank stabilization project in the Illinois state park at Grass Lake. A 43 acre peninsula has been washed away in this area. The warm weather conditions has caused a delay in starting this project, they need frost in the ground to be able to truck the riprap to the location. Ron said he has a pile of projects on his desk that will cost an estimated \$30,000,000. Jeff Thornton pointed out to Ron that the reason we modified our implementation plan to possibly extend south through Kenosha County would be to be contiguous with Illinois and thus possibly be able to apply for federal funds for both Illinois and Wisconsin.

- c) SEWFRC Website – Al Sikora said that he had no updates on the website at this time and again asked Francis Stadler to get some narrative for the Big Bend Boat/Canoe Launch Project. Alan Barrows pointed out that on the proposed projects page it lists future initiatives on the top and it also lists future initiatives on the completed project page which doesn't seem appropriate. Alan and Al both agreed that our website, especially the completed projects pages is a valuable tool when we approach the Counties for funding.

Correspondence –

- 1/5/2012 Email from Jim Pindel to all commissioners and friends of the commission requesting project presentations
1/19/2012 Received 1099 interest statement from Citizens Bank for our Money Market account.
1/20/2012 Email from Alan Barrows requesting Mill Creek gully erosion repair project presentation to be added to today's agenda.
1/22/2012 Email from John Bostrom advising that the WWMD will be applying for grant funds for five runoff improvement projects.

Miscellaneous Issues –

Although this discussion occurred at the beginning of the report on the Fox Waterway Agency, it has been moved here to Miscellaneous Issues to not break up the continuity of the agenda items. Brian Glenzinski of the WDNR wanted the commission to be aware of a new project he intends to propose for funding. Brian passed out some maps of the location and summarized the project. The project has to do with the portion of Rainbow Springs that lies within the Town of Mukwonago and therefore is within our area of jurisdiction. The project amounts to restoring the portion of the Mukwonago River that runs through Rainbow Springs where the golf course used to be. The sponsor of the project would be The Kettle Marine Natural History Association. Don Reed of SEWRPC would be our primary contact for this project. The first step in the restoration would be the removal of seven culverts that had been installed in the golf course area. Photos that were included in the packet Brian passed around show that the culverts are a definite impediment to the navigability of the river, which fits in well with the mission of the commission. Brian reminded the commission that the Mukwonago River is one of the most diverse biological communities in the state of Wisconsin and deserves the care needed to maintain it. It is a high quality community with a large number of rare and

endangered species. Brian pointed out that he would be looking at a request for about \$45,000 from the commission and expects to make a formal presentation at our next meeting. Brian stated that this area is now referred to as the Mukwonago River Unit of the Kettle Marine State Forest with its master plan under development now with an expected completion date of the end of this year. The timeline for this project would be most likely the summer of 2013. There is a north channel that can be used to divert the river flow so that the removal of five of the culverts can be done without any water flow through them. Jeff Thornton pointed out that the commission's new Implementation Plan did assume into it the Mukwonago River Watershed Protection Plan prepared by SEWRPC which indicates removal of these culverts as critical actions required. As such this project would be consistent with our Implementation Plan.

Don Scott said that he was requested to come to the Town Board Meeting and make a report on the commission's progress. Don said the Highway ES project that Alan Barrows just completed was within the boundaries of the Town of Vernon and so he had something positive to report. The board reported that there are lots of large fires being burned at the location of the Fox River Inn project which is now owned by Waukesha County. Alan made note of this report and seemed to already be aware of this situation. The board also is looking for access to the Fox River at Center Drive so that they can use this location for filling the fire department's tankers. The access land in question is owned by Waukesha County. It was felt that this project was not in line with our mission and goals and probably needs to be addressed between the Town of Vernon and Waukesha County.

Jim Pindel stated that he had discussions with Paul Kling regarding how to make a presentation to the commission for a project and what the presentation should include. Jim suggested that page on our website which addresses "Applying for a Project" be changed to list project narrative, budget, timeline and identifying the project manager as part of the formal project presentation to the commission. This should make it clearer to parties wanting to make a project presentation to know what is expected of them. Al Sikora took Jim's notes on this subject and indicated that he will make the requested changes.

On another topic Jim Pindel pointed out that with the upcoming project presentations by the WWND and the WDNR and potentially others this would be an appropriate time for us to address the weighting of the project approval criteria listed in our implementation plan. The plan lists ten criteria and states that they should have point values associated with them. Jim volunteered to provide a spreadsheet to the commissioners before our next meeting with suggested or possible point values associated with each criteria. Jim also asked that the commission consider a minimum point value that a project must attain before we can approve of it. Clearly the point values of different projects would make it easy to choose between two competing projects but new projects come about as they are identified for need by the sponsor and so we need a mechanism to choose whether a project is worth of funding on an individual basis.

Randy Craig said that a man named Robert Bartholomew was interested in joining the commission as a representative of the Town of Vernon; Randy was told that Tom must provide a letter of appointment from the Town.

Don Scott motioned to end the meeting and the motion was seconded by Francis Stadler, the motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Closed at 2:15 PM

NEXT OFFICIAL MEETING WILL BE Friday, March 9, 2012 at 1:00 PM. (Meeting Location: Big Bend-Vernon Fire Station #3, W233 S7475 Woodland Lane, Big Bend, WI 53103.)