

Commission members present:

Katelyn Bratz (Town of Mukwonago) (Chairperson)
Andy Buehler (Kenosha County)
Alan Barrows (Waukesha County) (Vice Chairman)
Jon Grove (Racine County)
Doug Koehler (City of Waukesha)
Fred Koeller (Village of Waterford)
Lee Manthey (Town of Vernon)
Wayne Jensen (Village of Rochester) (Treasurer)
Wayne Castle (Village of Mukwonago)
Jeff Lang (Town of Burlington)
Donny Hefty (City of Burlington)
Larry Long (Village of Big Bend)
Bill Hopkins (Village of Salem Lakes)
Rachel Sabre (Wisconsin DNR)
Tom Slawski (SEWRPC)
Jim Pindel (Town of Waterford) (Secretary)

Commission members absent:

Andrew Lois (Town of Wheatland)
Ken Miller (Town of Waukesha)

Also present: Grant Horn of the WWMD and Mark Jenks of Kenosha County.

At 1:01 PM, Chairperson Katelyn Bratz called the SEWFRC meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Roll call was taken and a quorum was confirmed.

- 1) **Minutes** The minutes from the December 11, 2020 meeting were reviewed. Jeff Lang pointed out that in the discussion concerning shoreline restoration projects the minutes listed eminent threat sites, Jeff thought that it should read imminent threat sites, checking with Tom Slawski who agreed, Jim Pindel said he will make the correction. It was motioned by Jeff Lang that the minutes be approved as corrected and the motion was seconded by Donny Hefty. The minutes were approved unanimously.
- 2) **Treasurer Reports** – Jim Pindel reviewed the December 2020, treasurer’s report. We started the month with \$215,794.57 in our Money Market Account. The only changes to the report were the \$9000 payment to close out the Knollcrest project and the \$23.06 of interest we made. This brought the money market account to \$206,817.63. The non-grant income came to \$30,267.89. There were no changes on the grant funds page. Jim Pindel pointed out to Jon Grove who is taking Chad Sampson’s place today that he still needs proof of complete payment for the Gordon Shores shoreline restoration project. Jon said that they were trying to get

it from the property owner. It was motioned by Doug Koehler that the Treasurer's Report be accepted and seconded by Andy Buehler that the treasurer's reports be approved and the motion carried unanimously.

- 3) **Election of Officers for 2020 – 2021 fiscal year.** Still Looking for a volunteer for Secretary. Katelyn asked if anyone wanted to take this position and no one volunteered. Katelyn said that we will take it up again at our next meeting.
- 4) **Old Business**
 - a) **Fox River Partnership 2021 Summit:** Tom Slawski: Tom Slawski displayed a draft copy of the agenda for the Summit. It showed a short panel discussion at 8:00 AM followed by a break and then the start of the real summit at 9:00 AM with an introduction and the first keynote speaker. There will be short breaks between sessions ending with a breakout time when attendees will chose between four topics like recreation, water quality, soil health and game & fish. After the breakout session the attendees will all come back together and each session will make a report on what they discussed and any decisions made. This is exactly what was done in person at the last Summit at Veterans Terrace. Tom said the program is about 95% complete. Tom reminded everyone that the Summit is on March 11th which is the Thursday of the overall Water Week webinar. Tom said he will work with Jim Pindel to put together a slide that will portray what the SEWFRC is all about. Although we allocated \$5,500 for the Summit, Tom said we will only have to provide \$150 if we choose to be a sponsor. Jim Pindel made a motion that we provide the \$150 for sponsorship and the \$20 attendance fee for any commissioners or alternate commissioners who attend. In addition Jim added that we would invite Representative Chuck Wichgers and Senator Julian Bradley and reimburse them the attendance fee. The motion was seconded by Bill Hopkins and was approved unanimously. Tom Slawski pointed out that we can pay the \$150 through a PayPal link charging it to our credit card. Tom said he would forward a link to Jim Pindel to help get this done.
 - b) **SEWRPC Survey for Waterford Dam to the Illinois Border** – Tom Slawski said that they are making enhancements and improvements to the erosion site locations. Tom put up a screen that showed one of the erosion sites near a bridge along CHW F. The screen showed the Fox River the highway, bridge and superimposed with the river depth details. This data was obtained by Tom when he did the sideways sonar scan of the river when he did the SEWRPC survey. Tom said that they are on track to get the report finished in the next couple weeks.
 - c) **Oakwood Shores Park Streambank Stabilization Project** – Andy Buehler. Andy Buehler asked Mark Jenks to make a report on how the project was completed. Mark said that the work was done in just a few days at the beginning of November and the contractor had no issues. Mark said everyone is pleased with the outcome. Earlier Andy Buehler asked if Jim Pindel had

received a request to pay the final payment. Jim Pindel reported that he had sent the check and that he received an email from the Town of Wheatland thanking us for the payment. Jim Pindel asked if they had placed one of our signs indicating that we helped fund the work at this location. Mark said that he was not aware of the fact that we had such signs. Alan Barrows told Mark and Andy that he and Chad Sampson have signs and that he would provide a box of signs for Kenosha County. There are two sizes of signs 8x10" and 10x20". Alan said he would give the signs to Mark's wife Jane to give to him.

- d) John Kojis Farm Field gully repair project: Chad Sampson Jon Grove was in attendance as Chad's alternate and said that Chad said that the work could have been done this last fall, but the farmer had corn in this field and didn't want them to destroy his crop with the construction. Jon said they expect to do the project early next spring.
- e) Report on the Fox River Park Project: Alan Barrows. Alan Barrows said that as he reported previously the Village of Mukwonago has expressed interest in partnering with the County on this project. So they have been working on developing an intergovernmental agreement. Alan said the agreement is about ready for signing. Alan said that now that we are in the cold weather time they are working on agreements and permits.
- f) Small-Scale Dewatering Test Engineering – WWMD. Grant Horn said that they are in the process of doing a review of the project by an independent engineering group, to see if they should continue with it or take some alternate way. Grant said that the review should be done in the next week and he will report on it at our next meeting.
- g) Small Scale Dewatering Test: Grant Horn said that fate of this project will be decided based on the engineering review that is now in process.
- h) Zanella Shoreline Restoration Project: Chad Sampson. Jon Grove said that he expects to do this project this year. Originally they thought that it would be pushed off until 2022, but the property owner has come up with his 50% cost share and wants it done as soon as possible.
- i) Reidy Shoreline Restoration Project: Chad Sampson. Jon Grove said that they expect to do this project this year and that it will come in under budget, so we will not have to provide the entire \$9000 we allocated for it.
- j) White Oak Lane Shoreline Restoration Project: Chad Sampson. Jon Grove said that this project is completed. Jon asked Jim Pindel if he needed anything for this project and Jim said he didn't think so.
- k) ER31 Streambank Erosion Site – Waterford Landing HOA: Fred Koeller & Chad Sampson. Fred Koeller said that they completed 195 feet of shoreline restoration

along this site. This covered the most dire needed areas along the shoreline. Fred thanked the commission for their funding and special thanks to Jon Grove for all the time he spent on site monitoring the work. The cribbing that Paul Peters did went very well. Fred said that they are looking forward to next spring to do additional work. They planted seed and covered it with a mat just before the snow came down. Some of the work they will do in spring is some jibbing and extending a pipe all the way to the river. Fred said that the project looks fantastic. Tom Slawski asked if Fred or Jon could provide photos and some design details that he can showcase in his report and remove it from the list of 41 sites that need repair. Fred said that he will get together with Jon and get something to Tom.

New Business

- a) Discussion concerning Acceptance Criteria for Shoreline Restoration Projects:
Jim Pindel provided a motion at our last meeting that is copied here, so we can consider it:

I motion that we restrict privately owned residential Shoreline Restorations as follows:

We would provide up to 90% cost share to a maximum limit of \$9,000.

We have an annual limit on privately owned residential shoreline restorations of \$50,000 per year.

We give preferential treatment to imminent threat erosion sites as identified in the SEWRPC survey authored by Tom Slawski.

Tom Slawski pointed out that the preferential treatment should not be limited to imminent threat erosion sites because most of them are associated with some infrastructure like a roadway or bridge which need to be addressed by the appropriate municipality or highway department and are probably larger in scale than we want to address. Tom suggests that we add warning sites to the preferential treatment category since they would tend to be ones that would fall on us to take care of. Andy Buehler asked if the warning site were all privately owned residential properties and Tom responded that it was a mix of private and public sites. The question came up about whether we would have been able to fund the HOA project we just finished if we applied the above criteria. Fred Koeller pointed out that there is a public walkway along this shoreline which is used by many people not part of the HOA, so for all intents purposes it is not privately owned residential shoreline. Wayne Jensen commented that if instead of the 90% to 10% cost share split we went to a 50% to 50% split; we could do more projects per year within our \$50,000 annual limit. After some discussion it became apparent that a two tiered cost share split should be considered. Andy Buehler suggested that we have a different cost share split for imminent threat and warning sites than for watch sites. Jeff Lang asked if we knew what would have happened to a number of projects we accomplished over the last few years if we applied these new criteria. Jim Pindel said that he thought we should ask Chad Sampson this question because he was personally involved in most of these projects. Jon Grove said that he thought that most of them would not have

happened at a 50% split. Jon said he would discuss this issue with Chad Sampson and see what kind of split might be appropriate. Jim Pindel volunteered to rewrite the motion and circulate it before our next meeting. At this point Jim Pindel motioned that we table this issue until our next meeting and the motion was seconded by Jeff Lang we decided to table this issue until our next meeting.

2021 – 2030 SEWFRC Implementation Plan; Alan Barrows Alan said that Tom Slawski found old original word document files of the plan at SEWRPC and provided them to Alan. Alan said he has all of the chapters data and appendixes but has not started to work on them. Alan asked Tom Slawski if there was anything that we had to do to get SEWRPC to help with the updating of the implementation plan. Jim Pindel pointed out that we made that request to Tom Slawski two meetings ago. Tom said it would be helpful if we formally requested assistance from the executive director of SEWRPC Kevin Huhs. Katelyn Bratz said she had notes that stated that the things we wanted to include were soil health, cover crops, no till farming, changing the fiscal year to July 1 to June 30 of the next year, no effective end dates, adding the project acceptance criteria, project completion sign off and the addition of the new members in Kenosha County. Katelyn asked if we were planning on just adding an addendum to the plan or rewriting the body of the plan and Alan said we will modify the plan itself. Katelyn said she has time to work on this update right now, so if someone can tell her what she could do, she is willing to work on it.

Reports and Updates

- a) Report on activities of Fox Waterway Agency (FWA) of Illinois – Jeff Lang pointed out that he has not attended any of their meetings since the one he reported on the last time. Therefore no report was made.
- b) Possible diversion of City of Waukesha water treatment plant discharge away from the Fox River: Alan Barrows said that there is some work being done on the return flow pipeline. Also there are some lawsuits in process.
- c) SEWFRC Website –Alan Barrows. Alan said that he has not done anything on the website recently, but did ask for photos and short write ups on any current or completed projects.

Correspondence –

- a. 12/11/2020 Forward of an email from Barb Holtz concerning cleaning up the Milwaukee River.
- b. 12/12/2020 Forward of an email from Tom Slawski to mark your calendars for the 20201 Summit
- c. 12/16/2020 Email from Jim Pindel asking you to mark your calendars for today's meeting.
- d. 1/14/2021 Forward of an email from Chad Sampson with attached brochure for the Watershed Protection Committee's Winter Workshop.

- e. 1/18/2021 Email from Jim Pindel to Representative Chuck Wichgers, thanking him for arranging the meet with him and Senator Bradley.
- f. 1/18/2021 Email from Jim Pindel to all commissioners asking for input concerning how much money we should ask for in the Emergency Bill for the SEWFRC.
- g. 2/2/2021 Forward of an email from Tom Slawski concerning the commission be a sponsor to the upcoming summit for \$150.
- h. 2/5/2021 Forward of an email from Tom Slawski with the attached Lake Tide Newsletter.

Miscellaneous Issues-

Alan Barrows said that he was asked by Jane Jenks if we could possibly help fund another salt workshop, and Jim Pindel said that we probably could from non-grant funds.

Jon Grove stated that the Racine County watershed protection committee is having their winter workshop next Friday and today is that deadline for signing up.

It was motioned by Bill Hopkins that the meeting be closed and the motion was seconded by Jeff Lang. The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Closed at 2:18 PM

**THE NEXT OFFICIAL MEETING WILL BE Friday
April 30, 2021 at 1:00 PM.** Meeting Location: This will be a
Zoom virtual meeting.