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Southeastern Wisconsin Fox River Commission Meeting Minutes

Friday, February 18, 2022- 1:00 PM

Mukwonago Village Hall; 440 River Crest Ct; Mukwonago, WI 53149

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

Guests	
Representing	Name
WWMD	Grant Horn

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Southeastern Wisconsin Fox River Commission Meeting

1. Katelyn Bratz called the meeting to order at 1:04 pm
2. pledge of allegiance
3. roll call listed above and verify quorum.
4. Tom Slawski confirmed the audio recorder was running.
5. Approval of minutes from the previous meeting held January 21, 2022
 - a. Fred Koeller made a motion to accept the minutes.
 - b. Larry Long seconded the motion
 - c. Katelyn Bratz abstained from the vote, as she was not present at the previous meeting.
 - d. Motion passed
6. Wayne Jensen reviewed the Treasurer's Report.
 - a. Alan Barrows made a motion to accept the minutes
 - b. Wayne Castle seconded the motion
 - c. Motion passes

Old Business

7. Fox River 2022 Summit – Tom Slawski.
 - a. Thursday, March 17.
 - b. Members and Alternates can be reimbursed for the cost of admission.
 - c. SEWFRC will have a booth with info sheet
 - d. Several agencies are giving 3 minute introductory presentations, Wayne Jensen has offered to present who the SEWFRC is.
8. Report on Fox River Park Project – Alan Barrows
 - a. Working on the administrative aspects of the project.
9. Schultz Shoreline Protection Project- Jon Grove
 - a. In process of acquiring the DNR permit

New Business

10. Report on activities of the work being done by Foth and RES
 - a. Tom Slawski- has not gotten any updates from Foth and RES
 - b. We did receive an update via email from Jim Pindel. We have now signed ENUM-23. We have requested \$100,000 advance payment for Foth and Res requests.
 - c. Tom Slawski ran through their checklist of elements that we needed to support. Tom is unclear what the expectations are for division of labor.
 - d. Gregg Breese did request a meeting with Alan Barrows, but gave 1 day notice. Alan was not available. Foth and Res did not

reach out again.

- e. Foth and Res did not communicate or share their progress with the commission. RCCP grant had needed deliverables, which they did not follow up with the commission on.
 - f. Tom Slawski is asking for clarification on how to proceed when working with them.
 - g. Tom Slawski has asked if anyone had the opportunity to review the stakeholder list. Can communities from Illinois collaborate as stakeholders?
 - h. Gregg Breese did reach out to Chad Sampson wanting a project list, which had already been delivered back in October. Foth and Res did send out a letter to landowners, which landowners received on Tuesday. Jon Grove will forward the letter to the commission, which did state there would be no cost to the landowner, which we do not believe is accurate.
 - i. Katelyn Bratz inquired that if letters are being sent out on our behalf to landowners, we should approve the letters prior to the mailing.
 - j. Jon Grove shared they would like a heads up, as they are now fielding inquiries from citizens about the contents of the letter.
 - k. Alan Barrows shared our website has a completed map of projects, we should update the map with all previous projects. Alan shared concern that other aspects of the larger project had not been completed prior to application for a grant. The administration of a grant was also not considered in the discussion.
 - l. Mark Jenks shared that a lot of their agricultural contacts were outside of our commission. He did not observe anything in Kenosha County. There is also concern about what the RCCP grant could be used for.
 - m. Action moving forward: Tom Slawski requesting a schedule and a stronger understanding of responsibility.
 - n. Alan Barrows suggested a virtual meeting
11. North Tichigan Road Shoreline Restoration--Jon Grove
- a. Construction is likely to begin in August.
 - b. They have acquired the bids and pulled the permits.
12. 2021 – 2030 SEWFRC Implementation Plan – Tom Slawski & Alan Barrows -No Update
13. WWMD Grant request proposal-Grant Horn
- a. Grant received the request 2 weeks ago. They have applied for a small-scale dredging project in shallow water.
 - b. An engineering firm has been contracted to complete the project. Kaiser and Associates are working with Geosyntec on the project. \$103,000 is the projected budget.
 - c. Asking for as much as they can acquire, but recognizing that there are budget constraints.
 - d. Can send any additional documentation if needed.
 - e. Katelyn Bratz has forwarded their request onto all the commission members.

- f. Tom asked for clarification on the DNR requirements for the permits. The previous project was a test pilot project for a large scale project. This dredging project is small scale, with sediment to be spread on farmer's fields no thicker than 3 inches. The plan has been approved verbally, They are in the process of acquiring the permit. They do not anticipate major hurdles due to variation from the pilot test.
- g. This is for creation of the project manual, the bathymetric surveys updated from 13 years ago. It is the step prior to the dredging.
- h. Alan Barrows- Did the district do a bidding project for the firms? Grant Horn shared all declined to bid as everyone will want to do their own preliminary work, not reuse the previous bathymetric surveys.
- i. Tom Slawski asked if they were drawing the lake down? Grant Horn shared that they were not drawing down the lake.
- j. Fred Koeller asked would the work with WWMD be able to be cost share matching? Does RCCP grant apply to lakes? Or outside of agricultural uses?

Reports and Updates

- 14. Report on activities of Fox Waterway Agency of Illinois – FWA or Tom Slawski
 - a. No update
- 15. Report on future of the Echo Lake Dam in Burlington-Donny Hefty
 - a. No Update
- 16. Report on Fox River Watershed TMDL progress – Rachel Sabre
 - a. Went out this week to do flows, and sampling is continuing.
 - b. They have started pulling the data. Looks like we should have enough data when they end in June.
 - c. TSS, Phosphorus is what they are testing for.
- 17. Report on the Fox Watershed Mitigation Plan- Tom Slawski
 - a. Still gathering dam information and infrastructure data
- 18. Watershed Protection Committee of Racine County- Jon Grove
 - a. Winter Workshop of Feb 11th
 - b. 117 attendees, more than double previous attendance.
 - c. There is increased interest in the committee.
- 19. SEWFRC Website – Al Sikora or Alan Barrows
 - a. Updating the map with completed projects.
 - b. Tom Slawski asked if we should be posting supplemental information.
 - i. the treasurer report
 - ii. the Foth and Res presentation
 - iii. Would be a better question for Al Sikora
 - iv. Perhaps a commissioners hub
 - v. Presentations should be archived with the minutes
 - vi. Tom Slawski will follow up with Al Sikora

Correspondence

20. Feb 9th- Greg Horeth (WWMD)- Gathering of the Racine County Lakes Districts/Association. Katelyn Bratz will communicate information as it becomes available from this new collaboration.
21. Feb 10th- WWMD's Newsletter was emailed. Katelyn Bratz forwarded the email to the commission.
22. Feb 18th- Grant Horn emailed his presentation information. Katelyn Bratz forwarded the email to the commission.

Miscellaneous Issues

23. Alan Barrows shared information about the \$1,000 for the aquatic invasive species program.
 - a. They had hired a new AIS coordinator. The coordinator is responsible for newsletters, intern hiring, etc.
 - b. Amanda Schmitz, is the new AIS Coordinator. Has a background in water projects in general, not just AIS.
 - c. Activities include:
 - i. hiring 7 interns each summer
 - ii. clean boats, clean waters
 - iii. Work through education, not enforcement
 - d. Costs about \$60,000 to run the program.
 - e. Grants cover about half. Our funding is greatly appreciated.
24. Next Meeting and Location
 - a. April 8th, 1 pm. Mukwonago Village Hall
25. Close Meeting
 - a. Larry Long made a motion to adjourn the meeting
 - b. Jon Grove seconded the motion
 - c. Motion Passes