

Commission members present:

Al Sikora (Village of Waterford) (Chairman)
Barb Holtz (Town of Mukwonago) (Vice-Chairperson)
Robert Bartholomew (Town of Vernon)
Chad Sampson (Racine County)
Francis Stadler (Village of Big Bend)
John Soneberg (Village of Big Bend)
Shelley Tessmer (Town of Waterford)
Alan Barrows (Waukesha County)
Dean Falkner (Village of Mukwonago)
Tom Slawski (SEWRPC)
Rachel Sabre standing in for Michelle Scott (Wisconsin DNR)
Jim Ritchie (Wisconsin DNR)
Jim Pindel (Town of Waterford) (Secretary/Treasurer)

Commission members absent:

Mary Pindel (Town of Waterford – Alternate)
Doug Koehler (City of Waukesha)
Ken Miller (Town of Waukesha)
Randy Meier (Town of Waterford)

Also present: Dan Treloar and Clement Abongwa of Kenosha County, Barbara Barron, Don Barron and Paul Kling of the WWMD, Michael Schwar a resident of the Town of Vernon, Jeff Lang of the Town of Burlington and Barbara Messick of the Village of Waterford.

At 1:02 PM Chairperson 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 January 22, 2016 meeting were reviewed. It was motioned by Bob Bartholomew that the minutes be approved and the motion was seconded by Shelley Tessmer. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Treasurer Reports – The Treasurer’s Reports for January 2016 was reviewed. In summary we started the month with \$86,092.93 in our money market account. We received an interest payment of \$14.63 leaving us with a final balance of \$86,107.56 at the end of the month. The undedicated grant funds left in ENUM-19 & 20 amounts to \$171,182.29. It was motioned by Shelley Tessmer that the treasurer’s report be accepted and it was seconded by Bob Bartholomew. The motion carried unanimously.

Old Business

- a) Fox River Partnership Summit: Tom Slawski said that he has only 35 registrants so far and encouraged everyone present to register as soon as possible. Tom said the brochure is ready and passed out copies to all the commissioners. Tom said he emailed the brochure with the sign up webpage to Jim Pindel earlier today and Jim said that he forwarded it to all the commissioners. Tom said that Applied Ecological Services bought a booth again this year and that money can be used to offset the cost of allowing students to attend for free. Tom reiterated that he does not charge other organization who wants to exhibit on a table top. But he does charge \$100 for vendors or consultants which helps offset all the other costs. Tom said the agenda and speakers looks very interesting and pointed out that he has secured Austin Baldwin of USGS to speak about the toxicity of coal tar sealants an issue that is somewhat overlooked or unrecognized. This is expected to be a very eye opening topic. Tom said that some communities and even states are banning the use of coal tar for sealing asphalt driveways. Al Sikora said that he has loaded the Summit brochure onto our website as well as the exhibitor application form which he updated from last year. Al asked Tom to review what he has put on the website and pointed out that the exhibitor form does not list the cost for exhibiting. Tom said he would develop a new form and send it to Al. Alan Barrows said that he intends to update our 3 panel display and will put up a copy of the HUC-12 map of our entire watershed which should look pretty impressive.
- b) Mukwonago River shoreline restoration at WE Energies Site. Alan Barrows said that he had nothing to report at this time but did commit to contacting WE Energies before our next meeting.
- c) Big Bend Boat/canoe launch retaining wall fence & vegetation – John Soneberg said that he heard that we intended to plant bushes between the fence and the edge that leads down to the ramp. He said that dogs regularly urinate on the grass in this location and didn't feel that whatever we plant would survive. Alan Barrows said that just before the meeting he provided Francis Stadler with the spec sheet for a Wisconsin native Wild Rose shrub which is very thorny and grows to about 4 feet high. This shrub is very resilient and can withstand much abuse. The spec sheet also identifies invasive varieties of the Wild Rose which should be avoided. Francis asked if we could afford these plantings and was reminded that he has \$1755 to work with and can apply for additional funds if necessary.
- d) Wood Drive Erosion Control Project – Chad Sampson said that he has contacted Harry Bauman and Kevin Malchine and has arranged a meeting at the site for next Wednesday afternoon at 3:15 PM at the site. This meeting will serve as a preconstruction meeting. Chad and the contractor will be there to answer question by the landowners. Apparently Harry Bauman is concerned that when they trench in the new large drainage tile they will have to cut through some of his existing smaller drainage tiles and wants to be assured that existing smaller tiles

- are connected in properly. Don Barron for the WWMD asked if he could be present and Chad said only as an observer, the purpose of the meeting is to answer the landowners questions not add any new questions to the discussion.
- 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 they are still at the same point they were at, at our last meeting. They still have to confirm some landowner permissions and generate a grating plan for the disposal site. Paul said that the WDNR has come up with some additional tests that they want done before the dredging permit application is turned in. The tests are concerned with what is in the water as far as suspended solids, what is going to percolate into the ground and what will return to the river. Paul said that the plan is still to complete this project in late spring and make the application for the dredging permit on June 1st. Don Barron added that another new requirement will be to test the dewatered sediment in the gravel pit after it is completely dried up. Paul said that the WWMD is requesting funding from the SEWFRC for 90% cost share of the \$14,300 cost for testing and the labor and engineering associated with it. This figure was provided by Graef Engineering on a formal proposal. The 90% cost share for the FRC would amount to \$12,870. Shelley Tessmer motioned that we provide the 90% cost share for the testing and the motion was seconded by Dean Falkner. The motion passed unanimously.
 - g) Schuetze Playground Storm Water Abatement: - David Burch was not present and Alan Barrows said he has not heard anything recently but since it is winter no work is being done.
 - h) Graefenauer Shoreline Restoration: Alan Barrows said that phase 1 which is clearing the invasive species was begun this last week. The contractor is Hoppe Tree Service and Alan stopped by the site on Wednesday. Hoppe has not started chipping yet so there are large piles of buckthorn on the property. It is starting to look better already. Francis Stadler said that he heard buckthorn is hard to get rid of and asked if just cutting it will work. And Allan responded that after all the buckthorn is cut Hoppe will treat all the stumps with a chemical that will kill it off.

New Business

- a) Consideration of expanding the Commission's jurisdiction south to the Illinois border Tom Slawski said that Jim Pindel will include what has happened in this regard in his presentation at the upcoming Summit. Jim Pindel added that his last presentation to the Summit covered from our inception to that time and the upcoming presentation will cover what has happened in the last year including the expansion of our range down to the Illinois border. Additionally Jim said that he is considering adding some slides regarding one of the items of special concern

from our Implementation Plan, that being the City of Waukesha diversion. He said that at the spring public hearing in Waukesha he heard conflicting testimony. For example, one person said that the deep aquifer is collapsing and is unsustainable and other testimonies stated that the aquifer improving and getting deeper all the time. Jim said he had other examples marked up at home and would probably run the slides through the commission before the presentation is made. This will probably have to be done by email. The audience at the Summit is probably the best one for expressing these ideas. Tom Slawski pointed out that the bill for changing our statutes has passed the legislature and that Jim Pindel had forwarded that information to the commission. Now all we are waiting for is for the Governor to sign the bill. We should be notified when this will happen and will be invited to attend the signing. It is expected that this will happen sometime in April. Tom reiterated that the bill not only expands our reach down to the Illinois border, but gives us the power to expand in any direction within our watershed by consent agreement.

- b) Review of SEWFRC Implementation Plan Figure B-3: Alan Barrows said that he knows that he committed to providing a new completion certification form, but has not had time to generate it. Alan said he will provide one at our next meeting.
- c) Consideration of developing a USEPA 9-Key Elements Watershed Management Plan – Shelley Tessmer said that she is considering doing a plan and will talk to Tom Slawski after the meeting to consider if it is possible and how to proceed.

Reports and Updates

- a) Report on activities of Fox Waterway Agency (FWA) of Illinois – Tom Slawski said that he and Jim Pindel are scheduled to meet with the FWA next Wednesday evening in Illinois. Jim Pindel said that due to personal commitments he will not be able to attend. Jeff Lang of the Town of Burlington volunteered to accompany Tom to meet with the FWA. Jeff said he works in that area of Illinois and would already be there. Tom said we are scheduled to meet with Joseph Keller at 5:30 PM and then will attend the FWA board meeting at 7:00 PM. So it looks like a full evening. Joseph Keller will be attending the Summit where we will all have an opportunity to meet him. Some of the discussion will be about how we can possible leverage some federal funds for our waterway.
- b) Possible diversion of City of Waukesha water treatment plant discharge away from the Fox River: Jim Ritchie said that, as reported at our last meeting, the WDNR has forwarded the Waukesha diversion application for regional review to the other Great Lakes states and Canadian provinces. As has been reported on the news that last few days, representatives from the 8 states and Canadian provinces are in Waukesha on a fact gathering mission. Jim said that a public hearing was held at Carrol University in Waukesha yesterday and there were plenty of comments for and against the diversion. Jeff Lang said that he attended the hearing and reported that about 350 people attended and 104 asked to speak. Jeff

said that he had to leave at 6:00 PM and at that time only 34 of the speakers had spoken. Jeff said that the intension was to stay in session as long as it took for all 104 speakers to say their piece.

- c) Progress toward designation as a “National Water Trail” – Village of Waterford. Barbara Messick of the Village said that they will be presenting at the Fox River Summit. They are in the process of drafting an announcement letter to present to all of the municipalities along the way of the Water Trail. On a related note Barbara said that the Village of Waterford will be hosting a ribbon cutting ceremony at the new canoe/kayak launch site on Jun 16, 2016. The exact time of the ceremony has not been set but all are invited to attend a community paddle that is planned to end up at the River Rhythms scheduled for that evening. Cathy Stepp the Secretary of the WDNR has agreed to attend and will say a few words. Shelley Tessmer asked if a rain date had been set and Barbara said it will go forward no matter what the weather.
- d) SEWFRC Website – Al Sikora that everything was up to date and that he had the Summit sign up page on the website and in working order. Al asked that everyone review what has been put up there for the Summit and advise him of any corrections or additions.

Correspondence –

- a) 01/30/16 forward of an email from Barbara Messick with a link to their website and an attachment of their vision and goals.
- b) 02/01/16 Email from Jim Pindel to mark your calendars for today’s meeting
- c) 02/08/16 Forward of an email from Tricia Sieg of Senator Mary Lazich’s office advising that the state assembly will vote on our changes to the state statutes on 2/9/16
- d) 2/10/16 Email from Senator Lazich’s office stating that the assembly bill passed.
- e) 2/11/16 Email from Jim Pindel advising everyone that we will be working on the 2016-2017 budget, requesting that everyone submit projects for inclusion in the budget. All that is required at this time is a name for the project, a cost estimate and the name of the sponsor.
- f) 2/19/16 Forward of an email from Tom Slawski with the sign up and brochure for the 2016 Summit

Miscellaneous Issues –

Alan Barrows said that he had secured a quote for the signs that we were considering and gave a copy to Chad and would give a copy to Al Sikora so they could get competitive bids. Also Alan wanted to confirm which of the two signs we wanted and Al Sikora said that the one with the white background would show up better for drive by viewers. Al Sikora asked for a copy of the sign and Alan said he would send him the digital file.

Jim Pindel reminded all that on 2/11/16 he sent an email to all present and future commissioners that they need to identify projects for the upcoming budget. At the March meeting we will review the proposed budget and in April we will have to have our annual Public Hearing. Jim also said that it makes sense to have the first meeting of the new and expanded commission in July when we are starting the new fiscal year. All present and future municipalities and counties must have their commissioners appointed by that time.

Jim Ritchie introduced Rachel Sabre who was in attendance standing in for Michelle Scott. Rachel said that she has met and talked to many of us over the years. She used to be a water regulations specialist and now she is a water quality biology specialist for the WDNR in Waukesha, Walworth and Washington counties. She is mostly concerned with the Fox River which plays well with our group. She said she is a resource for us and is also a lakes biologist as well. She runs the citizen lakes monitoring program for the region as well as for south central Wisconsin.

Alan said that Waukesha County has hired an Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator and this is another resource at our disposal.

It was motioned by Barb Holtz and seconded by Chad Sampson that the meeting be closed. The motion carried unanimously.

Meeting Closed at 1:55 PM

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