

Commission members present:

Dean Falkner (Village of Mukwonago) (Chairman)
Katelyn Bratz (Town of Mukwonago) (Vice-Chairperson)
Fred Koeller (Village of Waterford)
Donny Hefty (City of Burlington)
Doug Koehler (City of Waukesha)
Alan Barrows (Waukesha County)
Chad Sampson (Racine County)
Jeff Lang (Town of Burlington)
Bill Hopkins (Village of Salem Lakes)
Andrew Lois (Town of Wheatland)
Bob Bartholomew (Town of Vernon)
Tom Slawski (SEWRPC)
Jim Pindel (Town of Waterford) (Secretary/Treasurer)

Commission members absent:

Andy Buehler (Kenosha County)
Michelle Clark (Village of Big Bend)
Ken Miller (Town of Waukesha)
Wayne Jensen (Village of Rochester)
Rachel Sabre (Wisconsin DNR)

Also present: Dan Treloar of Kenosha County, Wayne Castle of the Village of Mukwonago and Todd Weik of CBC Engineers & Associates.

1. At 1:03 PM, Chairman Dean Falkner called the SEWFRC meeting to order.
2. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Roll call was taken and a quorum was confirmed.
3. **Minutes** The minutes from the January 25, 2019 meeting were reviewed. Doug Koehler pointed out that his name was misspelled on page 1. 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.
4. **Treasurer Reports** – Jim Pindel reviewed the January 2019 treasurer's reports. We started the month of January 2019 with \$28,984.26 in our Money Market Account. We made a deposit of \$100,000 as a cash advance for ENUM-21. We made one payment of \$2,750.00 to the SE Fox River Partnership as a cash advance for the 2019 Summit. We received \$30.61 in interest bringing our Money Market account to a balance of \$126,264.87. The change to the non-grant funds was the \$30.61 in interest resulting in the net non-grant funds available being \$40,896.15. Regarding the grant funds, Jim stated that we have started tracking ENUM-21 so now we have added \$200,000 to our grant funds, giving us an undedicated grant funds total of \$196,002.75. Jim ended the report by asking the commissioners to identify any new projects so he can include them in the 2019-

2020 budget, which we will have to start working on soon. It was motioned by Jeff Lang and seconded by Fred Koeller that the treasurer's report be approved and the motion carried unanimously.

Old Business

- a) Fox River Partnership 2019 Summit: Tom Slawski said that so far we have 115 attendees signed up. After some discussion it was realized that we need to cash reimburse Jim Pindel, Dean Falkner, Chad Sampson and Allen Barrows. We need to provide a check to Fox River Partnership for Dave Brown and Todd Ambs. Tom said that for the first time with Chad's help we will have a group of farmers at the Summit. Tom will set up a table for them. Tom said that at last year's summit we broke up into smaller groups to find common interests and things that people of similar interests can work on together. Tom said that some of the groups continued to meet after the summit. Tom said that we will break into smaller groups again and one of those groups will be the farmers. Some of the groups will concern themselves with flood risk, education, funding, water quality and other topics. The plan would be for each group to identify a couple of items they can work on during the next year. Tom said that we need to get together more than just once a year to accomplish some of our goals. Tom said that regarding trying to get the Governors or their staffs to attend, it doesn't look like either Illinois or Wisconsin's Governors will attend. However, the recently appointed assistant deputy secretary of the WDNR Todd Ambs will attend. We will provide the attendance fee for him. Jim Pindel pointed out that just by coincidence March 22, which is the date of the Summit, is also World Water Day. Jim referred to an article in this month's National Geographic that states that and the fact that a quarter of the people in the US have drinking water which doesn't comply with the safe drinking water standard. Chad Sampson pointed out that the Fox River Summit was advertised in the Racine Journal Times.
- b) Mukwonago River shoreline restoration at WE Energies Site. Jim Pindel stated that all the paperwork for this project has been sent to Sara DeBruijn and he is waiting for word from her that the documentation is acceptable and the project can be closed.
- c) ESR Project disposal sites environmental impact: No one from the WWMD was present. Jim Pindel reported that this phase of the project is completed and so he is waiting for the documentation from Paul Kling of the WWMD to close it out. Jim also said that they are now working on the next phase of the ordeal which is a pilot project to dredge about 9,500 cubic yards of sediment and land spread it to verify the benefits of land spreading this material.
- d) Schuetze Playground Storm Water Abatement: - Jim Pindel said that there was still some documentation missing and it was provided by the city of Waukesha and Sara DeBruijn said it was now complete. However, Sara has

not notified us that the project has been closed out. It turns out that there was a duplication in the documentation which caused the final total cost of the project to the commission to decrease from \$25,000 to \$24,448.75. Jim said that he confirmed with Mellissa Lipska of the city that this was the correct amount that we still owe the city.

- e) SEWRPC Survey for Waterford Dam to the Illinois Border – Tom Slawski
Tom Slawski said that he was trying to get the priority loading completed by today's meeting. However, he has been familiarizing himself with the STEPL program which is the tool he needs to use to determine the loads and priorities. Tom said he has received new land use data and so he had to go back and adjust his previous work accordingly. One of the new additions to the STEPL program is that it greatly expanded the number of cropland Best Management Practices (BMP). Also the program now included pastureland BMP, which it didn't consider previously. Tom passed out to everyone a table of the BMP for both cropland and pastureland. Tom asked Chad Sampson and Dan Treloar if there are any other popular BMP's that should be added to the list. For each of the BMP the table listed the removal efficiency for nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment. Tom pointed out that comparing the removal efficiencies of grass buffers of 35', 75' and 75' to 400' demonstrated that the wider the buffer the more efficient it was. Tom again brought out the map showing the phosphorus loads color coded according to phosphorus loading of each of the HUC-12 areas in our watershed. Tom then showed a map depicting the cropland and pastureland along the main stem of the Fox River in the flood plain and flood way. Tom has to superimpose this data with the loading data to identify the priority of each of the locations that need to be addressed. After these priorities are established this methodology can be applied to tributaries like Sugar Creek, Honey Creek and the Wind Lake channel. Other criteria that is being considered in the prioritization and bank slopes and proximity to the river. Tom said that the goal is not to take the lands out of production but possibly just putting them in cover crops or installing harvestable buffers. Tom said this study does not include the northern urban section of our watershed because that involves an entirely different set of criteria. Dean Falkner pointed out that the Parks departments are looking at urban loading reductions and that the water purification plants down river are looking to go to adaptive management practices to offset their phosphorus load into the river. Donny Hefty said that the City of Burlington is looking to utilize these adaptive management practices to offset the city's overall phosphorus loading. This practice will help the city to avoid a \$15,000,000 water treatment plant enhancement. Donny said that he will make a presentation in the future looking for grant assistance for their adaptive management projects. Donny pointed out that 3 HUC-12 areas come together in the city of Burlington, they being Spring Brook, Honey Creek and the White River. Tom was asked if these maps and data were available on line and Tom said it would be sometime after the Summit.

- f) Birch Lane Shoreline Protection Project: Jim Pindel said that everyone has been paid for this project and that he will keep it on the agenda until he hears from Sara DeBruijn that she accepts the documentation and the project can be closed.
- g) VoW Jefferson St. Park & Launch – Fred Koeller. Fred said that the Village has put in an offer to buy some land north of the existing park to expand their waterfront. This purchase would add about 150' to 200' of new shoreline. Fred also said that the Village is trying to purchase some property that now has houses on them, so that they can move Jefferson St back, remove the houses and expand the available parking area on the west side of the park. Fred said that the purchase of the land to the north of the park also includes ownership of a small island about 50' offshore from the park. This island is north of the Waterford dam.
- h) Oakwood Shores Park Streambank Stabilization Project – Dan Treloar or Andy Buehler. Dan Treloar said that he spoke with Ryan Glassmaker, the engineer on the project. He said that Ryan's father has been sick, which has caused him some delays. Ryan said that he will have something to say to Dan next week. After the meeting, Dan Treloar advised Jim Pindel that he is retiring on April 5th, so someone else will have to take over as project manager.

New Business

- a) An Alternate (new) means of phosphorus removal: Todd Weik
In order to save Todd Weik having to sit through our regular meeting before he gave his presentation, we jumped ahead in our agenda to this item right after confirming quorum. Todd Weik of CBC Engineers & Associates provided a handout to all present and then walked his way through the handout explaining it. Todd started by saying that blast furnace slag is formed by the very first operation in making steel. The slag consists of limestone, coal and iron ore. Todd said that in Wisconsin there is NR538 which requires extensive testing of anything that is an industrial by-product to insure that it is safe for the environment. The first page showed a table of 19 different metals and the mg/L of each in such compounds as Blast Furnace Slag, top soil, potting soil, wood mulch, multivitamins and other substances. The second page showed 9 graphs of phosphorus concentration reduction versus time for 3 different sizes of slag modules. The sizes were 0.375", 0.75" and 2.0". The graphs showed that the smaller granular size had the most effective phosphorus reduction, which Todd credited to the greater surface area exposure. The 3rd page showed pictures of a site in Cudahy, WI where they were installing a green alley and were putting this slag under the alley to see if they could remove some of the phosphorus in the water that runs down the alley way. In order to be able to implement the slag installation, they had to do all the testing necessary to meet the NR538 requirements, which took about a year. They were able to get an exemption from

the WDNR to bring the slag up into Wisconsin and the company that handles the material is Phoenix Services. The Cudahy project won the American Public Works Association project of the year award for 2019. Todd said that they took preconstruction data on the runoff water and the first post construction data on the runoff water and found that they had 100% ortho-phosphorus removal, 90% total phosphorus removal, a 50% reduction in nitrates and a 100% reduction in fluorides. The next page of the handout tabulated the before and after test results. The next page of the handout showed some possible applications of the slag in rock check dams and gabion baskets. The last page of the handout showed a diagram of a farm field with drainage tiles that flowed into a ditch and Todd said a splash pad of slag at the exit of each of the drainage tiles consisting on slag would be a feasible application of the slag for phosphorus reduction. Todd said that there is a life cycle calculation in the paper that he forwarded to Jim Pindel and Jim said he sent it to all the commissioners. Todd ended his presentation by saying he placed a sample of the slag and his business card in a plastic bag and provided one to everyone, so if anyone has questions they can call him. Tom Slawski noted that the chlorides were reduced by the slag exposure and asked if this could be a way of treating water in an urban environment to reduce chlorides. Todd said he didn't think the chlorides were chemically reduced by the slag and they just settled in the slag. Todd gave an example of a possible application to a suburban house lot of 1 acre and said you would have to create a slag ditch of about 10% of that size to process the runoff from the lot. Jeff Lang asked how much slag would be need for this 0.1 acre ditch and the result was about 450 yards. Todd said that the Cudahy project with the addition of a small parking lot required 2000 tons of slag. Todd said that the cost of the slag is about \$2.00 per yard. Jeff then asked if it has to be stockpiled covered or not. Todd said that some people say it should be covered and others say it does not need it. Jim Pindel asked if it was a chemical reaction with the slag or was it a filtering effect that reduced the phosphorus and Todd said that the calcium in the slag joins with the phosphorus creating calcium phosphate which takes the phosphorus out of solution.

- b) Consideration of developing a USEPA 9-Key Elements Watershed Management Plan – Dean Falkner Dean said that they have been holding off on having their next meeting until they get the loading information from the SEWRPC survey. So once they get the survey results including the phosphorus loading they will jump on it and set their priorities.
- c) Ranke Road Stormwater Control Project – Chad Sampson: Jim Pindel pointed out that Jon Grove made the presentation on this project at last month's meeting at which time we said we would review the project acceptance criteria at this meeting and then vote on accepting the project for grant funds. Reviewing the acceptance criteria the project amassed 42 of a possible 55 points, as well as meeting the two major criteria of meeting the objectives of our implementation plan and having a likely chance of successful completion. It was motioned by Donny Hefty and seconded by Bob Bartholomew that we provide the \$27,000

worth of grant funds for this project. The motion carried unanimously.

Reports and Updates

- a) Report on the activities of SEWFRC and FWA to obtain EPA Healthy Watershed grant funds. Jim Pindel pointed out that we have a long (1 hour and 12 minute) discussion on this topic at the last meeting. At which time Alan Barrows said they would take it up at the 9-Key elements subcommittee. As it turns out that committee did not meet so no action was taken. Jim Pindel pointed out that through the discussion it appeared that this grant fund didn't apply to us since it is for organizing an environmental plan not for doing actual projects. Dean Falkner said that there are many other grant programs that could apply to us. Dean also said that it would seem applicable for the subcommittee to access other grant possibilities and bring to the commission those that seem applicable. Dean said it makes sense for the 9-Key elements subcommittee to take up this work since it was formed in the first place to help us get additional funding. Tom Slawski said that the Healthy Watershed grant program is good and useful but it should be taken up by some other entity that we could then support. Dean said that there is a grant fund out there to assist in remediation which likely we could tap into. Tom said it was important for us to get a definition of what we can fund and what we cannot fund from the WDNR. This point came up at last month's meeting when we said we need someone like Jim Ritchie who can tell us if we can legally fund a project or not. Rachel Sabre said she would look into it for us and possibly contact Jim Ritchie.
- b) Report on activities of Fox Waterway Agency (FWA) of Illinois – No one from the FWA was present and Jeff Lang had to leave the meeting early, so no report was made. It was reported that two of the FWA members will be attending the Summit they being Randy Sweet and Joe Keller.
- c) Possible diversion of City of Waukesha water treatment plant discharge away from the Fox River: Dean Falkner said that the only thing that will be diverted from the Fox River is the amount of water consumed by the city of Waukesha. All other waters that the water treatment plant processes will still be put into the Fox River. Dean said that the estimate he received is that the city will divert about 6,000,000 gallons a day to the Root River which will no long go to the Fox River which is less than the 10,000,000 gallons per day that we anticipated. Jim Pindel pointed out that he forwarded the email from Dean with the report from the city on the anticipated diversion quantities.
- d) Progress toward designation as a "National Water Trail" – Village of Waterford. Fred Koeller said that he has been gone for 2 months and so was not up to speed. Tom Slawski said that they are moving along quite well. At the Summit, they will be unveiling their on line portal with downloadable maps. Tom said this is a good step toward the National Water Trail and he is more concerned with trail development and not so much with the National designation. Fred Koeller said that Barbara Messick is retiring from the Village of Waterford and the Village

board has voted to fund her continuing to work full time on the water trail project, so that the leadership and continuity would remain.

- e) SEWFRC Website – Jim Pindel pointed out that at our last meeting Alan Barrows said that Al Sikora had reworked and updated our website and said we should go and review it. Dean said it is very much improved and Katelyn Bratz said that there are a number of links on the website to the Fox River Summit. She said some of them do not take you to the Summit page and others do. Katelyn said the links on the side menu do not take you to the Summit page.

Correspondence –

- a) 1/28/19 Email from Jim Pindel to “Mark your Calendars” for today’s meeting
- b) 1/28/19 Scanned, signed attachment of letter of support for the Waukesha County Land Conservancy by Dean Falkner
- c) 2/6/19 Forward of an email from Chad Sampson with attached photos of the WPCR Winter Workshop with ratings of 23 excellent and 21 good and 0 negatives.
- d) 2/21/19 Email from Jim Pindel stating who we have agreed to reimburse for the attendance fee for the Fox River Summit. Asking those who have not registered to let me know and Tom Slawski and I will take care of it.
- e) 2/26/19 Email forward concerning new method of removing phosphorus.
- f) 2/26/19 Forward of an email from Dean Falkner regarding the reduced flow in the Fox River due to the Waukesha diversion.
- g) 2/19/19 Jim Pindel received in the US Mail 3 copies of the MoU from Racine County regarding the 2019 Racine County allocation of \$10,000 to the SEWFRC. Jim said he signed all 3 copies and mailed back 2 copies.
- h) 2/13/19 Email from Rachel Sabre stating that she talked to the person responsible for generating the report on the effects of the winter drawdown on Little Muskego Lake. The report is not finished yet and would be in the near future and Rachel will forward that report when it becomes available.

Miscellaneous Issues –

Katelyn Bratz said that she has sent an email to Jim Pindel with a report of what the WDNR plans to do in the Mukwonago unit which is 1000 acres along the Mukwonago River. The WDNR plans to put in a campground including RV stations, boat and kayak launches and opportunities for fishing. Katelyn said the plan will have some impact on the waterway and all of it is within the Town of Mukwonago. Katelyn said that the comment period is over so there is nothing that can be done to change the plan anymore.

Chad Sampson said that the farmers winter workshop was very successful and that at the first workshop about a year and a half ago they handed out a questionnaire and the first question was have you ever used cover crops. There were 12 yes and 30 no answers. In the questionnaire that was used at this year’s winter workshop the answer regarding have you ever employed cover crop had results of 34 yes, 8 will try it this year and 7 or 8 no. Chad said that this show a considerable swing and there is a lot of attention being paid to soil health now as compared to the past. Chad said that a farmer, who had never planted

a cover crop 2 years ago, put 80 acres into cover crop this last year and now plans to do 600 acres next year. Chad also said that he attended a conference a couple weeks ago and as a result he will be preaching to the farmers in Racine County. As soon as they get the corn harvested, they immediately plant winter rye. In spring when the rye is starting to grow again they should plant soy beans right in the rye. After a few day they can use Roundup to kill off the rye. The rye holds the soil in place, holds the moisture and crowds out the weeds.

It was motioned by Doug Koehler that the meeting be closed and the motion was seconded by Andrew Lois. The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Closed at 2:28 PM

**THE NEXT OFFICIAL MEETING WILL BE Friday
April 12, 2019 at 1:00 PM. (Meeting Location: Burlington
Department of Public Works 2200 S. Pine Street, Burlington, WI.**