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Southeastern Wisconsin Fox River Commission Meeting Minutes

Friday, March 1, 2024- 10:00 AM

Meeting Location: Virtual

Southeastern Wisconsin Fox River Commission Meeting

Commissioners and (alternates) Quorum= 9		
Representing	Name	Attended (yes/no, by phone)
Kenosha County	Andy Buehler	Yes
	Mark Jenks (non-voting)	Yes
Racine County	Chad Sampson (Jon Grove)	Yes
Waukesha County	Alan Barrows (Leif Hauge)	Yes
City of Waukesha	Robins Grams (Doug Koehler)	Yes
Town of Mukwonago	Katelyn Bratz (Barb Holtz)	Yes
Town of Vernon	Lee Manthey	No
Town of Waterford	Jim Pindel (Shelley Tessmer)	Yes
Town of Waukesha	Ken Miller	No
Village of Big Bend	Kayla Rush	No
Village of Mukwonago	Wayne Castle	Yes
Village of Waterford	Fred Koeller (Al Sikora)	Yes
Village of Rochester	Wayne Jensen	Yes
Town of Burlington	Russ Egan	Yes
City of Burlington	Donny Hefty	Yes
Town of Wheatland		
Village of Salem Lakes	Bill Hopkins	No
SEWRPC	Tom Slawski (non-voting)	Yes
WDNR	Sara DeBruijn (non-voting)	
WDNR	Rachel Sabre (non-voting)	No

Guests	
Representing	Name
Grant Horn	WWMD
Gail Goodchild	Waukesha County EM

1. Alan Barrows called the meeting to order at 10:02 am.
2. Pledge of allegiance
3. Roll call was taken and quorum verified.
4. Confirm the Teams Chat recorder is running
5. Approval of minutes from the previous meetings held January 19, 2023
 - a. Russ Egan made a motion to approve the minutes.
 - b. Donny Hefty seconded the motion.
 - c. Motion Passes (note Barb Holtz abstained from voting since she was not present at that meeting)
6. Review the Treasurer's Report and ENUM project status.
 - a. Russ Egan made a motion to approve the treasurer's report.
 - b. Andy Beuhler seconded the motion.
 - c. Motion passes

Old Business

7. Fox River 2024 Summit – Tom Slawski
 - a. Summit is in two weeks March 14th and requests that everyone please promote it as much as possible. We currently have 80 attendees signed up. Hope to see everyone there.
8. Report on Fox River Park Project – Alan Barrows
 - a. Project is on schedule to start this spring 2024 and completed by June.
9. WWMD Project-Greg Horeth
 - a. Hold up has been a real estate transaction for disposal site. Waiting on approval of property owner, and they should be able to move forward.
10. Solberg Slope Stabilization- Chad Sampson
 - a. Looking at April to May to start this project

11. North River Bay Road Shoreline Restoration- Chad Sampson
 - a. Complete and paid- Could be removed from the agenda. DNR has approved this, but we have not received the reimbursement
12. Willow Court Shoreline Repair- Chad Sampson
 - a. Remove from this list.
13. John Margis Jr. Wildlife Area Restoration- Chad Sampson
 - a. Complete in August, looks great, the annual rye grass has come in thick with the native seeds.
 - b. The funds have been approved, but we have not received the funds. Could be removed from the agenda.
14. SEWRPC Survey from Waterford Dam to Illinois border-Tom Slawski
 - a. Progress has been made, but not able to complete the promised draft
15. Vernon Wildlife Area DU Impoundment Restoration-Kelsey Norton, WDNR
 - a. No report

New Business

16. 2021 – 2030 SEWFRC Implementation Plan – Tom Slawski & Alan Barrows
 - a. Met and created a framework for the project. Objective is to update and adopt the new document by the end of the year.
 - b. Created a task list and timeline
 - c. Worked on chapters via shared drive to make changes from work group members, March 20 at 3:30pm is the next meeting date.
 - d. Note website is also a bit out of date and needs to be updated as well.
17. Waukesha Diversion Project- Greg Horeth
 - a. No report
18. Poplar Circle Shoreline Restoration (3 landowners requesting \$9,000 each for \$27,000)
 - a. Meets the project acceptance criteria minimum for funding
 - a. Fred Koehler made a motion to approve the project.
 - b. Jim Pindel seconded the motion.
 - c. Motion passes
2. Noble Brothers Burgers Permeable Pavers (total cost estimate is \$275,000, but cost share request is \$50,000)
 - a. Runoff from this site does drain to the Fox River and design meets DNR stormwater management design standards.
 - b. Meets the project acceptance criteria minimum for funding
 - c. Russ Egan made a motion to approve the project and funding up to \$50,000 pending/contingent upon receipt of funding for ENUM 25 from WDNR and engineering review.
 - d. Fred Koehler seconded the motion.
 - e. Motion passes

3. Margis Wildlife Area Phase II (\$10,000 request)
 - a. Meets the project acceptance criteria minimum for funding
 - b. Russ Egan made a motion to approve the project.
 - c. Jim Pindel seconded the motion.
 - d. Motion passes

4. Fox River Watershed Hazard Mitigation Plan/Regional Coordinator Group- Gail Goodchild
 - a. Gail is requesting a regional coordination group to help implement recommendations from the recent completed and adopted Fox River Watershed Mitigation Plan.
 - b. SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 343, Fox (Illinois) River Watershed Mitigation Plan (9/2023, 164pp)
(sewrpc.org/SEWRPCFiles/Publications/CAPR/capr-343-fox-river-illinois-watershed-mitigation-plan.pdf)
 - c. Once plan is adopted by each community, the plan recommendations are potentially then available for federal funding.
 - d. Is the SEWFRC interested in helping to lead this regional coordination group? There is a draft charter and looking to meet a couple times of year.
 - e. Keep communications plan up to date, mission to share information, planning initiatives, emergency preparedness, and communication amongst dam owners.
 - f. Administration of grants would need to worked out, would SEWFRC be the administrator of the grant? Limited capacity to serve as grant administrator, unless grant award can be used to pay for that.
 - g. Even if SEWFRC cannot serve as grant administrator, if it could help serve on the regional coordination group to help prioritize projects and keep the communications plan up to date that would be a huge help to the County and all partners in the watershed.
 - h. Will continue to keep this item on the agenda for continued discussion-on establishment of a subcommittee to serve as regional coordinator role and communications plan. Plan to discuss this further at the next meeting.

Reports and Updates

5. Report on activities of Fox Waterway Agency of Illinois – FWA or Tom Slawski
 - a. No Update, but they are speaker at the next Fox River Summit
6. Report on future of the Echo Lake Dam in Burlington-Donny Hefty
 - a. The city has selected a firm to complete the work.
 - b. Donny has resigned from Commission and leaving the C/Burlington and no longer
 - c. New Commissioner-Peter Riggs will be replacing Donny in future.

7. Report on Fox River Watershed TMDL progress – Rachel Sabre
 - a. No update

8. Watershed Protection Committee of Racine County- Chad Sampson
 - a. Jim Stute is speaking at Fox River Summit along with several other members and sponsoring a table.
 - b. Continuing Case Eagle Park monitoring
9. Kenosha County Regenerative Producers- Mark Jenks
 - a. Held their first meeting this past Tuesday and discussed the Fox River Summit attendance
10. SEWFRC Website – Al Sikora or Alan Barrows
 - a. No update

Correspondence

- 1/24/24 Email from Katelyn Bratz to Commissioners on meeting rainfall and dam height data
- 1/30/24 Email from Tom Slawski to Katelyn Bratz on meeting invite procedures and updated email lists
- 2/6/24 Email from Wayne Jensen to Tom Slawski providing Treasurer's report
- 2/9/2024 Email from Alan Barrows to Implementation Plan Subcommittee to share files
- 2/11/2024 Email from Tom Slawski to Commissioners on reminder of upcoming 12th Annual Fox River Summit announcement
- 2/19/24 Emails from Greg Horeth and Grant Horn to Commission on Waterford Dam Water Level w/ Rainfall
- 2/19/24 Email from Tom Slawski to Commissioners on Chicago Wilderness upcoming virtual mtg Feb 22nd registration for next week's cafe! Wisconsin's Farmer-Led Watershed Councils & Lessons for Illinois
- 2/21/24 Email from Tom Slawski to Commissioners on upcoming Fox Waterway Agency stakeholder meeting

Miscellaneous Issues

1. Next Meeting and Location
 - a. Village of Vernon replacing bridge on Fox River and possible new canoe/kayak launch in future
 - b. Waterfowl Stamp grant project was approved for Vernon Marsh with

Waukesha County as lead and will be permitted and design for 2025.

2. Next Meeting on Friday May 3rd, 2024, at 1pm, hybrid in-person/ with virtual option at DPW Community room located at 2200 S. Pine St, Burlington, WI 53105.

3. Close Meeting 11:39am

- a. Chat Sampson made a motion to adjourn the meeting.
- b. Wayne Jensen seconded the motion.
- c. Motion Passes

* If you have any question about the Agenda, please call Secretary Tom Slawski at tslawski@sewrpc.org or (262) 953-3263.