

Commission members present:

Al Sikora (Village of Waterford) (Chairman)
Randy Craig (Town of Vernon)
Robert Bartholomew (Town of Vernon)
Francis Stadler (Village of Big Bend)
Chad Sampson (Racine County)
Alan Barrows (Waukesha County)
Barb Holtz (Town of Mukwonago)
Doug Koehler (City of Waukesha)
Jim D'Antuono (Wisconsin DNR)
Tom Slawski (SEWRPC)
Mary Pindel (Town of Waterford – Alternate)
Jim Pindel (Town of Waterford) (Secretary/Treasurer)

Commission members absent:

Don Scott (Town of Vernon) (Vice-Chairman)
Ron Peterson (Village of Big Bend)
Randy Meier (Town of Waterford)
Shelley Tessmer (Town of Waterford)
Dean Falkner (Village of Mukwonago)
John Marek (Town of Waukesha)

Also present: Barbara Baron, Don Baron of the WWMD, Mark Mayette of Racine County and Dan Treloar of Kenosha County.

At 1:04 PM, 03/07/14, Chairman 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 February 14, 2014 meeting were reviewed. It was motioned by Bob Bartholomew and seconded by Randy Craig that the minutes be approved. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Treasurer Reports – The Treasurer's Report for February 2014 was reviewed. In summary we started with \$75,425.69 in our money market account. We made cash advance payment of \$4,125 to the SE Fox River Partnership for the 2014 Fox River Summit and a payment of \$5,649.50 to Graef Engineering toward the GIS mapping survey. We received interest payment of \$10.79 leaving us with a final balance of \$65,661.98. It was noted that the payment of \$5,649.50 was to Graef and the \$4,125.00 was to the Fox River Partnership not to the line items erroneously listed on the report. The main change to the enumeration report was that the removal of the culverts in Rainbow Spring project was moved up the completed projects section. Jim Pindel pointed out that since the last meeting Jim Ritchie of the WDNR asked him to look up our tax number and in so doing we saw that in 2007 we had an interest income of over \$5000 and in 2008 we made over \$4000. These numbers and probably the years before them explain how we wound up with the approximately \$30,000 we had in the summer of 2011 when we had no grant income and no grant expense left. Jim Pindel also pointed

out that on the line which states “Total balance available from ENUM-18” he has made a note that all of these funds must be used up by 6/30/14. Jim’s understanding is that all the project work has to be completed by that date but follow up paperwork like invoicing, payment, proof of payment, lien waivers and other required forms can be completed in a timely manner after this date. Jim Pindel said that he would inquire with Jim Ritchie of the WDNR to confirm this. Jim Pindel also said the ENUM-19 would also expire on that date and so he has to request a grant extension. It was motioned by Francis Stadler and seconded by Doug Koehler that the Treasurers Reports be approved as amended. The report was approved unanimously.

Old Business

- a) Mukwonago River Restoration within Rainbow Springs – Jim Pindel stated that the proof of payment had been received for the KMNHA to close out the project. The project is complete and closed out and will be removed from the agenda.
- b) Fox River Partnership Summit – Tom Slawski stated that 79 people had registered as of this morning. Last year we had 145 registrants and so we are probably on track to at least meet last year’s attendance. Tom said that there will be 6 or 7 booths mostly from people who were there last year. The Root Plank watershed initiative network is also going to attend with a booth. They come from the Great Lakes contingent. Alan Barrows asked if Tom could tell us what the affiliations were of the people already signed up. Tom said that there were not many individuals, there are quite a few agencies, several municipalities, some consultants and quite a few conservation groups. Tom also said that Eric Nietzsche of the WDNR is registered. Tom said he had one request for a booth from a consultant, thus far he has not charged a fee for booths, but when consultants come in, he will consider a fee for them because they are for profit. This additional revenue stream could help offset some of the costs of the summit. Dan Treloar of Kenosha County pointed out that he had a problem when he tried to register using someone else’s credit card/Pal Pal account. Tom acknowledged the problem and he and Al Sikora had addressed it, so it should not be a problem in the future. Don Baron of the WWMD asked if Tom had invited the legislators and political people and Tom said that he had.
- c) Shoreline erosion mapping and stabilization planning with invasive species mapping – Graef Engineering. Jim Pindel reported that Alan Barrows had requested and received the GIS data from Graef. Jim asked Alan if he had a chance to evaluate the GIS mapping and Alan said that he had only just looked at it. Jim went on to say that after we hear back from Alan and Chad representing the two counties we now cover, if the data is acceptable and beneficial, we should consider mapping the Mukwonago River. If and when we extend to the Illinois border, it might be appropriate to GIS map the new river way to see what we have let ourselves in for. Jim also pointed out that

all of the 19 erosion control project identified were in Waukesha County. He said he should contact Geof Parish at Graef and ask if any of the deposition locations in Racine County were severe enough to prohibit canoe and motor boat travel. Then as a matter of navigation we would need to address these locations with some form of dredging. Francis Stadler said that he was not able to open the data provided by Graef on the internet. Barb Holtz said she had the same problem. Jim Pindel said that he was able to access it and that it was a very large .pdf file. Al Sikora said that it was possible that some of our PC equipment or software was not current enough to handle the file. Jim Pindel went on to say that Graef owes us three hard copies of the report, so if anyone can not view the survey on their PC they can borrow one of the hard copies to study.

d) Big Bend boat/canoe launch retaining wall – During the review of the Treasurer's report, Francis Stadler asked if the new fence had been included in this project. Jim Pindel stated that at our last meeting we reviewed the proposal from the contractor and agreed that the \$1400 addition was to raise the fence 2 feet and adjust the landscaping accordingly. The fence is a new issue. If the fence requires funding from the commission Ron or Francis would have to present a cost and apply as if this were a separate project which we could vote on funding. Francis requested that we keep this project on the agenda and Jim Pindel suggested that we change to title to boat/canoe fence instead of retaining wall, Francis agreed. Jim also reported that we have sent the check to the Village and so now we are waiting for it to clear the bank so the project can be closed out.

New Business

- a. Wood Drive Erosion Control Project – Chad Sampson Chad said that the project was still a go. The project to the east of there on farmland owned by Kevin Malchine is still in the discussion stage. The new Farm Bill which was recently passed doesn't have a lot of policy written up yet so they can't apply it as of now. He hoped that the policies would be set in the next few weeks and then he could negotiate with the farmers involved. The weather conditions have pushed back the construction season which could be a problem with getting the project done by 6/30/14. With input from Bob Bartholomew, Chad did say that the Farm Bill did allow for wide environmental corridors around rivers and streams including reasonable rental provisions for renting these areas from the farmers.
- b. Consideration of expanding the Commission's jurisdiction south to the Illinois border Tom Slawski said that he had contacted Craig Workman of the City of Burlington asking that we could be put on their meeting schedule. Tom said he has not received any response for Craig and will get after the City more aggressively after the summit. Jim Pindel suggested that maybe we contact the Mayor or the City Clerk to try to get

on the agenda. Al Sikora said that he had received the MOU from the town of Burlington and had given it to Jim Pindel just before the meeting. Tom asked Jim to scan it and forward it to him.

- c. Consideration of how we operate with a larger membership base: Jim Pindel pointed out that this is just an ongoing discussion so we are prepared to tell our legislators how we would like to see our commission redefined with the expansion. Jim suggested that we either include in the state statutes or amend our project criteria so that anyone who applies for funding a project must come from a municipality that has representation on the commission. The intent here was to insure that all the included municipalities actively participate. After some discussion and with the fact that the counties over shadow the municipalities, it was decided this wasn't such a good idea and it was put to rest.
- d. Possible request for grant funds for Mukwonago shoreline restoration: Alan Barrows said the he and Dean Falkner met with WE Energies on Monday of this week. We sat down with the revised working agreement to essentially outline the process of the village paying the contractor and the county overseeing the construction with WE Energies doing their own portion as sort of a cost share match. Alan said that he thought they had made a lot of progress with WE Energies land agent taking our working agreement back to his office to review all the details. Alan said that he was quite confident that they can get the agreements signed and apply for the Chapter 30 permits in the next week or so. The challenge will be what the weather has thrown at us, the types of plants that they intend to use should be planted in May but with the expected late spring, we will have to play it by ear. Barb Holtz asked what was going to be done about the invasive species along the shoreline. Alan said that the original plan called for selected shrubs to be kept but the plan now is for all the existing vegetation to be removed. Barb pointed out that during the walk through last summer, she noted Siberian Elm which is an invasive species that has a root system that is inductive to erosion. It is similar to our common buckthorn which overshadows the other vegetation under it that induces erosion.
- e. Possible diversion of City of Waukesha water treatment plant discharge away from the Fox River: Jim D'Antuono said he had nothing to add to what Jim Ritchie indicated at the last meeting that the city has presented its formal application to the WDNR and there has been ongoing communication to answer some questions, so it is an ongoing process.
- f. Review preliminary 2015 SEWFRC Budget – Jim Pindel Jim reviewed the worksheet prepared for this meeting. On the non-grant side we started with \$28,894.36 and estimate interest income of \$2,160.00 and operating expenses of \$840.82 resulting in net non-grant funds of \$31,547.95. On the grant side we have the two grants ENUM-18 & 19 totaling \$400,000.

The worksheet enumerated all the individual grant projects completed, in process and expected totaling \$265,793.65 resulting in \$164,913.48 still available for new future grants. Transposing these numbers into the Proposed Budget for 2015 that is published and voted upon at the annual public hearing, adding the grant funds to the non-grant funds results in a total revenue of \$431,547.95. Adding up the project costs for all the projects in Racine and Waukesha counties, our operating expenses and our Future Project Reserve Balance totals \$431,547.95. This gives us a balanced budget. Appended to the end of the published 2015 budget was a list of anticipated potential grant fund projects. The five highest priority erosion control projects found on the GIS map were listed for Waukesha County. We did not have any anticipated potential projects for Racine County and Chad Sampson said he would provide some in short order. We want to list these anticipated projects so that the county boards see what we have ahead of us, so that they possibly would allocate some funds to us. These potential projects are also helpful when we show them to our legislators when we are asking for state grant funds. It was motioned by Alan Barrows and seconded by Francis Stadler that the proposed budget be accepted and the motion carried unanimously.

Reports and Updates

- a) Report on activities of Fox Waterway Agency (FWA) of Illinois – Ron Barker was not present and Tom Slawski said that he had not heard anything to report. Tom also said that he had not received any response from the Agency concerning the Summit.
- b) SEWFRC Website – Al Sikora said all the projects were in the completed category except the Mukwonago River shoreline stabilization at the WE Energies property. Al said he is looking for electronic photos of the Big Bend boat launch retaining wall and asked Francis to see what he could do to get them.
- c) Highway 164 Construction update: - Don Baron said that there was no new information except what we talked about last month. Don asked Chad Sampson if he had done anything about the runoff coming into this area and Chad said he was waiting of the Farm Bill policies to be settled so he could proceed with the farmer involved.

Correspondence –

- a. 2/21/14 Tom Slawski emailed that the Fox River Summit was announced in the Sweet Water Watershed Watch. A copy of the Watch was attached.
- b. 2/24/14 Project cost estimates emailed by Paul Kling of WWMD to Jim Pindel
- c. 2/26/14 Email and attachment from Geof Parish of Graef to Alan Barrows providing the GIS map data.

- d. 3/1/14 Emails between Jim Pindel and Jim Ritchie closing out the Mukwonago River culvert removal project.
- e. 3/6/14 Email from Jim Ritchie stating that he has processed some of the money being held by the WDNR against the second half of ENUM-18

Miscellaneous Issues –

Jim D'Antuono advised the commission of an in process land fill project in the Village of Big Bend where the runoff and ground water are affecting the wetlands and Mill Brook, a high quality cold water stream, adjacent to this property that eventually runs into the Fox River. There will be hundreds of thousands of cubic yards of material deposited on this site. Eventually this will probably be turned into a subdivision. This work is being done by a private individual who has been permitted by the WDNR and permission to go forward by the Village of Big Bend. This will be a phased project and the individual has now approached the Village to move to phase 2, to expand the foot print. So many people showed up for the Village meeting that it had to be postponed to a time and place where all could be accommodated. There was some discussion concerning whether the project was operating within permitted parameters and it seems that they were. Francis Stadler said that the project was now on hold and no work was being done. Jim D'Antuono asked that we make this an agenda item so that we follow it and do whatever is necessary to protect the wetlands, stream and Fox River as things go forward.

Francis Stadler asked if there was anything that could be done to eliminate (poison) weeds that come up in rock rip rap. Jim D'Antuono advised him that a representative of the Village would have to contact the WDNR and apply for an Aquatic Plant management permit and then contract an authorized contractor to come in and properly address the plants.

Alan Barrows said that he needs more pictures for our three panel display for the summit. Specifically he was looking for pictures of the sediment sampling by the WWMD, last year's Fox River Summit and the Big Bend retaining wall.

Randy Craig said that there is an organization called the Rock River Coalition that did the same sort of things we do but on a larger scale. He wondered if we had any contact with them because we might be able to learn from them. Tom Slawski said that he does interact with them and has invited them to the Summit. Tom said he will try to continue to work with them.

It was motioned by Francis Stadler and seconded by Bob Bartholomew that the meeting be closed. The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Closed at 2:37 PM

THE NEXT OFFICIAL MEETING WILL BE Friday, April 25, 2014 at 1:00 PM. (Meeting Location: Town of Vernon Fire Station #1, W233 S7475 Woodland Lane, Big Bend, WI 53103.)