

Commission members present:

Howard Garvens (Town of Waukesha) (Vice-Chairman)
Jamie Soneberg (Village of Big Bend)
Randy Craig (Town of Vernon)
Don Scott (Town of Vernon)
Jim D' Antuono (Wisconsin DNR)
Barb Holtz (Town of Mukwonago)
Al Sikora (Village of Waterford)
Alan Barrows (Waukesha County)
Jeff Thornton (Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission)
Jim Pindel (Town of Waterford) (Co-Secretary/Treasurer)
Mary Pindel (Town of Waterford) (Co-Secretary/Treasurer)

Commission members absent:

Greg Kessler (Town of Waterford) (Chairman)
Ron Peterson (Village of Big Bend)
Chad Sampson (Racine County)
David Kopp (City of Waukesha)
Dale Fennel (Village of Mukwonago)
Shelley Tessmer (Town of Waterford)

Also present: Dick Kosut WWMD and Jim Ritchie WDNR

At 1:30 PM, 3/12/10, Vice-Chairman Howard Garvens called the Commission Meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Roll call was taken and a quorum was confirmed.

Minutes from the February 5, 2009 meeting were reviewed. It was motioned by Randy Craig and seconded by Jamie Soneberg that the minutes be approved as submitted. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Treasurer Reports – The Treasurer's Report for February 2010 was reviewed. The only real change from the January statement was the interest made on our money market account. Barb Holtz asked why the payment we made to the Town of Mukwonago for Phase 1 of the Phantom Woods Road project did not show up in the Enumeration Status Summary portion of the report. It was explained that the payment we made came out of our Money Market Account and we will not apply to the DNR for reimbursement until the second phase of the project is completed. Don Scott motioned to accept the Treasurers Report and Al Sikora seconded the motion. The treasurer's report was approved.

Old Business

- a) Schmidt & Canton's Island Demonstration Erosion Control Project. (active)
Shelley Tessmer was not present. Jim Pindel reported that Shelley indicated in an email that there was nothing to report at this time. She did indicate that she had received the 'cost share' document provided by Chad Sampson after our last

meeting.

- b) Boat/Canoe Launch in Big Bend (active) – Jamie Soneberg said that the Village of Big Bend is moving forward with the bidding process and expects to complete the project this coming summer.
- c) Grand Drive/ Buena Park Project (active) – WWMD Dick Kosut stated that the engineering was completed in January and February and now they are moving forward with the project.
- d) Idlewood Drive Project (active) – WWMD Dick Kosut said that they have to wait for the weather to break before they can attend to the corrections that need to be done to complete the project.
- e) Phantom Woods Road Channel Enhancement (active) – Barb Holtz Barb Holtz reported that phase 2 of the project was moving forward waiting for the permitting process with the DNR to be completed and for the weather allow them to do the work. They have the plugs, biologs and other materials on order.
- f) Mukwonago Shoreline Stabilization Project (active) Dale Fennel Dale Fennel was not present. Jim Pindel reported that Steve Brunner of Ruekert * Mielke sent an email to Greg Kessler indicating that he was not aware of the fact that Dale had not been making reports to the commission on this project. The email further indicated that Steve would be coming to this meeting to make a report, but since Steve was not present we had to move along without it.
- g) Vernon Wildlife Area Stream bank Stabilization Project (pending) – Jim D’Antuono said that Brian Glenzinski had briefed him on the status of this project. Phase 1 on the project was to remove the buckthorn along the channel so that they could then do the structural work along the banks. The structural work consists of laying back the banks, stoning them and stabilizing the system. Jim passed around some pictures that show the removal of the buckthorn. Some heavy duty DNR equipment and chainsaws were used to cut the buckthorn. The buckthorn was chipped and left in place to help reduce runoff once the ground thawed out. The pictures showed an area shaded in green indicating where the buckthorn was removed and six other pictures show the area to the south where these channels drain into a ditch which flows into the Fox River. With this work done they are now waiting for the weather to improve and the ground to dry out so that they can do the grading portion and other mechanical work. Jim Pindel asked for a copy of the pictures for the project file and Jim D’Antuono said he could keep the pictures going around the room. Al Sikora asked for electronic versions of the pictures for the Website and Jim D’Antuono said he would provide them.
- h) Vernon Wildlife Area Flowage Restoration Project (tabled until August) – Brian Glenzinski asked Jim D’Antuono to report that he has applying for the large grant

from the Wildlife Federation. Jim said that Brian is very optimistic that he will get the grant. The grant is for over a million dollars with the Vernon Marsh project just being a portion of the grant and most of the rest of the grant is to be used for land acquisition requests by the DNR for land in and around the Fox River watershed. Brian expects to hear about the grant in late summer. Jim Pindel reported that he had filled out the NORTH AMERICAN WETLANDS CONSERVATION ACT PROPOSAL PARTNER CONTRIBUTION FORM as requested by Brian at our last meeting and had emailed it to Brian.

- i) Kossik Stream Restoration Project (active) – Jim D’Antuono stated that the DNR had received the permit application for this project this last week. They are in the process of reviewing it and will be providing feedback comments to the consultant Mary Kossik used in the near future. There are some deficiencies she needs to correct but he is hopeful that she can go forward with the project this summer.
- j) Possible boat/canoe launch on Highway ES (pending) – Alan Barrows said that the bridge was scheduled for redecking in 2012 and this would be the first time the county would be willing to address this issue. He said that there is a gully in the roads right-of-way that might be utilized in the short term. As far as a boat launch is concerned Alan said that the county is committed to the launch where the Fox River Inn was located.

New Business

- a) Water level gauge for Village of Big Bend – Jamie Soneberg said that they were still gathering information and hoped he would have more information by our next meeting. He said that he had talked to Jeff Thornton and Jim Pindel concerning this matter and that Jim had shown him drawings dating back to 1978 indicating a water level gauge in Big Bend. Apparently a system had existed to measure water levels upstream to control the opening of the Waterford dam. The consensus was that the system or at least the water level gauge in Big Bend had been destroyed by lightening. Jamie said that he remembered the water gauge and that it was located at the Lions Club.
- b) Disposition of SEWFRC Digital Camera Jim Pindel reported that the commission had purchased a digital camera for \$250 back in 2002 and that Francis Stadler had the camera updated for \$76 dollars a few years ago when he was the commission chairman. We have never used the camera since that time and he wondered if we shouldn’t sell it for whatever money we can get to add to our non-reimb funds, since we are short on cash. It was the opinion of the group that the camera probably didn’t have much value anymore, but Jim was asked to bring the camera to our next meeting so it could be inspected and see if anyone had a use for it. Alan Barrows said that he might want to use it when he accompanies SEWRPC on the boat tour (evaluation) of the Fox River this spring as part of SEWRPC’s effort to develop our next implementation plan.

Reports and Updates

- a) Update of SEWFRC Implementation Plan –Jeff Thornton said that he had nothing special to report at this time, but that some federal dollars had become available and would be put toward this project. Jeff said they have a staff member named Joe Boxhorn who has been assigned to work on this plan. As soon as we have some water levels reasonably close to normal, they would be taking an assessment trip down the river to identify issues of concern.

- b) 2011 SEWFRC Budget or alternate means of funding for the Commission – Greg Kessler. Jim Pindel said that he received an email from Greg this morning which stated that Greg had made attempts with both Waukesha and Racine counties. Greg said that there was some support and interest with Waukesha County through collaborating in their planning efforts, but there was no success with Racine County because they didn't want to meet with him. Alan Barrows asked to elaborate on this topic. He said what we need to do is find a way in which the commission can enhance the money that the county allocates for its citizens. Find some way to make the system more efficient to get \$1.10 out of every \$1.00 the county spends on a project. To make our case we need to find a way to show we can be more efficient with the distribution of these funds. Jamie Soneberg suggested that maybe we need to go further upstream from the City of Waukesha. Possibly these communities which provide the source flow into the Fox River, might be viable sources of new allocations. Jeff Thornton pointed out that one of the mandates for the new implementation plan the SEWRPC is working on is to expand the area of our jurisdiction to the north, south and even to the west.

- c) Waterford Dam Restoration – Chad Sampson Chad Sampson was not present so no report was made.

- d) Mukwonago River Basin Protection Plan – SEWRPC Jeff Thornton reported that the plan is moving forward. They are in the process of organizing another public meeting. This meeting will be concerned with the implementation or recommendation side of the plan and will probably occur in mid-April. The plan is on track to be wrapped up by the end of June. At the next meeting Jeff said he should be able to advise the exact time and location for the meeting.

- e) Frame Park Creek Watershed – Jim D'Antuono said that the WDNR and the University of Wisconsin extension are cooperating to put together a plan to identify conditions and future goals for the watershed. The draft of this report is due to be sent to Madison by the end of this month. As soon as the report is available for public viewing, Jim will provide the information in the report to the commission.

- f) Report on activities of Fox Waterway Agency (FWA) of Illinois – Jeff Thornton said there was nothing to report from the agency at this time. Jeff also said that he had just received an email from them indicating that they had their dam gate wide open at the Stratton dam and chain of lakes and are monitoring the spring thaw and runoff.
- g) SEWFRC Website – Al Sikora said he is willing to keep the website updated at no additional cost to the commission. He did remind us that he needs the project leaders to provide narratives and photos (preferably electronically) for their projects so he can keep the website current. Al went on to ask the project leader to attach a dollar value to the projects. At some point this website will be a huge tool for fund raising for the commission. Giving the website viewers some prospective of what we have invested should help promote us.

Correspondence –

- a) 2/18/2010 NORTH AMERICAN WETLANDS CONSERVATION ACT PROPOSAL PARTNER CONTRIBUTION FORM Signed and sent by Jim Pindel for SEWFRC to Brian Glenzinski for the Vernon Wildlife Area Flowage Restoration Project.
- b) 2/19/2010 Email from Steve Brunner of Ruekert * Mielke to Greg Kessler updating him on the progress of the Mukwonago River Bank Stabilization Project. Also notifying us that Dale Fennel is leaving the state and our commission.
- c) 2/25/2010 Email to Dave Kopp requesting a Letter of Appointment for his next term
- d) 2/25/2010 Email to Shelley Tessmer asking for update on Schmidt & Canton Island project.

Miscellaneous Issues –

Dick Kosut of the WWMD asked if the commission or the DNR had any information concerning the Asian Carp coming up the Fox River from Illinois. Jim D'Antuono said that he had not heard any discussion concerning the Carp coming up the Fox River. Both he and Jeff Thornton felt that the height of the Stratton dam (probably on the order of 50 to 60 feet high) would prevent the Carp from migrating past that point. Don Scott added that nature might have a way, like eagles catching and dropping fish, to circumvent the dam.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Jamie Soneberg and seconded by Randy Craig, the motion carried.

Meeting Closed at 2:00 PM

NEXT OFFICIAL MEETING WILL BE Friday, April 23, 2010 at 1:00 PM. (Meeting Location: Big Bend-Vernon Fire Station #3, W233 S7475 Woodland Lane, Big Bend, WI 53103.)

Respectfully submitted by Jim & Mary Pindel