

Commission members present:

Dean Falkner (Village of Mukwonago) (Chairman)
Barb Holtz (Town of Mukwonago)
Andy Buehler (Kenosha County)
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)
Bob Bartholomew (Town of Vernon)
Wayne Jensen (Village of Rochester)
Rachel Sabre (Wisconsin DNR)
Jim Pindel (Town of Waterford) (Secretary/Treasurer)

Commission members absent:

Bill Hopkins (Village of Salem Lakes)
Andrew Lois (Town of Wheatland)
Michelle Clark (Village of Big Bend)
Ken Miller (Town of Waukesha)
Tom Slawski (SEWRPC)

Also present: Allison Mann of Racine County, Wayne Castle of the Village of Mukwonago and Dave Spurlock of the WWMD.

1. At 1:04 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 March 1, 2019 meeting were reviewed. It was motioned by Chad Sampson that the minutes be approved and the motion was seconded by Donny Hefty. The minutes were approved unanimously with Jeff Lang and Barb Holtz abstaining, because they were not present.
4. **Treasurer Reports** – Jim Pindel reviewed the February 2019 treasurer's report first. The only change to the Treasurer's Report for February was the \$72.65 in interest earned on our Money Market Account. We started the month of March 2019 with \$126,337.52 in our Money Market Account. We made a deposit of \$10,000 which is the 2019 allocation from Racine County. We made three payments totaling \$600.00 to reimburse for or pay in advance for 15 attendees of the Fox River 2019 Summit. We received \$82.30 in interest bringing our Money Market account to a balance of \$135,819.82. The change to the non-grant funds was the YTD 2019 interest of \$185.56 resulting in the net non-grant funds available being \$40,451.10. The question came up of how to handle prepayments for the Fox River Summit when the person we paid for does not show up. After a

short discussion, Jim Pindel motioned that we accept the payments from those who offer it and not pursue repayment from those who do not. From commissioners it would be easy to request payment, but from non-commissioners it could be difficult. We have to remember that people can have last minute emergencies or problems that they did not anticipate. The question was asked if this motion was for just this year or for all future summits. Jim Pindel responded that it should hold for all future summits. The motion on the table was seconded by Jeff Lang and the motion passed unanimously. It was motioned by Jeff Lang that the Treasurer's Report be accepted and seconded by Fred Koeller that the treasurer's report be approved and the motion carried unanimously. Jim Pindel ended up by saying we need a list of project for each of the counties and from any other commissioners, because he will provide a preliminary budget for the 2019-2020 year for our next meeting in May. That should lead to a public meeting in June. Dean Falkner said with that in mind, he will get hold of Tom Slawski to get the prioritized list of sites that need to be addressed so we can target them as the projects listed in the budget.

Old Business

- a) Fox River Partnership 2019 Summit: Tom Slawski was not present, so no report was made. Jim Pindel commented that in the past the hand out included a list of attendees and who they represented. This did not happen this time and he wished it was included because it gave him an opportunity see who was there and who he should meet up with.
- 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: Jim Pindel stated that he is waiting for documentation from the WWMD, so we can close this project out. Dave Spurlock of the WWMD was present and said he will advise Paul Kling. Jim Pindel also said that this project is part of ENUM-20 which has to be closed out by June 30th of this year.
- d) Schuetze Playground Storm Water Abatement: - As stated during the Treasurer's Report, we are waiting for word from Sara, so we can close this project out.
- e) SEWRPC Survey for Waterford Dam to the Illinois Border – Tom Slawski Tom Slawski was not present. Dean Falkner said he will contact SEWRPC to see if he can get a copy of the prioritized projects so we can focus on the areas of greatest need.

- f) Birch Lane Shoreline Protection Project: As stated during the Treasurer's Report we are waiting for word from Sara DeBruijn so we can close this project out.
- g) VoW Jefferson St. Park & Launch – Fred Koeller. Fred said that the Village has completed the purchase of the property north of the original project site. So the next step will be to engineer this additional property to incorporate it into the overall park. Fred said that with the reconstruction of SHW 20 in the Village, a lot of engineering and effort is being put into taking care of immediate work and changes. He said that preliminary engineering is expected to be done this coming fall.
- h) Oakwood Shores Park Streambank Stabilization Project – Andy Buehler. Andy said that they put out bids on April 8th and bids are to be in by May 10th. Andy said that since Dan Treloar has retired, he will be taking over as the project manager until they hire someone to take Dan's place.

New Business

- a) Consideration of developing a USEPA 9-Key Elements Watershed Management Plan – Dean Falkner Dean outlined the items they are concentrating on. Dean pointed out that at the Fox River Summit Todd Ambs of the WDNR said that when the WDNR has the time and money they will develop a TMDL for the Fox River. Dean said that from the start we pursued identifying projects that would do the most good for cleaning up the Fox River and a TMDL will not accomplish this end. A TMDL will establish limits for certain elements and work toward cleaning up that particular problem. Getting the TMDL established will take a lot of time and discussion, whereas pursuing the 9-Key Elements plan can get going as soon as we identify the highest priority projects so we can work on funding and executing them. Dean said that water quality data has been collected by the water treatment plants along the Fox River and he hoped that all this data has been collected by the WDNR so they can make a correct assessment of the water quality of the Fox River. Rachel Sabre said that the WDNR has just finished its 2020 assessment and she expects that she will receive a list of sites that need to be addressed. Dean pointed out that there are nine additional data sites that have been provided by the water treatment plants to the WDNR to help with their assessment. Regarding Fox River flow monitoring, Dean said he contacted USGS and they suggested doing proportioning and said that actual flow meters would not be cost effective. Flow meters would cost ten to twenty-five thousand dollars up front and continual maintenance costs from then on. Dean said he has the contact information of someone at USGS who we can work with to get a handle of flow rates in the river. Dean said that he contacted the Waukesha County Conservancy to see what monitoring they might be working on. Dean then asked the 9-Key Elements subcommittee people present about scheduling their next meeting and it appears that a meeting can be set in the next couple weeks. Jim Pindel pointed out that there was an article in a recent Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

saying that the WDNR is undertaking a study to identify chemicals or elements that do not degrade in the waters throughout the state. When this study is completed it might indicate some new work we have to take on.

- b) Ranke Road Stormwater Control Project – Chad Sampson: Chad said there is nothing to report at this time, but the project should get completed sometime this year.

Reports and Updates

- a) Report on activities of Fox Waterway Agency (FWA) of Illinois – Randy Sweet started out by thanking the commission for sponsoring his and Joe Keller's attendance at the Fox River Summit. Randy said that on the first Saturday of May they will be having their annual Fox River clean up. Randy passed around a copy of the flyer for the event. Randy said he made a presentation to the FWA board to get their approval for the proposed watershed plan. The watershed plan was unanimously approved. The plan has developed into a pay-in plan where the member communities pay-in to participate and thus fund the work that needs to be done. Randy said that presently the FWA does not have involvement with the counties and municipalities, like our commission has, and so the watershed plan will serve the purpose of involving them. It is anticipated that the involvement and funding from the counties and municipalities will pay for most of the expenses of the contracted engineers leaving very little expense for the FWA. Randy said they will be putting out a request for proposal to the engineering firms in the next couple weeks that will be due in early August. Randy also pointed out that 2 of the HUCs in the northern portion of their watershed extend into Wisconsin. Therefore they will only be able to address the part of these HUCs that are in Illinois and the remainder of the HUCs will be the responsibility of Wisconsin.
- b) Possible diversion of City of Waukesha water treatment plant discharge away from the Fox River: Dean Falkner said that he will be receiving a copy of the environmental impact statement from the WDNR. He said he will forward it to Jim Pindel who will then send it out to all the commissioners.
- c) Progress toward designation as a "National Water Trail" – Village of Waterford. Fred Koeller said that he has nothing new to report since the Summit. Fred also said that his source of information was Barb Messick who has now retired from the Village and so we need to rely on Tom Slawski for future reports on the water trail.
- d) SEWFRC Website – Alan Barrows said that Al Sikora did a great job on updating our website and said it not only looks better but is very easy to navigate. Alan also said that there are some projects that are not listed on the completed projects page and so the commissioners or sponsors need to provide the documentation to get these done. Alan said that the website is a great vehicle for showing who we are and what we do.

Correspondence –

- a. 3/4/19 Email from Jim Pindel to Mark your Calendars for today's meeting.
- b. 3/6/19 Email from Tom Slawski with link to information on WDNR's Todd Ambs
- c. 3/6/19 Forward of an email from Katelyn Bratz with link to Mukwonago River Master Plan by the WDNR.
- d. 3/26/19 Forward of email correspondence between Bill Hopkins, Dean Falkner and Al Sikora regarding Fox River Cleanup 2018.
- e. 4/1/19 Forward of Rep. Chuck Wichgers' E-update of April 1, 2019 highlighting the 2019 Fox River Summit.
- f. 4/11/19 Jim Pindel received a scam email response from Patrick Casey of the Village of Salem Lakes regarding an e-invoice. Jim said he emailed back to Patrick Casey stating that this must be a scam because he never sent any invoice to the village of Salem Lakes.

Miscellaneous Issues –

Alan Barrows said that on last Monday he did a walk through with a farmer in the town of Waukesha on his property where he is having a problem with some artesian springs. The flow from the springs runs through his barn yard then into the road ditch and finally into Bitter Creek. Alan said it will be a complicated project and said he expects to bring this project to the commission for possible funding. The project will be called the Bitter Creek Waterway. Rachel Sabre asked if these were old established artesian springs and Alan said that the farmer removed a dead silver maple tree and when he started working on removing the tree stump water started coming out of the ground. Alan also said that looking at aerial views of the property there is no evidence of this being a wet area.

Jim Pindel asked Rachel Sabre if she had any information on the results of the winter drawdown on Little Muskego Lake. Rachel said that she talked to Heidi who was in charge of the project for the WDNR and the report is still not completed. Rachel did say that Heidi said that the project was not very successful. Jim Pindel asked if this was regarding the Starry Stonewort only or if the report considered other invasive species. Rachel said that she wasn't sure but we hope that it considered other plant species. Rachel did say that Heidi said that they were not able to get the water level down to where they wanted it because of rain events and other problems. Alan Barrows said that the county had surveyed the lake bottom between the normal low water level and where the level was during the drawdown and there was no appreciable decline in starry stonewort. Fred Koeller said that he heard that some of the starry stonewort was sent to New York to test its reaction to cold temperatures. Rachel Sabre said that the work was done by a professor in New York who predicted the drawdown had great potential. This appears to be a case where the lab results don't necessarily agree with what happens in the real world.

It was motioned by Jeff Lang that the meeting be closed and the motion was seconded by Chad Sampson. The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Closed at 1:54 PM

**THE NEXT OFFICIAL MEETING WILL BE Friday
May 17, 2019 at 1:00 PM.** (Meeting Location: Burlington
Department of Public Works 2200 S. Pine Street, Burlington, WI.