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## Southeastern Wisconsin Fox River Commission Meeting Minutes

Friday, April 14, 2023- 1:00 PM

Meeting Location: DPW Community room located at 2200 S. Pine St, Burlington, WI 53105

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

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<b>Guests</b>	
<b>Representing</b>	<b>Name</b>
Tyler Schwartz	RES
Tom Ludwig	Foth
Linda Fink	Waukesha County Parks and Land Use

### Southeastern Wisconsin Fox River Commission Meeting

1. Katelyn Bratz called the meeting to order at 1:01 pm.
2. Pledge of allegiance
3. Roll call and verify quorum
4. Confirm the audio recorder is running
5. Approval of minutes from the previous meeting
  - a. Russ Egan made a motion to approved the previous meeting minutes.
  - b. Donny Egan seconded the motion.
  - c. Motion passed.
6. Review the Treasurer's Report.
  - a. Bill Hopkins made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report
  - b. Jim Pindel seconded the motion
  - c. Motion passed.
  - d. Wayne Jensen shared Sara DeBrujin approved approximately \$69,000 from the reserve ENUM.
  - e. Small balance in ENUM-21 to be resolve where we are spending.
  - f. WWMD has submitted their application for \$50,000. Which is coming out of ENUM-22.

### Old Business

7. Fox River 2023 Summit – Tom Slawski
  - a. No new report
  - b. Robin Grams where do we get the checks for reimbursement
    - i. Wayne Jensen will coordinate with Robin Grams at the next meeting.
8. Report on Fox River Park Project – Alan Barrows
  - a. Phase one is complete last Nov/Dec. 305 feet turned into 340 feet
  - b. Additional funding request-Lynda Fink, Senior Landscape Architect,

Department of Parks and Land Use

- i. Phase two will be the handicap accessible canoe/kayak launch, pathway and fishing pier.
  - ii. Total request for \$58,882.00 90% of \$52,993.80
  - iii. Was there a signed contract for the original engineering work.
    1. There is no signed contract for the contracted work. These are estimates for cost.
    2. Plans were scaled back from original plans.
    3. Sent out an RFP for the detailed design.
    4. Hoping to send bids out in Dec.
    5. Aim for Spring 2024 construction.
    6. Have looked for various funds, DATCP and Waukesha County and DNR.
    7. Tom Slawski, is the launch floating with hydraulics? There is an example at Foxbrook park. Yes. You do not have to access from the shoreline which prevents degradation of the shoreline.
    8. Provides a good access point for the fox river where there is not previous.
    9. We gave \$82,000 previously.
    10. Jim Pindel- we would be paying all the overages?
      - a. No, there is other elements that were not included in our proposal that they are working with other funding sources.
    11. What happens if other grants come back for more than our proposed amount?
      - a. Then they would not use all our funds.
    12. What happens if the bids come in higher?
      - a. We do have a few alternatives available for internal staff to complete tasks to off set the overages.
    13. Tom Slawski- this an existing project so we will vote at the next meeting.
      - a. Alan Barrows confirmed that we could score it for the following meeting. Which works with their timeline.
      - b. It is a capital project from the county. We cannot spend money until the money is obtained. Which is why phase one was able to be completed.
      - c. Alan Barrows confirmed he can fill out the scoring sheet prior to the next meeting.
9. WWMD Project-Greg Horeth
- a. No further update
  - b. Wayne Jensen made a motion to approve payment of \$50,000 for engineering expenses.
    - i. Jim Pindel seconded the motion.

- ii. Motion passes.
- 10. Solberg Slope Stabilization- Chad Sampson
  - a. Hired Jason construction to complete the project.
  - b. It could be completed this spring.
- 11. Ogden Slope and Shoreline Stabilization- Chad Sampson
  - a. Send out for estimates and contractors.
    - i. Waiting on bid
    - ii. Planned for Aug/Sept Construction
- 12. SEWRPC Survey from Waterford Dam to Illinois border-Tom Slawski
  - a. Was able to calculate all the erosion sites.
  - b. DNR reached out about the erosion assessments
    - i. Want to incorporate it into the TMDL
    - ii. Also shared the priority parcels for Class I, II, and III
    - iii. While this is not important for the modeling it will be helpful for the implementation strategy.
  - c. If anyone uses Google Earth, we can put it on the website and coordinate how to share the footage.
  - d. Working through how best to share all the data.
  - e. There is a terabyte of footage that has to be waded through.
  - f. Greg Horeth- are you looking to create a progression of the conditions.
    - i. Tom Slawski- trying to let people know the information exists and share with interested parties.

#### New Business

- 13. Report on activities of the work being done by Foth and RES
  - a. Tyler Schwartz- GIS Analyst at RES. His role has been to bring together all the geospatial data and projects and connect them with grants.
  - b. Working on the deliverable story map. It is fairly complete.
  - c. Home slide is hopefully an impactful scene, from Tom Slawski's footage.
  - d. Can scroll down through the story map, or there is a menu to jump to specific information.
  - e. All maps are interactive.
  - f. Past projects to communicate our activity.
  - g. He will be adding a legend to communicate what types of projects we have been working on.

- h. He is still working are parts that are incomplete.
- i. Still working on the Water Quality and stormwater section.
- j. Tom Slawski- he has two sites that he can send for erosion priority work. He has also calculated a load reduction.
- k. Tom Slawski-Are there photos buried into the maps?
  - i. Are there new photos from recent projects that we want to showcase?
- l. Tyler Schwartz- could we accumulate drone footage of the a few regions of the river? This might give better context for the different sites.
- m. Tom Slawski- There are stormwater practices that we have paid for. Hopefully there is photos.
  - i. Jim Pindel- that was close to 15 years ago.
  - ii. Tyler Schwartz- adding more dots to the first map could help to communicate all our activity.
- n. We have several projects where we have improved access to the river. This is a new change since the change in funding.
- o. The link for the storymap has been shared with Tom Slawski and they would love more feedback from the commission. Tom Slawski will forward the link to the commissioners.
- p. What do we want to show for the opening video? There are videos that could communicate some of the issues that are along the river. Before and after photos for the different sites.
- q. Tom Slawski recommends drone footage of the Wind Lake Canal right now, as it showcases all the issues with the canal.
  - i. There is a lot of opportunity with the canal right now.
- r. Tom Slawski asked Chad Sampson, should the cover crop farmers be land mapped and championed in our project.
- s. You can reach out to Tyler Schwartz directly with any questions or comments.

- t. Foth- Tom Ludwig
  - i. They did receive acknowledgement of the great site meeting from last month at the Corp.
  - ii. The letter of intent that is needed from Kenosha County, a draft has been put together and they are working on the letter.
    - 1. Once final, they will go to WISDOT for the Protect Funding for the local share.
  
- 14. 2021 – 2030 SEWFRC Implementation Plan – Tom Slawski & Alan Barrows
  - a. No Update
- 15. Review and discussion of all projects on the Enum- 24 Waitlist
  - a. Wayne Jensen
    - i. We have \$117,000 funds left in the account. \$64,000 depending on the Fox River Park Project.
- 16. North River Bay Road Shoreline Restoration- Chad Sampson
  - a. Four consecutive shoreline owners
    - i. Removed \$1600.00 from request.
    - ii. \$ 34,400 for funds
    - iii. Bill Hopkins made a motion to approve for \$34,400.
    - iv. Wayne Castle seconded the motion.
      - 1. Motion Passes

Project Acceptance Criteria  
(Modified 7/30/21)

	Award Category	Award Points	N River BAY RD	WILLOW COURT	MARGIS WILDLIFE
1	Does the proposed project meet the objectives of the FRC Implementation Plan	10	10	10	10
2	Does the proposed project meet the need for actions in a plan other than our Implementation Plan	5	5	5	5
3	Is the proposed project listed as an imminent threat or Warning in the SEWRPC survey report.	10	0	0	0
4	Does the proposed project protect critical riverine ecosystems or special concern, threatened or endangered species and/or habitat	8	8	8	8
5	Does the proposed project enhance the knowledge and understanding of the Fox River ecosystem	4	2	2	4
6	Does the proposed project make use of all the available funding sources, including the acquisition of non-FRC funds	4	0	0	4
7	Does the proposed project have a level of support from other affected management units or organizations	4	4	4	4
8	Does the proposed project have a good likelihood of successfully meeting the project objectives	8	8	8	8
9	The completeness and degree of detail of the Project Application	4	4	4	4
10	The first time applications of a project by the applicant	3	0	0	0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>47</b>

Proposed project must meet Categories 1 & 8

Proposed project must qualify by a minimum of 31 points

Note !:

For privately owned residential Shoreline Restorations, we can provide up to 90% cost share to a maximum limit of \$9,000.

Also there is an annual limit of \$50,000 for privately owned residential Shoreline Restoration Projects.

SEWFRC Project Eval Pts Form 073021.xlsx

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17. Willow Court Shoreline Repair- Chad Sampson

- a. Chad Sampson removed \$1500.00 from the original request
- b. Bill Hopkins made a motion to approved the project for the amended cost of \$ 15,600
- c. Wayne Castle seconded the motion.
- d. Motion passed.

18. John Margis Jr. Wildlife Area Restoration- Chad Sampson

- a. Four different aspects for this project.
  - i. Create a path for foot traffic.
  - ii. Use native plantings to deter traffic to the path.
  - iii. Shoreline protection on the bottom.
  - iv. Deterrent for animal burrows.
  - v. Plan to work on the worst part of the trail at the moment.
  - vi. Our funds would be used for materials.
  - vii. County will put in the work.
  - viii. Request for \$25,000.
  - ix. Greg Horeth- He heard 6-8 projects that were very similar. The DNR could fund similar projects. Recreational Boating Fund. RBF gave away 2.3 million in total for projects.
  - x. Bill Hopkins made a motion to approve for \$25,000.
  - xi. Wayne Castle seconded the motion.
  - xii. Motion passed.

19. Waukesha Diversion Project- Greg Horeth
  - a. Continue to have discussions within WWMD. They have reached out to Racine County, to the person responsible for the dam management for the county. How do we prepare for the pooling of water, if there is an impact to the Waterford basin. There is a lot of concern, the entire Southeastern Wisconsin Region could be impacted.
  - b. Chad Sampson- had a discussion with the DNR. The water table will also rise up because there will be less water drawn from the ground water model. This could be an impact with other issues.
  - c. Greg Horeth- There is a general lack of information on the topic. How do we get information shared if there are records kept on the changes in the water system?

#### Reports and Updates

20. Report on activities of Fox Waterway Agency of Illinois – FWA or Tom Slawski
  - a. No Update
21. Report on future of the Echo Lake Dam in Burlington-Donny Hefty
  - a. No Update
22. Report on Fox River Watershed TMDL progress – Rachel Sabre
  - a. No Update beyond previously shared information. They are inputting data and compiling information.
23. Report on the Fox Watershed Mitigation Plan- Tom Slawski
  - a. They have presented some chapters. They are working towards finishing the plan in the next few months. He will share the draft when done.
24. Watershed Protection Committee of Racine County- Chad Sampson
  - a. Meeting yesterday to discuss the Wind Lake Canal. No decisions, but lots of ideas.
25. SEWFRC Website – Al Sikora or Alan Barrows
  - a. No Update

#### Correspondence

1. 3/16/2023, info@sewfr.org, email- Fwd: Letter of support - WDNR UNPS planning grant, LOS request from Jonathan Schapekahn, P.E., Storm Water Project Manager, City of Waukesha, Department of Public Works – Engineering
2. 3/24/2023, email to Tom Slawski, April 14th SEWFRC Meeting agenda item request - Fox River Park Access Project- additional funding request
3. 3/27/2023, Wayne Jensen, emailed Sara N - DeBruijn [sara.debruijn@wisconsin.gov](mailto:sara.debruijn@wisconsin.gov) concerning reports status.
4. 3/28/2023, email from Sara DeBruijn to Wayne, responding to reports status.
5. 3/30/2023, email from Katlyn Bratz to Jonathan Schapekahn, WDNR UNPS planning grant--providing letter of support.
6. 4/4/2023, email from Tom Slawski to Commissioners, FW: Upcoming Ag Training.



## Miscellaneous Issues

7. How do we decide if there is an issue that needs to be addressed prior to the next meeting.
  - a. The officer can create a response and send it out to the commissioners.
  - b. If there is not disagreement the response/letter of support can be sent out.
  - c. If there is any disagreement, the issue must go before the commission at the next meeting before any decision is made.
  - d. Chad Sampson made a motion to approve the new structure.
  - e. Jim Pindel seconded the motion.
  - f. Motion Passes.
8. Letters of support
  - a. Should they be posted on the website?
  - b. We should post the letters of support in the affiliation section.
  - c. Katelyn will follow up with Al Sikora and get the current letter on the website.
9. May 20<sup>th</sup>- at the Fox River Park 10 am.
  - a. Salem Lakes 11<sup>th</sup> annual spring clean-up along the Fox River and associated water bodies.
10. Next Meeting and Location
  - a. May 19<sup>th</sup> – 1 pm
  - b. DPW Community room located at 2200 S. Pine St, Burlington, WI 53105
11. Close Meeting
  - a. Bill Hopkins made a motion to adjourn the meeting.
  - b. Chad Sampson seconded the motion.
  - c. 2:36 meeting adjourned.

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