

**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)  
Jon Grove standing in for Chad Sampson (Racine County)  
Alan Barrows (Waukesha County)  
Doug Koehler (City of Waukesha)  
Randy Meier (Town of Waterford)  
Shelley Tessmer (Town of Waterford)  
Dean Falkner (Village of Mukwonago)  
Jim Ritchie standing in for 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)  
Barb Holtz (Town of Mukwonago)  
John Marek (Town of Waukesha)

Also present: Don Baron of the WWMD, Merc and Shirley Wagner, Tom and Marge Uhen, Nancy Ziarek, Bill Karas, Bill Craig of the town of Vernon and Dan Treloar of Kenosha County.

At 1:02 PM, 4/25/14, Chairman Al Sikora called the Public Hearing to order.

The only order of business was the review of the Southeastern Wisconsin Fox River Commission Proposed Budget for 2015. The proposed budget was read for the record. Francis Stadler asked if the cost of the Fox River Partnership Summit was split equally between the two counties and it was. Shelley Tessmer asked if the Future Project Reserve Balance included the grant and non-grant funds and yes it does. Al Sikora asked the non-commission attendees (the public) if they had any questions or comments concerning the proposed budget. Al Sikora then asked the attendees a second and third time if there was anyone who wanted to speak in favor of or against the proposed budget. There were no comments from the Public concerning the budget.

The Public Hearing was closed at 1:15 PM.

At 1:16 PM, 04/25/14, Chairman Al Sikora called the SEWFRC meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Roll call was taken and a quorum was confirmed.

**Approval of 2015 Proposed SEWFRC Budget.**

It was motioned by Shelley Tessmer and seconded by Francis Stadler that the 2015 budget be approved as submitted. The motion passed unanimously.

**Minutes** The minutes from the March 7, 2014 meeting were reviewed. It was motioned by Dean Falkner and seconded by Randy Meier that the minutes be approved. The minutes were approved unanimously.

**Treasurer Reports** – The Treasurer’s Report for March 2014 was reviewed. In summary we started with \$65,661.98 in our money market account. We made payments of \$10,050.30 to the Village of Big Bend and payments of \$2,333 and \$241 to Graef Engineering toward the GIS mapping survey. We deposited a check from the WDNR in the amount of \$51,668.65 against the money being held back in ENUM-18. We received interest payment of \$11.45 leaving us with a final balance of \$104,717.78. It was motioned by Randy Meier and seconded by Bob Bartholomew that the Treasurers Reports be approved as amended. The report was approved unanimously.

### **Old Business**

- a) **Fox River Partnership Summit** – Tom Slawski stated that 142 people had attended the summit. Last year we had 144 registrants. Tom said the summit was a large success and he is presently in the process of posting all the presentations on the Fox River Partnership website. When he has finished posting the presentations he will email a link to them to all the commissioners and Al Sikora said he would provide a link from our website to the presentations on the Partnership’s website. Tom will also include a summary of all the summit activities. Tom reported that all the attendees unanimously approved our intention of applying for the USGS’s WaterSMART program. This will be a combined effort between the Partnership members in Illinois and Wisconsin to gain federal grants through the WaterSMART program. Tom said he is waiting for all the checks to clear the bank so that he can apply for the final reimbursement from our commission. Tom again thanked Al Sikora for helping him organize the PayPal method of collecting attendee fees. Tom also pointed out that the keynote speakers were still very interested in developing their clear-choices, clean-waters program here in Wisconsin. Jim Pindel pointed out that the three panel display put together by Alan Barrows was set up in the back of the room for those who didn’t attend the summit to see. Also the date for the 2015 summit is already set for 3/20/15. Tom said he was also considering sending some sort of summary to the WNDR’s monthly Natural Resources magazine to get more exposure for the summit.
- b) **Shoreline erosion mapping and stabilization planning with invasive species mapping** – Graef Engineering. Jim Pindel reported that he had talked to Geoff Parish of Graef asking if all invoices had been sent and they thought the project was complete. Geof said that one last invoice was in route, which we received yesterday for \$618 this will close this project out and be within budget. Jim said this project will be removed from the agenda. He further pointed out that at some point we might want to do a GIS survey of the

Mukwonago River or other tributaries of the Fox.

c) Big Bend boat/canoe launch retaining wall – Francis Stadler reported that he just received the quote for the fence minutes before the meeting. He was not prepared to make a submission to the commission regarding the fence. It was pointed out that the retaining wall project was closed out and that the Village of Big Bend had already cashed the payment for the retaining wall. Francis said that he would take the matter up with the Village. He also said to remove this item from the agenda. Alan Barrows said that he was passing by the boat launch and took pictures of the retaining wall which he sent electronically to Al Sikora. Al said that he would put them up on our website soon. Francis passed around a picture of what the proposed fence and plantings would look like for our information.

### New Business

- a. Wood Drive Erosion Control Project – Jon Grove representing Chad Sampson said that the design was complete and now they were waiting on bids from the contractors so the project could move forward. Jon reported that Chad had tried to contact the Farmer Kevin Malchine upstream of the project but had no response.
- b. Consideration of expanding the Commission's jurisdiction south to the Illinois border Tom Slawski said that we are on the agenda for the City of Burlington meeting on May 20, 2014 at 6:30 PM. Tom was able to get this meeting by working with Craig Workman of the city. The city has asked that we describe our goals and implementation plan and share with them a draft copy of the MoU we want them to sign. Jim Pindel said he would attend with Tom and Al Sikora said he will try to attend.
- c. Consideration of how we operate with a larger membership base: Al Sikora 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. No one had any new input on this topic at this time.
- d. Possible request for grant funds for Mukwonago shoreline restoration: Alan Barrows said the he had spent a lot of time with the WE Energies people recently and that we had our plans approved by their ecology folks. The bid announcement was sent to the Waukesha Freeman yesterday and will be published next Wednesday. Alan will also email the bid announcement to a number of contractors the county has used in the past on similar projects. The next items that have to be completed are signing the working agreement by the private land owner and WE Energies as well as getting the permit application into the WDNR. Alan said that he talked to Jim Ritchie about the possibility of having one WDNR permit apply to all three properties involved. There will be a site showing probably held at Indian Head Park, just across the river from the project itself. The pre-

bid showing will be on May 12 and the bids will be due by 4:00PM on May 21. The bids will be opened on May 22 and the contract awarded to the winning bidder shortly thereafter. With the fact that this is all happening just before Memorial Day weekend it was decided that we should go ahead and sign the cost share agreement at this time. Alan Barrows motioned that we sign the cost share agreement and limit the cost by the commission to not more than \$50,000. The motion was seconded by Shelley Tessmer and passed unanimously. One problem that still exists is that the work agreements put together by Alan indemnify and hold harmless all the parties involved. WE Energies has taken that language out of their agreement and is not holding the Village of Mukwonago, Waukesha County or the commission harmless. This point has to be negotiated. Another sticking point is that we would require 10 years of maintenance included in a project of this type and WE Energies has refused to do the maintenance. Alan believes we can get around this problem by including the maintenance in the contract that the contractors bid on. This will add some cost to the overall project, but is necessary. Alan pointed out that when we did the Indian Head Park project a 3 year maintenance contract was included which helped to make the project as successful as it has turned out. Dean Falkner pointed out that the discussions based on this project have caused people to consider improvements all along this section of river making it a much better environment. The three properties involved may all be eventually used as public purposes. Dan Treloar asked Dean if the Village would be able to provide the maintenance for a price and Dean said he could not commit to it at this time.

- e. Possible diversion of City of Waukesha water treatment plant discharge away from the Fox River: Jim Ritchie said that the WDNR water supply staff are continuing to review the diversion application submitted by the City of Waukesha. The next steps are preparing a technical review where the WDNR will assess whether the application meets the requirement of the Great Lake Compact. If the application meets the Great Lakes Compact criteria then there will be a public notice of the draft of the environmental statement. Once the public notice is issued there is a 45 day period for public comment period. Tom Slawski asked if the technical review included an assessment of the need for the water by the city and Jim Ritchie said that he believed it did.
- f. Potential Storm Water runoff and ground water contamination from the Kaishian landfill: Village of Big Bend Francis Stadler said that the Village is working closely with the WDNR. There are three requirements that Kaishian must do before he can move onto the second phase. The issues are water contamination, runoff and a problem with the fact that sediment is not settling in the retention ponds. Apparently he will have to add some chemical to the water in the retention ponds to get the sediment to settle to the bottom. Much of the complaints are coming from the kennel club

which is adjacent to the landfill. The fact that the club has been engaged in trap shooting since 1941 has resulted in lead shot and clay pigeon debris contamination. The Village is keeping a close watch on the landfill and Francis reported that the landfill was nine feet above grade at one time. Francis said that this item should be removed from our agenda since the situation is being handled by the Village.

- g. Woodfield Park Dam Removal project: Doug Koehler Doug reported that the city's parks department ran into some snags and so was not able to prepare a presentation for today's meeting. Doug said he expects that the park department will be ready to make a presentation sometime later this year. Jim Pindel pointed out that the only other dam removal project we were involved in was on the Mary Kossik property and in that case Mary received a \$50,000 grant from the WDNR from their dam removal program. Doug said that the city was looking into that grant program. Alan Barrows said that two people from his office are assisting with this project.

### **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 from the agency for some time now. Tom did mention that there was one attendee from the agency at the Fox River Summit, but he did not have a chance to speak to him.
- b) SEWFRC Website – Al Sikora said that he did receive electronic pictures of the retaining wall from Alan Barrows and that he would put them up on the website this weekend. Also as soon as Tom Slawski gets the Summit presentations up on his website Al will install links to them on our website. Francis Stadler asked about the GIS survey which he was unable to open up on his home computer. Jim Pindel pointed out that we have four paper copies of that report and Francis could borrow one of them so he could study the report at his convenience. Al said that he has an electronic copy of survey and believed he already put it up on our website.
- c) Highway 164 Construction update: - Don Baron said that there has been an issue with standing water at one of the residences along highway 164. The DOT said they fixed the problem by melting ice and removing debris from a culvert at the property. Don said he asked the DOT if they were going to continue to maintain the condition of the culvert in the future to prevent further flooding. Don has not heard back from the DOT. Don said that he had expected a report from Chad Sampson at this meeting concerning the farm field east of Poplar Circle. Jon Grove said that he had a written report from Chad and passed out copies to Don Baron and the commissioners. The report stated that there is about an 80 foot grassed buffer between the farm field and the rock riprap installed by the DOT. Chad said he would like to see it extended an additional 100 feet or have the

entire field planted with a more permanent cover such as alfalfa, hay mixture or native grasses. Chad's report also included a section on the rock riprap in the ravine at Poplar circle. It stated that the bottom portion of the ravine contained loose rocks that had been moved by water or were manually dislodged from the sides of the ravine. The area where the rocks were dislodged from could be a source of erosion. Chad also noted another small ravine leading into the rock riprap ravine which could be a source of some additional erosion. Chad concluded by saying that the cost effectiveness to use rock riprap to stabilize this ravine can be reviewed if the landowner is interested. Don Baron said that 55% of the runoff coming into the ravine comes from the farm field and Chad was going to investigate adding a grassed buffer to minimize silting from this runoff. Jon said that both he and Chad had tried to contact the farmer who owns this field and had not received any response from him. Don said he will continue to monitor the situation.

Correspondence –

- a. 3/10/14 Scanned copy of Town of Burlington MoU sent to Tom Slawski
- b. 3/11/14 Email response from Jim Ritchie confirming that all work against ENUM-18 must be accomplished before 6/30/14. Jim Ritchie further clarified that all paperwork has to be completed within one year of that date.
- c. 3/11/14 Email from Tom Slawski confirming that Eric Evenson, Coordinator, USGS National Water Census, will attend the Fox River Summit to talk about the WaterSMART program.
- d. 3/7/14 Email response from Jim Pindel to Doug Koehler stating that he can still make a presentation and apply for grant funds for the Woodfield Park Dam removal project, even though it was not included as an item on the 2015 proposed budget.
- e. 3/7/14 Email with attachment from Chad Sampson listing seven potential projects in Racine County for itemizing in the proposed 2015 SEWFRC budget.
- f. 3/20/14 Email from Jim Pindel to all commissioners stating that we have received 4 hard copies of the GIS mapping survey from Graef. These paper copies are available to all commissioners to borrow and study.
- g. 3/22/14 Email from Jim Pindel advising all commissioners that we received a check against ENUM-18 for \$51,668.64, which is part of the \$100,000 the WDNR is holding against this ENUM.

Miscellaneous Issues –

Alan Barrows brought up two points for the commission to consider. The first being that a person in his department came up with a map of the Fox River, put together some years ago by the Fox River Partnership that listed the recreational opportunities along the Fox River watershed listing such things as boat launches, canoe launches and other points of interest. The idea would be to extend this map into Illinois to show all the opportunities along the entire Fox River watershed. Alan felt that this would be a logical

extension of the Fox River Summit. This would be a project Alan would bring to the commission in a few meetings. The second item Alan brought up was the idea of our producing signage that we could put up at locations where we have completed projects. This would provide outreach and advertising for our commission. Alan was looking for something small with our logo and website listed on it. The placement of the signs would be purely voluntary. Al Sikora said that if someone provided exactly what we wanted on the sign he could produce the artwork. Jim Ritchie suggested a sign that stated this project financed by or funding assistance by the SEWFRC with our logo and website address. Everyone agreed that a lot of other organizations do provide signs and it would help people be aware of some of the things we have done. Alan suggested that we go back and offer signs to projects that we have already completed.

Don Baron pointed out that the WWMD had conducted a survey of their membership and the results of the survey were available on their website. The survey was concerned with the aquatic plant poisoning harvesting and the upcoming dredging project. The survey had a 58% response and was very positive in results.

It was motioned by Randy Meier and seconded by Francis Stadler that the meeting be closed and the motion carried unanimously.

**Meeting Closed** at 2:17 PM

**THE NEXT OFFICIAL MEETING WILL BE Friday, May 30, 2014 at 1:00 PM.** (Meeting Location: Town of Vernon Fire Station #1, W233 S7475 Woodland Lane, Big Bend, WI 53103.)