

Commission members present:

Katelyn Bratz (Town of Mukwonago) (Chairperson)
Andy Buehler (Kenosha County)
Jon Grove (Racine County)
Doug Koehler (City of Waukesha)
Fred Koeller (Village of Waterford)
Lee Manthey (Town of Vernon)
Wayne Jensen (Village of Rochester) (Treasurer)
Wayne Castle (Village of Mukwonago)
Jeff Lang (Town of Burlington)
Donny Hefty (City of Burlington)
Larry Long (Village of Big Bend)
Bill Hopkins (Village of Salem Lakes)
Tom Slawski (SEWRPC)
Jim Pindel (Town of Waterford) (Secretary)

Commission members absent:

Alan Barrows (Waukesha County) (Vice Chairman)
Rachel Sabre (Wisconsin DNR)
Andrew Lois (Town of Wheatland)
Ken Miller (Town of Waukesha)

Also present: Greg Horeth and Grant Horn of the WWMD, Mark Jenks of Kenosha County, Russ Egan of the Town of Burlington and Representative Chuck Wichgers.

This was a virtual zoom meeting.

At 1:05 PM, Chairperson Katelyn Bratz called the SEWFRC meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Roll call was taken and a quorum was confirmed. Jim Pindel pointed out that when he called around to make sure we have quorum, he called Andrew Lois who said he is quitting the commission and is unhappy with us. Jim asked if the Town of Wheatland would appoint a replacement and Andrew said he didn't know. Jim said he will try to contact the Town and get them to assign someone else.

- 1) **Minutes** The minutes from the February 5, 2021 meeting were reviewed. It was motioned by Donny Hefty that the minutes be approved and the motion was seconded by Bill Hopkins. The minutes were approved unanimously.

- 2) **Treasurer Reports** – Jim Pindel reviewed the January, February and March 2021 treasurer's reports. We started the month of January with \$206,817.63 in our money market account. We made payments of \$16,000 and \$11,000 for the Waterford Landing HOA project and \$33,595.60 for the Oakwood Shores project. We made \$16.83 in interest leaving us with a balance of \$146,238.86 in our money market account. In the grant funds page the 2021 Summit was reduced from \$5500 to \$0.0 because the summit when virtual. The only change in the

February report was the addition of \$11.22 in interest. In the March report we paid out \$150 from our money market account from non-grant funds and made \$11.33 in interest leaving us with \$146,111.41 in our money market account. It was motioned by Donny Hefty that the Treasurer's Reports be accepted and seconded by Larry Long that the treasurer's reports be approved and the motion carried unanimously.

- 3) **Still looking for a volunteer for Secretary.** Jim Pindel made a point of saying that the meeting minutes may not have to be as detailed as he makes them, possibly they could just list decisions made and questions to be answered. The feeling of the group was that they liked the details recorded.
- 4) **Old Business**
 - a) **Fox River Partnership 2021 Summit:** Tom Slawski: Tom Slawski said that all the talks from the 2021 summit are now on 'you tube' and can be accessed from the UW extension website. Tom said he will send a link UW extension website to Jim Pindel who will forward it to everyone else. Tom said that hoping that the 2022 Summit can be in person it is scheduled for 3/17/22. As always Tom is looking for speakers and topics and hoping for suggestions from the group.
 - b) **SEWRPC Survey for Waterford Dam to the Illinois Border** – Tom Slawski said that he is working with the counties trying to establish costs for the different sites he has identified. He is still working on the preliminary draft of the report.
 - c) **Oakwood Shores Park Streambank Stabilization Project** – Andy Buehler. Andy Buehler asked Mark Jenks to make a report on how the project was going. Mark said that the work was done and that he checked on the site this spring and it looked good, all the rocks were still in place.
 - d) **John Kojis Farm Field gully repair project:** Chad Sampson Jon Grove was in attendance as Chad's alternate and said that the project is expected to get started in the next month. He has been working with the contractors and it is very close to construction.
 - e) **Report on the Fox River Park Project:** Alan Barrows. Alan Barrows was not present and so no report was made.
 - f) **Small-Scale Dewatering Test Engineering – WWMD.** Grant Horn said that the project is now on hold and he needs to talk to Jim Pindel after the meeting to see what he needs to do to get the reimbursement. Grant did say that the project is well below budget.
 - g) **Small Scale Dewatering Test:** Grant Horn said that this project is on hold.

- h) Zanella Shoreline Restoration Project: Chad Sampson. Jon Grove said that he expects the project to start very soon and that the rock should be delivered within the next week.
- i) Reidy Shoreline Restoration Project: Chad Sampson. Jon Grove said that they are still soliciting bids and have been holding conference call with the land owner and contractors.
- j) White Oak Lane Shoreline Restoration Project: Chad Sampson. Jon Grove said that this project is completed. Jim Pindel said he will take this project off of the agenda but still track it as an active project in the treasurer's reports until it is accepted by the WDNR.
- k) ER31 Streambank Erosion Site – Waterford Landing HOA: Fred Koeller & Chad Sampson. Fred Koeller said that they started the project back in December and they decided to do it in winter so the soft soil would freeze helping them. Fred said that Paul Peters was out at the site recently and said the rock had stayed in place. Fred said the project is complete and thanked the county people for their help and attention. He said that someone was on site almost every day.

New Business

- a) Discussion concerning Acceptance Criteria for Shoreline Restoration Projects: Jim Pindel provided a motion at our last meeting that is copied here, so we can consider it: [I motion that we restrict privately owned residential Shoreline Restorations as follows:](#)
[We would provide up to 90% cost share to a maximum limit of \\$9,000.](#)
[We have an annual limit on privately owned residential shoreline restorations of \\$50,000 per year.](#)
[We give preferential treatment to imminent threat erosion sites as identified in the SEWRPC survey authored by Tom Slawski.](#)

Katelyn Bratz read the motion for the group. Doug Koehler asked if we should change the annual limit from \$50,000 to some multiple of \$9000. Jon Grove pointed out that most projects don't come out to exactly \$9000. So we dropped this change. Jim Pindel asked if we should consider an 80% - 20% cost share to not make it too expensive for the landowner and still give us more money to do more projects. Jon Grove it would be prohibitive on larger projects and the consensus was to not go this route. Katelyn Bratz asked if we would allow exceptions to this rule in certain circumstances and Jim said the commission has always been willing to make exceptions for special cases. Tom Slawski said that the WDNR's Pond and Lake Grants have been extended to include shorelines and was wondering if we could leverage these funds. Tom said it is not clear what grants we can apply for without double dipping and that he has asked the WDNR to clarify this point. Jim Pindel said that this is another case where we need some legal interpretation and we don't

have that person to go to. Jim also said that now that our grant funds do not come through the RBF, maybe we can use our funds with other state grant funds.

- b) **Schultz Shoreline Protection Project Presentation.** Jon Grove made a Power Point presentation. The first slide showed the location of the property, which is at the entrance into Tichigan Lake on the south end. A zoomed in slide of the property showed that it involves 245' of shoreline. Jon then showed several slides that showed the condition of the shoreline which appears to need armoring to prevent further erosion. One particular slide showed a string along the edge of the property which showed how much of the property eroded away in the last year which appears to be about 1 foot. The project amounts to excavating 245' of shoreline and placing rock riprap and removal of dead, diseased, fallen or undesirable trees. Planting native plants above the riprap and lawn grasses around the pier and high traffic areas. Finally doing mulch and erosion control. The estimated total cost of the project is \$40,000 and if we limit our contribution to \$9000 would require the property owner to come up with the additional \$31,000. Jon said that they have received one bid and it came in at \$34,500, which is less than the initial estimate. Jon said that the landowner said he would not do the project if we only contributed \$9000. Tom Slawski asked if the owner would be willing to not cut the grass all the way up to the shoreline and Jon said he was willing to leave the area near the edge of the shoreline uncut so that the vegetation would discourage the ducks and geese from coming up and eating the vegetation. Jon asked if this might be one of the sites identified in the SEWRPC survey and Tom said there are none on the Tichigan Lake. Fred Koeller pointed out that there is considerable wave action from boat traffic on this shoreline which is at the entrance and exit point for getting into and out of Tichigan Lake. Jon agreed that there was considerable boat wave action adding to the erosion. Fred said that they have found out that just running strings along the shoreline stops the geese from crawling up the shore. Wayne Castle asked if we should consider a lesser cost share percentage for costs over the proposed \$9000 limit. This would allow us to provide some relief for the landowner and still not put too much money into just one project. Jon said that they were considering other options like doing the job in phases. Katelyn Bratz asked if the landowner indicated a \$9000 contribution would not be enough for him to do the project, do we know how much he would be willing to spend. Jon said they didn't ask that question and so he doesn't know. Jon also said that the county has some grant funds available but was afraid that might amount to double dipping. Grant Horn pointed out that this is not the typical cottage owner property and it sold for \$1,300,000 last year. Jim Pindel pointed out that according to our normal practices we will not vote on funding this project until our next meeting and possibly some more information may be available by then.
- c) **Request for funding of "Wisconsin Saltwise Virtual Training" from non-grant funds** Jayne Jenks/Alan Barrows. Jim Pindel said that he received an email

from Jayne Jenks stating that she was looking for \$4000 from our non-grant funds. We have to use non-grant funds because they are getting other state grant funding. Jim asked Mark Jenks if he knew if the funds were needed right now and Mark said that he didn't know. It was decided to wait until our next meeting to vote on approval when hopefully Alan Barrows is present to answer some of our questions. Jim Pindel pointed out that in the past we provided non-grant funding for similar in person training and we probably should fund it again at our next meeting when Alan Barrows is present.

2021 – 2030 SEWFRC Implementation Plan: Alan Barrows Jim Pindel pointed out that if you read the executive summary that Tom Slawski did for the SEWRPC survey it really reads like what we are moving toward as a commission. Jim suggested that we use the summary as the revised implementation plan and provide the existing plan as the legacy section after we modify it to include changes like our expansion. Jim also said that the procedures which have evolved were items Alan Barrows wanted to be added. Jim thought that this would be a much easier way to update our implementation plan than starting all over again. Tom Slawski said that the email Jim Pindel sent to SEWRPC's director resulting in him telling Tom he can work on the implantation plan. Tom said he also agreed with Jim's plan to redo the implementation plan. Tom also said that he was able to find a word document copy of the existing plan and sent it to Katelyn and Alan.

Reports and Updates

- a) Report on activities of Fox Waterway Agency (FWA) of Illinois – Jeff Lang said that he had nothing to report.
- b) Report on activities of the work being done to obtain Emergency Funding from the State of Wisconsin to obtain federal funding utilizing Foth and RES; Jim Pindel said that he forwarded a copy of the proposal from Foth and RES to all the commissioners and that Tom Slawski responded that he didn't like the reimbursement section which could be interpreted as we have to provide the \$200,000 to Foth and RES. Jim took this concern back the Tom Ludwig of Foth and the reimbursement section was rewritten to state that the \$200,000 would come from a special state grant. Jim then asked Tom Ludwig who will be doing the work to get this special grant and Tom responded that he will be working with Representative Chuck Wichgers at no charge to get this special grant. Jim added that he had talked to Chuck Wichgers who said he has been in contact with Samantha Kerkman another state representative representing Kenosha County. Chuck believes it is important to get her on board because she is part of the leadership of the assembly. Chuck indicated that she would support the request for the \$200,000 grant. Chuck also indicated that the two of them are working on an additional \$400,000 grant for Kenosha County. Jim asked Andy Buehler if he could add anything. Andy said that the cost estimates he provided for the last couple years budgets came from a staff member who is no long with the county and they have no documentation on where the costs came from. Andy said that

they then went to their highway department and asked them to provide estimates for the projects that were listed as imminent threats in the SEWRPC survey and the total cost came up to about \$7,000,000 which is far above anything we can handle. Andy also said he doesn't know where the \$400,000 figure came from. Andy said that he shared this information with both Chuck Wichgers and Samantha Kerkman. Rep. Kerkman has come back to him with some questions a couple times and she will be visiting the sites this coming week with some of the county's staff. Andy Buehler asked why we would sign a contract with Foth and RES right now if nothing is going to be done until we receive the \$200,000 grant which is probably out in the future. The consensus of the group was that we shouldn't sign anything right now and when the funds become available would be the time to sign a contract and possibly it might change by then.

- c) Possible diversion of City of Waukesha water treatment plant discharge away from the Fox River: No one had anything to report.

- d) SEWFRC Website –Alan Barrows. No one had any comments but Katelyn Bratz said that the agenda for this meeting was not posting on our website. Jim Pindel said that he copies Al Sikora with the meeting announcement which has the agenda attached. Jim will contact Al to make sure the agendas are posted in the future.

Correspondence –

- a. 2/5/21 Forward of an email from Tom Slawski with attached Lake Tides Newsletter.
- b. 2/12/21 Forward of an email from Tom Slawski with report on the Waukesha Diversion.
- c. 2/13/21 Email from Jim Pindel asking you to mark your calendars for today's meeting.
- d. 4/29/21 Forward of an email from Tom Slawski with attached picture and newspaper article concerning future of Echo Lake Dam in Burlington.
- e. Jim Pindel will forward the email from Jayne Jenks to everyone so we can vote on accepting it at our next meeting.

Miscellaneous Issues-

Jeff Lang pointed out that this is the last meeting he will be attending. Now that he is the chairman of the Town of Burlington, he will assign Russ Egan to be the town's commissioner. We thanked Jeff for his participation.

It was motioned by Bill Hopkins and seconded by Fred Koeller that the meeting be closed.

Meeting Closed at 2:10 PM

THE NEXT OFFICIAL MEETING WILL BE Friday

June 4, 2021 at 1:00 PM. Meeting Location: This will be a Zoom virtual meeting.

Time: Jun 4, 2021 01:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://naturesclassroom-ncm.zoom.us/j/97172659661?pwd=WWk1VVFmZGRpNnhQbXNJNnVibStudz09>

Meeting ID: 971 7265 9661

Passcode: 3c1UNn