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Southeastern Wisconsin Fox River Commission Meeting Minutes

Friday, May 3, 2024- 1:00 PM

Southeastern Wisconsin Fox River Commission Meeting

Commissioners and (alternates) Quorum= 9		
Representing	Name	Attended (yes/no, by phone)
Kenosha County	Andy Buehler Mark Jenks (non-voting)	Mark Jenks
Racine County	Chad Sampson (Jon Grove)	Jon Grove
Waukesha County	Alan Barrows (Leif Hauge)	Leif Hauge
City of Waukesha	Robins Grams (Doug Koehler)	Robin Grams
Town of Mukwonago	Katelyn Bratz (Barb Holtz)	Katelyn Bratz
Town of Vernon	Lee Manthey	Lee Manthey
Town of Waterford	Jim Pindel (Shelley Tessmer)	Jim Pindel
Town of Waukesha	Ken Miller	
Village of Big Bend	Traci Lewandowski Bob Heineman	
Village of Mukwonago	Wayne Castle	Wayne Castle
Village of Waterford	Fred Koeller (Al Sikora)	Fred Koeller
Village of Rochester	Wayne Jensen	Wayne Jensen
Town of Burlington	Russ Egan	Russ Egan
City of Burlington	Peter Riggs	Peter Riggs
Town of Wheatland	Donna Deuster	Donna Duester
Village of Salem Lakes	Bill Hopkins	
SEWRPC	Tom Slawski (non-voting)	Tom Slawski
WDNR	Sara DeBrujijn (non-voting)	
WDNR	Rachel Sabre (non-voting)	Rachel Sabre

Guests	
Representing	Name
Gail Goodchild	

Greg Horeth	WWMD

Also this is on Page 2 of Appendix B!!!!!!

Quorum

Section 33.55(3) of the *Wisconsin Statutes* notes that nine Commissioners shall form a quorum for the transaction of the Commission's business. For the purpose of establishing a quorum, the nine Commissioners may include the WDNR- and SEWRPC-appointed Commissioners, even though those individuals are nonvoting members for other purposes.

Does this mean Tom and Rachel count toward quorum?

1. Meeting was called to order at 1:02 pm by Katelyn Bratz
2. Pledge of allegiance
3. Roll call and verify quorum
4. Confirm the Teams Chat recorder is running
5. Approval of minutes from the previous meetings held March 1, 2024
 - a. Russ Egan made a motion to accept the meeting minutes.
 - b. Fred Koeller seconded the motion.
 - c. Motion passes.
6. Review the Treasurer's Report and ENUM project status.
 - a. Solberg Account submitted to the state
 - b. Received check for parkway project
 - c. Received check for fox summit project
 - d. Margis project received \$25,000.
 - e. Enum 25- not released yet
 - i. Should be available shortly after July 1st
 - f. Fred Koeller made a motion to accept the treasurer's report.
 - g. Russ Egan seconded the motion
 - h. Motion passes.

Old Business

7. Fox River 2024 Summit – Tom Slawski
 - a. 146 attendees, largest yet
 - b. 10 sponsors, largest yet as well
 - c. Feedback has been very positive.
 - d. Presentations will all be available online in the coming weeks.
 - e. Dialogue began on continued partnership with other organizations in the watershed.
 - f. Request for funding of up to \$5500.00 for next year's summit
 - g. Typically comes in under budget
 - i. Would allow Tom Slawski to secure the location for next year.

- ii. Russ Egan makes a motion to reserve the spot for next year. Not to exceed \$5800.00
 - iii. Lee Manthey seconded the motion
 - iv. Motion passes.
- 8. Report on Fox River Park Project – Alan Barrows
 - a. Preconstruction meeting Friday, May 10.
 - b. Revised start date May 29.
 - c. Hoping to complete before the full contract is required.
- 9. WWMD Project-Greg Horeth
 - a. Challenge is having an offloading location
 - i. The location that they are working to secure has been approved and finalized
 - ii. Have submitted a letter of intent to the village to utilize the quarry.
 - 1. May 11th is the meeting
 - iii. 4-5 acre quarry, was town, but annexed to the village.
- 10. Solberg Slope Stabilization- Jon Grove
 - a. Paperwork completed and submitted to state.
 - b. Completed April 17.
 - c. Land owners very happy, will follow up throughout the summer.
- 11. North River Bay Road Shoreline Restoration- Jon Grove
 - a. Paid and submitted to the state.
 - b. Waiting on money from the state.
- 12. SEWRPC Survey from Waterford Dam to Illinois border-Tom Slawski
 - a. Looking for feedback on recent planning efforts
 - b. Was originally just an erosion study
 - i. Triggered by the boundary expansion and the assessment of the streambank
 - c. Re prioritized the criteria
 - d. Estimates of load reduction goals
 - e. Original plan had recommendations and priorities for 1000 feet on either side.
 - f. Identified all the parcels and look at the FEMA floodplain
 - i. Overlaid slopes and priorities based on slope and proximity
 - ii. Able to add the 10-year flood plains
 - iii. Trying to consistent with the original plan
 - g. When looking to protect the river, it gives us connections to the landowners and surrounding properties.
 - h. Will show more connections to work with organizations and Land Trusts. Can easily communicate critical land plots.
 - i. Example is Ravenshome, working on preserving land and put in agroforestry. They are in our watershed and is a great example of what potential partnerships are out there.
 - j. Recently met with Gail Goodchild- worked to create recommendations on overall flood storage areas, to work on for the 500 year event. Areas to protect for longevity of the basin.

- i. Both public and private lands identified on the map.
 - ii. Potential spots for focus, valuable, functional flood storage areas for our river system.
- k. Natural Areas Plan
 - i. Second update, updated in 2010
 - ii. Nearly finished with it
 - iii. Maintaining the integrity of the biodiversity of the entire region of southeastern Wisconsin.
 - iv. Identify the best of the best regions and protect them.
 - v. Creates a ranking system (NA-1, NA-2, NA-3)
 - vi. Able to rerank Aquatic assessments
 - 1. First time since 1997
 - vii. Impacts planning at all levels of the region.
 - viii. Includes a searchable webtool
 - ix. We have lost natural areas since the last update.
 - x. Will be finishing it up this year.
 - xi. Jim Pindel asked about the flood storage areas.
 - 1. Do the owners know that they are flood storage areas?
 - 2. It is unknown the extent to which owners are informed.
 - 3. There is an opportunity to inform the public.
 - xii. Russ Egan- Can these areas be built on?
 - 1. Some go out to the 500 year flood plan, which is not protected.
- 13. Vernon Wildlife Area DU Impoundment Restoration-Kelsey Norton, WDNR
 - a. Tom Slawski has a note from Kelsey Norton
 - i. Let us know that she followed up with Sara DeBrujin- funds should be available after July 1.
 - ii. Plan to begin late summer, early fall.

New Business

- 14. 2021 – 2030 SEWFRC Implementation Plan – Tom Slawski & Alan Barrows
 - a. Municipality Letter
 - i. What is the best way to share the letter with municipalities?
 - 1. Decided it will be the responsibility of the commissioners to communicate it to the municipality and ensure their follow up.
 - ii. Virtual Meeting May 16th 3:30 pm to continue working on revisions. All commissioners are welcome to join and share their feedback.
- 15. Waukesha Diversion Project- Greg Horeth
 - a. Continue to track the results at the Waterford dam.
 - i. Levels of the dam are staying consistent with past years.
 - ii. Will forward the updated information for May and April.
 - iii. Timeframe for potential concerns will be June, July and August.
- 16. Poplar Circle Shoreline Restoration -Jon Grove

- a. Three adjacent Land owners
 - b. Designs are completed and estimates are in.
 - c. Chosen contracts.
 - d. Need to watch restrictions for endangered resources, expected start after August 1.
 - e. Greg Horeth asked how the funding is going to occur?
 - 1. It was once requested for WWMD to fund part of the project.
 - 2. To clarify, WWMD is not funding any portion of the process.
 - f. We (SEWFRC) have committed \$9,000 per homeowner, \$27,000 total.
17. Noble Brothers Burgers Permeable Pavers
- a. Alan and Marisa from Waukesha County reviewed the submitted plans.
 - i. They are familiar with permeable pavers.
 - ii. Comments were shared with the owners, contractors, and builder.
 - iii. Was suggested to redo the design.
 - iv. Waiting on the new design.
 - b. Mark Jenks
 - i. Can you share the comments on the permeable paver, they are getting more requests and would like to familiarize themselves with the information .
18. Margis Wildlife Area Phase II
- a. Streambank restoration with access to be completed in August.
 - b. Highway and parks crew will complete the work.
 - i. The funding will go to materials.
 - c. Has anyone attended to see phase one?
 - i. Yes, it looks nice
19. Fox River Watershed Hazard Mitigation Plan/Regional Coordinator Group- Gail Goodchild
- a. Trying to create a coordination group.
 - i. They have created the mitigation plan.
 - ii. They are looking to implement projects to prevent hazards.
 - iii. Want to create a communications plan with local groups.
 - iv. Keep the momentum going to keep projects going.
 - v. She is looking to SEWFRC to help support and prioritize.
 - 1. There are federal funds available.
 - 2. But the coordination group could help sort out who and what applies for the grants.
 - 3. Representation on the group?
 - 4. We share a mission, and there is duplication of efforts.
 - vi. Would the counties like to convene a meeting for a potential work group.
 - vii. Tom Slawski will follow up with a list.

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- Peter Riggs
 - a. Has a contract on the first phase on the Echo Lake Dam modification
 - b. Spillway modifications and park modifications to meet the DNR requirements
 - c. Removing gate structures
 - d. Realigning gate
 - e. Earthen berm through park, extension of the flood wall
 - f. Realigning river wall
 - g. Park improvements at the same time
 - i. Removal of barriers
 - ii. Connections to Veterans' Terrace
 - iii. Realign trails with the berm work
 - h. Lite corridors
 - i. Energize portions that don't have electricity
 - i. Flexible performance areas
 - ii. Artscape, permeable pavers
 - j. Overlook over the dam
 - i. For users and visitors, not just for maintenance
 - ii. Becomes a focal point of the community.
 - k. Accessible way to get to the main impoundment.
 - 1. Especially in the winter
 - l. Potential dredging/boat launch later
 - m. Preliminary hydrology is approved, able to move forward with the design plans.
 - n. All park design hinges on the berm elevations and spillway modifications.
 - o. Applying for grants
 - p. Hoping for bids this winter and construction next year.
 - q. Estimated time for dredging?- Russ Egan
 - i. Goal is for soon after construction of the spillway
 - r. What is the target depths for dredging? Fred Koeller
 - i. 4 feet
- 22. Report on Fox River Watershed TMDL progress – Rachel Sabre
 - a. Working on Modeling
 - b. Need for more data on Como Creek in the Whitewater Watershed
- 23. Watershed Protection Committee of Racine County- Jon Grove
 - a. Summer Field Day will be early Sept, no date yet.
 - b. Can see more winter wheat and cover crops when driving.
- 24. Kenosha County Regenerative Producers- Mark Jenks
 - a. Getting ready for summer field days
 - i. June 12th
 - 1. Rotational grazing
 - 2. A day with Jim Gerrish
 - 3. <https://www.kenoshaproducers.org/calendar>
 - 4. Small fee, covers lunch.

- ii. July 16th 6-8 pm.
 1. Evening Field Event
 2. Looking at small scale homesteading (hogs and chickens)
25. SEWFRC Website – Al Sikora or Alan Barrows
 - a. No Update

Correspondence

- 4/19/24 Email from Tom Slawski to Commissioners on upcoming help to build the Ravensholme Victory Garden on May 4th - 9 am – noon
- 5/2/24 Email from Wayne Jensen on ENUM Reimbursements

Miscellaneous Issues

1. Next Meeting and Location
 - a. July 19th Meeting, 1 pm - Public Hearing for Budget- Elections of Officers
 - b. Will host a brief virtual meeting in June to approve the budget. Date TBD.
2. Budget Approval
 - a. Proposed projects from the County and Municipalities
3. Close Meeting
 - a. Russ Egan made a motion to adjourn the meeting.
 - b. Fred Koeller seconded the motion.
 - c. Motion Passes.

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

Finalize letter