

Southeast Wisconsin Fox River Commission Meeting Minutes

Friday, May 9, 2025 at 1 p.m. – In person meeting at Vernon Fire Station #1. W233 S7475 Woodland Ln. Big Bend, WI 53103

Commissioner's Present:

Alan Barrows, Waukesha County
Jim Pindel, Town of Waterford
Fred Koeller, Village of Waterford
Barb Holtz, Town of Mukwanago
Wayne Jensen, Village of Rochester
Robin Grams, City of Waukesha
Wayne Castle, Village of Mukwonago
Lee Manthey, Town of Vernon
Jon Grove, Racine County
Andy Buehler, Kenosha County
Donna Duester, Town of Wheatland

Guests:

Terrance O'Brian, Homeowner
Jared Young, Contractor
Paul Tollard, Kenosha County

1. Alan Barrows called the meeting at 1:02 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll call and verify quorum
4. Jim Pindel recording the meeting, Jon Grove recording the meeting and taking minutes.
5. Approval of the meeting minutes from April 11, 2025
 - a. Jim Pindel made a motion to approve the previous minutes.
 - b. Andy Buehler seconded the motion.
 - i. Motion Passes
6. Review of the Treasurer's Report and ENUM Project Status
 - a. April reports were received in an email from Jim Pindel.
 - b. Wayne Jensen gave an overview of reports and is waiting for project reimbursement.
 - c. A motion was made by Fred Koeller to approve the Treasurer's Report
 - d. The motion was seconded by Robin Grams.
 - i. Motion Passes

Old Business

1. Fox River Summit 2025 – No report.
2. SEWRPC Survey from the Waterford Dam to Illinois border – No report.
3. Vernon Wildlife Area DU Impoundment Restoration – No report.

4. Poplar Circle Shoreline Restoration
 - a. Jon Grove said the project was completed, waiting on reimbursement.
5. Racine County Shoreline Projects - Magner, Plantz, Doering, Milczarski, McCormick and Hondel shorelines
 - a. Jon Grove said all projects are designed, cultural resources and threatened and endangered species reviews have been submitted. Some projects will need a closer review of cultural resources.
 - b. Jon Grove stated contractors have been chosen.
 - c. Jon Grove said the timeline for construction is between August 1st and October 1st.
6. Noble Brothers Burgers Permeable Pavers
 - a. Jon Grove stated that he has not received a new re-design.

New Business

1. 2021 – 2030 SEWFRC Implementation Plan
 - a. Alan Barrows stated that Katelyn Bratz has offered to make final edits to plan once school is out since she is a school teacher.
2. Fox River Watershed Hazard Mitigation Plan / Regional Coordinator Group – No Report
3. Fox Bend Wetland Restoration Project within the Village of Vernon
 - a. Alan Barrows said the earthwork portion(wildlife scrapes, tile breaks) of project is complete.
 - b. Alan Barrows said the vegetation phase has started but will take two seasons.
 - c. Alan Barrows stated he received an email from Ducks Unlimited offering more funding for the project through a NAWCA grant.
4. Margis Phase III Shoreline Protection and Access Improvements
 - a. Jon Grove stated the invasive species removal and streambank stabilization will occur between August 1st and October 1st.
 - b. Jon Grove stated the labor will be completed by the Racine County Public Works and Parks staff.
5. Fox River Restoration at Wilmot WI
 - a. Jared Young, the contractor, handed out updated plans and stated that the project has gotten all permits from Kenosha County. Paul Tollard confirmed that both landowners reissued stipulated permits from Kenosha County.
 - b. Jared Young gave an overview of the estimates for each landowner.
 - c. Jared Young is requesting \$22,000 for the McManus property and \$100,000 for the O'Brian property.
 - d. Jared Young also stated that he will be looking into other grant funding sources. Wayne Castle stated that there might be funding from some wastewater treatment facilities through adaptive management, some discussion followed in reference to funding from Adaptive management, Multi-discharger variance(MDV) program and Water Quality Trading Clearinghouse.

- e. Alan Barrows asked for the project to be scored on the SEWFRC project acceptance criteria. The commission scored the project, and it received 42 points which makes the project meet acceptance criteria.
- f. A motion made by Fred Koeller to accept the project, pending funding for portions of the project that are within SEWFRC budget.
- g. The motion was seconded by Wayne Castle.
 - 1. Motion passes.

Reports and Updates

- 1. Report on the activities of the Fox Waterway Agency of Illinois. No report.
- 2. Report on the future of the Echo Lake Dam in Burlington. No report.
- 3. Report on the Fox River Watershed TMDL Progress.
 - a. Alan Barrows stated there is a webinar next week referencing the Fox River Watershed TMDL Progress.
 - b. Wayne Castle said there has been some discussion between the WI DNR and local wastewater plants in the area to better understand the requirements set by the WI DNR.
- 4. Watershed Protection Committee of Racine County
 - a. Jon Grove said the group received a Sand County Foundation RCPP grant for \$100,000 to cost-share soil health practices such as no-till, planting cover crops and planting green.
 - b. Jon Grove said the group's Summer Field Day is planned for Thursday, September 11 at Case Eagle Park.
- 5. Kenosha County Regenerative Producers.
 - a. Paul Tollard stated the group just had a pasture fencing workshop and it was well attended.
- 6. SEWFRC Website. No report.

Correspondence

4/14/25 Email from Jim Pindel to all commissioners to mark your calendars for today's meeting.

4/28/25 Announcement and invitation to today's meeting.

5/9/25 Wayne Jensen received correspondence from the host scribe for the SEWFRC website that the annual fee is due and will be paid on May 12th.

Miscellaneous Issues

- 1. The next meeting was set for June 20 at 1 p.m. at the Big Bend Fire Station.
- 2. A motion by Robin Grams to adjourn. Seconded by Andy Buehler at 1:59 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Jon Grove, SEWFRC alternate Commissioner