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Southeastern Wisconsin Fox River Commission Meeting Minutes

Friday, May 13, 2022- 1:00 PM

Mukwonago Village Hall; 440 River Crest Ct; Mukwonago, WI 53149

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

Guests	
Name	Representing Organization
Mark Jenks	Kenosha Co.
Grant Horn	WWMD
Greg Horeth	WWMD
Travis Motl	WDNR

Southeastern Wisconsin Fox River Commission Meeting

1. Katelyn Bratz called the meeting to order at 1:05pm.
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 held April 8, 2022.
 - a. Larry Long made a motion to approve the minutes
 - b. Russ Egan seconded the motion.
 - c. Motion passed
6. Reviewed the Treasurer's Report.
 - a. Jim Pindel reviewed the April treasurer's report for the commission
 - i. Alan Barrows made a motion to accept the treasurer's report.
 - ii. Bill Hopkins seconded the motion.
 - iii. Motion passed.

Old Business

7. Fox River 2022 Summit – Tom Slawski.
 - a. Waiting for the payments to clear and then he will request reimbursement from the commission.
8. Report on Fox River Park Project – Alan Barrows
 - a. Working through permitting and acquiring grants
9. Schultz Shoreline Protection Project- Chad Sampson
 - a. Ready to move forward, August 1st is the start date.
 - b. Hope to be completed in August.
10. North Tichigan Road Shoreline Restoration--Chad Sampson
 - a. ready to move forward, August first is the start date.
11. SEWRPC Survey from Waterford Dam to Illinois border-Tom Slawski
 - a. No update
 - b. Is there an expected date of completion? Jim Pindel
 - i. The plan is a June draft date- Tom Slawski

New Business

12. Report on activities of the work being done by Foth and RES
 - a. They have requested to pursue the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) Grant. Tom will relay that they can go ahead with the grant.

- b. Chad Sampson asked, is that grant to restore wetlands in and around the Fox River, or is it only agricultural areas, can any area that needs restoration apply. Tom Slawski responded, we are unsure if it is limited to agricultural fields, but that is the majority of it.
- c. Alan Barrows did meet with Alan Richter, who has experience with the RCPP grant. They look very similar to the EQUIP program the NRCS program has. If the grant is approved, there is less competition when they apply for grants through us versus the NRCS. If we can establish a grant program, we can promote the advantages.
- d. Foth and RES also asked for further potential sites and partners, if we are aware of them.
 - i. Waukesha County owns the Fox River Greenway, there are many agricultural fields in that greenway. Some do not have any planned development. -Alan Barrows

13. 2021 – 2030 SEWFRC Implementation Plan – Tom Slawski & Alan Barrows

- a. No Update

14. WWMD Project-Grant Horn

- a. Grant Horn wanted to thank the commissioners for the grant approved at the last meeting. Approval was very crucial to their budget.
- b. Have done a bathymetric survey.
- c. By June 10th, they should have a solid estimate on the cost of the project.
- d. Jim Pindel- the grant was contingent on our acquiring the funding.
 - i. Sare DeBruijin responded that the approval will come out shortly after July 4th.
- e. Alan Barrows- what is the plan for dredging?
 - i. contractors have the option for both
 - ii. They have secured a site for hydraulic dredging which is fantastic and can help with the planning.
 - iii. Alan Barrows commented, having a plan for dredging can help immensely with the cost and planning.

15. Solberg Slope Stabilization- Chad Sampson

- a. They have riprap, so erosion of the shoreline is not an issue
- b. The slope above the shoreline is bare ground, which erodes everytime it rains.
- c. Sometimes the rip rap rolls down into the river
- d. The goal will be to establish native plants on the slope
- e. The path will need leveling,
- f. They cannot use a retaining wall, the proposed option is Envirolock bags by Agricol and stabilize the hill.

- g. Seed and mulch will be used in the areas not covered by the bags.
 - h. Total cost will be \$15,000, 90% will be \$13,500
 - i. Alan Barrows- what would be the cost per foot. The slope is approximately 10-12 feet. It would be about \$250.00 per foot.
 - j. Alan Barrows- prefilled pre-stitched bags are an option, it adds a bit of cost, but makes the project easier to install.
 - k. You put the plants between the bags, instead of cutting holes into the bags and weakening the structure.
 - l. Katelyn Bratz, Do they have a timeline of completion? Chad Sampson shared, they could begin as soon as possible.
 - m. Katelyn Bratz confirmed with Jim Pindel, this project would need to come out of the next ENUM.
16. Ogden Slope and Shoreline Stabilization- Chad Sampson
- a. There is 35 feet of shoreline
 - b. There is a swale that is grassed which leads to the river.
 - c. The location of the hole along the shoreline causes a waterfall when it rains. He has lost several trees in the recent past.
 - d. The shoreline would be stabilized from the rock at the top to the shore.
 - e. They have not pinned down the plan for the repair. They are still talking with contractors.
 - f. Parts of the project include:
 - i. Native plants would be needed on the steep slope.
 - ii. Removal of the dead and fallen trees
 - iii. Mulch and erosion control
 - iv. Grade stabilization
 - g. Ball park cost \$13,000
 - h. Mark Jenks- would he consider doing something in the grassy swale to help with the erosion? Is the swale in his property?
 - i. Does this with the shoreline, limit the cost to \$9,000 of the shoreline? Or does it just limit the shoreline not the slope?
17. Katelyn Bratz proposed an agenda item for the next meeting- Individual land owners shoreline vs. slope.
- a. How do we define shoreline vs. slope stabilization- WDNR
 - b. Racine county is 1 foot above the shoreline
 - c. Alan Barrows perhaps the elevation of the floodplain should be taken into account.

Reports and Updates

- 18. Report on activities of Fox Waterway Agency of Illinois – FWA or Tom Slawski
 - a. No Update
- 19. Report on future of the Echo Lake Dam in Burlington-Donny Hefty
 - a. Russ Egan- there are several different plans in the works. Goes to referendum in November. The community is very split on the issue.
- 20. Report on Fox River Watershed TMDL progress – Rachel Sabre
 - a. Completed the second to last water sampling.

- b. Will have one more flow monitoring
 - c. Then they will begin modeling with the data.
- 21. Report on the Fox Watershed Mitigation Plan- Tom Slawski
 - a. Meeting on May 23rd which will update all on the status.
 - b. Tom Slawski will forward the link to the meeting to the commission members.
 - c. This information will also be shared with Foth and RES
- 22. Watershed Protection Committee of Racine County- Chad Sampson
 - a. Field Day will be after labor day. Case Eagle is the host site for their field plots. Their research plots are underway. There will be various demonstration plots.
- 23. SEWFRC Website – Al Sikora or Alan Barrows
 - a. Once we complete a project please send before and after pictures and descriptions in, so we can update and promote the work on the website.

Correspondence

- 24. 4/8/22- Heather Haynes- Long emailed that the commission has an existing DUNS account
- 25. 4/10/22- Greg Horeth sent a thank you from WWMD to the commission.
- 26. 4/11/22- Sara DeBruijn- Emailed letting us know the fiscal year starts July 1st. She will begin to work on processing our ENUM paperwork after the 4th of July. Our contract date will be July 1st.
- 27. 4/11/22 Tom Slawski emailed that the RCPP grant proposal was successfully submitted.
- 28. 5/13/22 Katelyn Bratz forwarded a message from Greg Horath on a Watercraft Inspection Training Opportunity.

Miscellaneous Issues

- 29. We will begin projecting the minutes and treasurer's report, in lieu of printing.
- 30. July 22nd- Tom Slawski will coordinate a location with Donny Hefty and Jim Pindel.
- 31. Close Meeting
 - a. Larry Long made a motion to adjourn the meeting.
 - b. Jim Pindel seconded the motion.
 - c. Motion Passes