

Commission members present:

Dean Falkner (Village of Mukwonago) (Chairman)
Katelyn Bratz (Town of Mukwonago) (Vice-Chairperson)
Alan Barrows (Waukesha County)
Chad Sampson (Racine County)
Jeff Lang (Town of Burlington)
Fred Koeller (Village of Waterford)
Doug Koehler (City of Waukesha)
Donny Hefty (City of Burlington)
Tom Slawski (SEWRPC)
Rachel Sabre (Wisconsin DNR)
Jim Pindel (Town of Waterford) (Secretary/Treasurer)

Commission members absent:

Andrew Lois (Town of Wheatland)
Andy Buehler (Kenosha County)
Wayne Jensen (Village of Rochester)
Ken Miller (Town of Waukesha)
Bob Bartholomew (Town of Vernon)
Francis Stadler (Village of Big Bend)
Sara DeBruijn (Wisconsin DNR)

Also present: Don Baron of the WWMD.

At 1:06 PM, Chairman Dean Falkner called the SEWFRC meeting to order.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Roll call was taken and a quorum was confirmed.

Jim Pindel announced that Francis Stadler is retiring from the commission and that the Village of Big Bend has appointed a new commissioner and an alternate commissioner. Jim said that he thanked Francis for his years of service to the commission and wished him well for the rest of his life.

Minutes The minutes from the April 13, 2018 meeting were reviewed. It was motioned by Jeff Lang that the minutes be approved and the motion was seconded by Fred Koeller. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Treasurer Reports – Jim Pindel reviewed the April 2018 treasurer's reports. We started the month of April with \$42,450.86 in our Money Market Account. There was one payment of \$37.46 to pay for business cards for our chairman Dean Falkner. We received \$6.97 in interest bringing our Money Market account to a balance of \$42,420.37. The changes to the non-grant funds was the \$6.97 in interest resulting in the net non-grant funds available being \$32,393.02. Jim Pindel noted that during his explanation of the treasurer's report he noticed that he had not subtracted the \$37.46 from the non-grant funds and so the report will have to be corrected. There were no changes to the grant

fund page. Jim Pindel pointed out that the \$2,035.68 in undedicated grant funds which had to be used up by 6/30/18, no longer had this deadline because we received a one year extension on ENUM- 20. It was motioned by Alan Barrows and seconded by Doug Koehler that the treasurer's report as amended should be approved. The motion carried unanimously.

Old Business

- a) Fox River Partnership 2018 Summit: Tom Slawski said that he is still waiting for a couple of checks to clear so he can finalize the reimbursement documentation. Tom said he should have the documentation ready by our next meeting. Jim Pindel asked how the final costs stacked up against the budget and Tom said it was close and probably a little under budget. Dean Falkner asked Tom to address the idea of collaborative work among organizations within the Fox River Partnership. Tom said that one of the outcomes of the last Summit was an initiative to get groups together to help each other get work or projects done in a cooperative manner. This would be in addition to the networking that goes on at the Summits. Tom said that one of the problems they are addressing is finding out who all the groups are that work in our watershed. Tom pointed out that one of these groups is iFROG of which Donny Hefty is a member. Tom said that once all the interested groups are identified it might lead to a separate one day meeting of these groups from throughout the entire watershed.
- b) Mukwonago River shoreline restoration at WE Energies Site. Alan Barrows said that he visited the site recently and the site was greening up nicely. He said that a he didn't see any weakness issues. Alan said that an irrigation hose and generator that had been left on site have been removed, so we are closing down the construction phase of the project and all that remains is maintenance which goes to the end of June. Alan said that overall everything looks good.
- c) ESR Project disposal sites environmental impact: Don Baron said that they are continuing to work on the ammonia issue so that they can obtain their Low Hazardous Waste Exemption (LHWE). Don said that the funds provided by our commission (\$20,520) is appreciated but they have gone way over the expected costs. One of the unforeseen costs was the investigation of using Waste Management Corp. to do the entire project but that came out to be way too expensive. Don requested that the commission provide any help they could to help with the overrun. Jim Pindel motioned that the funds remaining in ENUM-20 which presently amounts to \$2,035.68 be applied to the cost overrun of this project. The motion was seconded by Jeff Lang and passed unanimously. Chad Sampson pointed out that there is a dredging operation going on in the Yahara River in Madison and asked if the WWMD had inquired to see how they handled getting a LHWE and disposed of their sediment. Don Said that he thought that Graef had talked to them in this regard. Jeff Lang said that the town of Burlington is being approached by several contractors to see if the town could accept a large quantity of top soil that will be removed from the Foxcom

construction site. Jeff wondered if our sediment could be combined with this top soil to make a desirable and useful soil.

On a different topic, Don said that the WWMD has organized a meeting with officials from the Governor's office, Paul Ryan's office, the state legislature, the county, the DOT, the town and the village where they will present their case for getting funding for the dredging project. The dredging project will not only benefit the riparian owners but also everyone in southeastern Wisconsin who uses and enjoys the Fox River and the Waterford impoundment. They will be looking for anyway anyone can help by providing trucking, disposal sites or whatever.

- d) Schuetze Playground Storm Water Abatement: - Jim Pindel said that there is only one thing missing and that is for someone to sign off on the Construction and Planting Certification which certifies that the project is complete and finished to the satisfaction of the project sponsor. A copy of the certification was given by Jim Pindel to Doug Koehler so that it could be completed and sent back to him. Doug said that he recently drove past the site and all the planting that went in last fall seem to be coming up just fine. There is water in the rain garden, so everything seems to be working fine.
- e) Mukwonago Park Shoreline Restoration – Alan Barrows said that all the required documentation had been given to Jim Pindel. Jim asked if a Construction and Planting Certification had been filled out and Alan said that he didn't remember doing one, but will provide one to Jim. Jim Pindel went on to say that he talked to Sara DeBruijn this morning and told her he would like to meet with her later next week to review and close out this and three other projects.
- f) Village of Waterford East Shore river bank Restoration: - Fred Koeller said that the only thing that they need is the check from us to finish the project. Jim Pindel pointed out that a Construction and Planting Certification form needed to be filled out and one was provided to Fred.
- g) SEWRPC Survey for Waterford Dam to the Illinois Border – Tom Slawski started by asking if anyone knew the whereabouts of the CD's that were provided by Graef Eng. for the survey of the upper Fox River back in 2014. Jim Pindel stated that he sent out an email just after our last meeting asking everyone if they had a copy of the CD and no one responded. Alan Barrows said that he thought that he had a copy and would check and provide it to Tom if he has it. Tom Slawski said that he could not find it on our website and Rachael Sabre said that she has a link which takes you to the report on our website. Jim Pindel said that he was fairly certain that Al Sikora has one copy of the CD. Tom said that the Graef report identified 19 sites of high priority erosion areas. Tom said that one of the sites didn't have much erosion but Graef recommended a grass buffer. Five of the site exhibited streambank erosion and also required buffers. Tom said that Graef's survey covered a 1000' corridor on each side of the main stem of the river. Within that corridor Graef studied the soils and erosion rates. Tom said he is

looking at integrating Graef's survey with his survey. Tom said that when he looked at aerial maps of the survey area, Graef surveyed, there are more than five sites where the river encroaches on agricultural land. Tom provided a map that showed the entire Fox River watershed from Lannon, WI to the Illinois border. The map also highlighted the area covered by the first survey in 2014 and the second survey in 2017. Tom also provided a map that showed soil slopes on cultivated lands outlining the corridor of either 1000' of the shoreline or the FEMA floodway whichever is greater. The map has color coded areas depicting slopes of less than 2%, slopes from 2% to 6%, slopes of 6% to 12% and slope greater than 12%. This particular graphic makes it easy to see where the greatest potential for erosion exists. Tom then provided a table and bar chart showing the number of sloped parcels in each of the three counties Waukesha, Racine and Kenosha. Tom said that for Racine and Kenosha Counties we have 2015 land use data but for Waukesha County we only have 2010 land use data. Tom pointed out that the total acreage is greatest in Waukesha County but there is much more agricultural land in Racine and Kenosha Counties. Tom said that with the assistance of Chad Sampson, Alan Barrows and either Dan Treloar or Andy Buehler, we could identify the locations of the most urgent erosion sites. Tom said that these sites would be locations where cover crops or filter strips could be employed. Tom pointed out that this is only map 8 of many maps covering the entire main stream corridor; Tom said he would email all the maps as attachments to Jim Pindel who could then redistribute the maps to the whole commission. Tom asked if the county with the assistance of the commission could help finance cover crops and Chad Sampson said that the county does not have funds for that but the farmers group he talked about at our last meeting has \$35,000 they can use to help finance cover crops. Fred Koeller asked if the drainage district could fund cover crops and Chad said that he thought that they could more likely cover permanent grass buffers. Tom said that he was looking to the commission to go ahead and identify and prioritize the most critical sites and Jim Pindel pointed out that this prioritization was one of the deliverables required from the survey. Jeff Lang asked if he could summarize or at least state what has been discussed so that we are all clear on this issue. Jeff said that we would be approaching land owners identified by red or green or blue areas on Tom's maps to see if they would be willing to address the erosion issue on their land with cover crops or filter strips with the financial assistance of the commission. Jeff thought that this would be a valuable use of our time and funding.

Fred Koeller asked if anyone could bequeath money to the commission in their will giving us another revenue stream. Jim Pindel responded by saying that the statutes that form us tell us to solicit funds from wherever possible to accomplish our directives. Fred said that there are people who live or lived on the river that have an appreciation for what it provides and might be willing to bequeath some money to us. It was agreed by all that this was a worthy idea and should be pursued, most likely through our website.

Back to the agenda, Alan Barrows asked if the maps could be modified to show the flood way because sites within the flood way should get greater priority since they will wash away in high water conditions.

- h) Birch Lane Shoreline Protection Project: Chad Sampson said that he talked to the contractor last Tuesday and that he has been pushed back a week or two and expects to do the work the last week of May or the first week on June. Chad said that the contractor is still under the understanding that the work must be completed by June 15th to get funding from the commission. None of us was aware of the extension to EMUN-20 until today. Chad said he expects the project to be completed by our next meeting.

New Business

- a) Consideration of developing a USEPA 9-Key Elements Watershed Management Plan – Dean Falkner said that the subcommittee has been meeting and deciding exactly what they want to do.
- b) Review of the Preliminary 2018 – 2019 SEWFRC Budget: Jim Pindel started by saying he email a copy of the budget worksheet to all the commissioners prior to the meeting so they would have a chance to review it. Copies of the worksheet and Proposed Budget were provided to all the commissioners so they could follow along. Review of the non-grant funds started with the carry over into 2018 added the Racine County allocation and estimated money market interest resulting in a net non-grant income of \$42,686.63. The review of non-grant expenses actual and estimated came to \$15,145.82. The grant income simply came down to the \$200,000 in EMUN-20 and the anticipated \$100,000 grant funds from the state per AB911. Review of the grant expenses showed a typo on the parking lot and sidewalk salting workshop which should have been \$2,462.32 instead of \$24,645.32. Jim Pindel said that he would correct the spreadsheet and revise the results accordingly. During the review of individual county expenses, Katelyn Bratz noticed that the charge to Racine and Waukesha counties was 1/3 of the total for the summit instead of 1/2 since these two counties needed to share to total cost for 2017. Again Jim Pindel said he would make the corrections and revise the results accordingly. Jim Pindel said reviewing the Anticipated Potential Grant Fund Projects for the counties that he emailed Andy Buehler of Kenosha County asking him to review the list for Kenosha County and advise him of any changes. Chad Sampson said that all of the projects listed for Racine County were still alive and there were a few more he could add and will advise Jim Pindel. Alan Barrows said that he was fine with the projects listed for Waukesha County. We looked over the Proposed Budget for 2018-2019 prepared by Jim Pindel and agreed upon the stated date of 6/22/18 for our next meeting with public hearing. It was motioned by Jeff Lang and seconded by Fred Koeller that the proposed budget be accepted with the corrections noted during today's meeting. The motion passed unanimously.
- Jim Pindel said that he had a discussion with Sara DeBruijn this morning and Sara

indicated that she didn't think she or the WDNR would be involved in monitoring our grant funds from now on. She said that we are not really receiving grants but actual funding from the state budget. Jim said that he liked the fact that there will not be this additional paperwork but did appreciate that fact that the WDNR reviewed his numbers to make sure there were no mistakes. Katelyn Bratz volunteered to review the projects for accuracy and Alan Barrows said he would help to generate a project checklist that we could use to make sure everything was in order, if needed. Racheal Sabre asked if the WDNR still had to be involved and attend our meetings. Jim Pindel said that the state statute states that the WDNR must provide an Ex officio member to the commission and as of now that is her.

Reports and Updates

- a) Report on activities of Fox Waterway Agency (FWA) of Illinois – No one from the FWA was present and neither Jeff Lang nor Tom Slawski had anything to report.
- b) Possible diversion of City of Waukesha water treatment plant discharge away from the Fox River: No one had anything to report.
- c) Progress toward designation as a “National Water Trail” – Village of Waterford. Fred Koeller said that the Illinois-Wisconsin volunteers data collection was progressing with the Wisconsin side being much more complete. Fred said that they have had some preliminary discussions of budget and were looking to the WDNR for some grant funds. The Illinois convention and visitors bureau said that they will not be able to provide any funding but would support the water trail through their visitors bureau. Tom Slawski added that they are developing the contract with Map-Hero who will do the database generation for the water trail. Tom went on to say that they are putting together a schedule of when they will get everything done. Fred Koeller said that the National Water Trail initiative is marking its 50th year and that the present administration has not made water trails a priority. So they are starting an initiative to get people to pressure the Department of Interior to process our National Water Trail application. Fred said that at Canoecopia and the Fox River Summit there was a lot of interest in the water trail and if we are successful Wisconsin will be the only state with two National Water Trails. Fred said that all the Wisconsin legislators are on board and that he didn't think that all of the Illinois legislators were on board yet. Their next meeting will be on June 13th in Waterford.
- d) SEWFRC Website –No one had any comments

Correspondence –

- a. 4/17/18 Email from Jim Pindel to mark your calendars for today's meeting.
- b. 4/17/18 Email from Jim Pindel asking if anyone knows the whereabouts of the 3 paper copies and the 3 DVD's of the Graef survey report from 2014.
- c. 5/7/18 Forward of email from Rep. Chuck Wichgers' staff stating that we do not have to abide by the RBA regulations and no time limits on the new grant funding from AB911.

Miscellaneous Issues –

Jim Pindel brought along a copy for Wisconsin's Blue Book and pointed out that in this book it includes write ups or descriptions of organizations similar to us and wondered if we shouldn't be included. Jim said we should pursue it if it helps us insure that no one tries to have our funding removed from the state budget.

It was motioned by Jeff Lang and seconded by Chad Sampson that the meeting be closed. The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Closed at 2:46 PM

**THE NEXT OFFICIAL MEETING (with Public Hearing)
WILL BE Friday, June 22, 2018 at 1:00 PM.** (Meeting
Location: Town of Vernon Fire Station #1, W233 S7475
Woodland Lane, Big Bend, WI 53103.)