

Commission members present:

Katelyn Bratz (Town of Mukwonago) (Chairperson)
Alan Barrows (Waukesha County) (Vice Chairman)
Andy Buehler (Kenosha County)
Chad Sampson (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)
Russ Egan (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:

Rachel Sabre (Wisconsin DNR)
Ken Miller (Town of Waukesha)

Also present: Mark Jenks of Kenosha County.

This was a virtual zoom meeting.

At 1:00 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.

- 1) **Minutes** The minutes from the April 30, 2021 meeting were reviewed. It was motioned by Donny Hefty that the minutes be approved and the motion was seconded by Doug Koehler. The minutes were approved unanimously.
- 2) **Treasurer Reports** – Jim Pindel reviewed the April and May 2021 treasurer's reports. We started the month of April with \$146,111.41 in our money market account. We made \$9.05 in interest leaving us with a balance of \$146,120.46 in our money market account. In the grant funds page there were no changes. In the May report we paid out \$129.95 from our money market account from non-grant funds for our website hosting and made \$8.68 in interest leaving us with \$145,999.19 in our money market account. It was motioned by Alan Barrows that the Treasurer's Reports be accepted and seconded by Chad Sampson that the treasurer's reports be approved and the motion carried unanimously.
- 3) **Still looking for a volunteer for Secretary.** Jim Pindel added to the agenda that this will be the last meeting he will record the minutes for. Jim then made the suggestion that someone take the official job of Secretary taking care of

generating the agendas, notifying everyone with meeting announcements and distributing correspondence. Then let everyone take turns at doing the meeting minutes. Tom Slawski asked if he as an ex officio member could serve as Secretary. Jim responded that he didn't know of any reason that he couldn't serve as Secretary. Tom said that he would have to check with his director to see if he could take on this responsibility. Katelyn Bratz said that she would be willing to help out with the Secretary tasks including doing the meeting minutes. The commissioners agreed to share the responsibility for minutes taking and Katelyn said she would do the minutes for the next meeting.

4) Old Business

- a) Fox River Partnership 2022 Summit: Tom Slawski: Tom Slawski said that with everything starting to open up in the post covid 19 era, he expects to have the Summit in person at the Veterans Terrace on 3/17/22. Tom said that the UW extension is planning an entirely different meeting for 2022 that would not serve our needs. So he is going ahead and planning for an in person meeting similar to what we used to do.
- b) SEWRPC Survey for Waterford Dam to the Illinois Border – Tom Slawski said that they are working on the final draft and expect to have it done by our next meeting.
- c) John Kojis Farm Field gully repair project: Chad Sampson Chad said that the project has not started yet. Chad said that he talked to the contractor who said he will be starting on the project soon and expects that it will be completed before our next meeting.
- d) Report on the Fox River Park Project: Alan Barrows. Alan Barrows said that the project amounts to 305' of river bank stabilization, a boat/kayak/canoe launch and a fishing deck. Alan said that they have a completed plan for the shoreline restoration and a design for the fishing deck. Alan said that they estimated the engineering to cost about \$5000 but it has come out to be closer to \$20,000. Because the park is in a flood plain the structures have to be very robust and consequently expensive. So right now they are working on cost estimates. The project that was originally estimated to cost about \$90,000 now looks to be about double that amount. Because the project is now over \$100,000 they have to go through a different approval process for the county. The county board will have to vote on and approve the cost. Alan said he is looking for different funding sources for different parts of the project with the Village of Mukwonago providing some funds toward the shoreline restoration. Alan pointed out that because the scope of the project has grown so much, the county will not be looking for reimbursement from the commission until sometime in 2022. This will get us past the deficit that we have in our grant funds. Alan said that they are very enthusiastic about this project and it will be an integral part of the water trail. Jim Pindel pointed out that it would be beneficial for us if the payments were held

- off until after July 1, 2022. Alan said that the major portion of the \$82,000 would likely be that late, but because they have already incurred some engineering expenses he will likely look for some smaller partial payments before that time.
- e) Small-Scale Dewatering Test Engineering – WWMD. No one from the WWMD was present and so no report was made.
 - f) Small Scale Dewatering Test: No one from the WWMD was present and so no report was made. At the last meeting Grant Horn said that this project is on hold.
 - g) Zanella Shoreline Restoration Project: Chad Sampson. Chad said that this project has a threatened and endangered species time line requirement. They missed their spring timeline window and now have to wait until after August 1st to start. Chad said that the contractor said he will get it done in August.
 - h) Reidy Shoreline Restoration Project: Chad Sampson. Chad said he talked to Pam Reidy and she said that the cost estimates from the different contractors have come in higher than expected. Chad pointed out that the portion of the shoreline we were going to cost share on is about 50% of the shoreline. Chad said that she is now in the process of getting other and hopefully less expensive bids.
 - i) ER31 Streambank Erosion Site – Waterford Landing HOA: Fred Koeller & Chad Sampson. Fred Koeller said that the project is complete and looks very good with some vegetation growing in. Fred said that the HOA has purchase some native vegetation and will plant it to make the area more native and natural. Jim Pindel said he will take this item off of the agenda and will continue to track it in the treasurer's report. Katelyn Bratz asked Fred if he could provide before and after pictures for our website. The question then came up about putting up some of our signs giving the commission some credit for supporting this project and it was decided to install signs facing the water and facing the walkway.

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. Chad Sampson commented that he liked the motion and then seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Katelyn then asked how will we get this new restriction out to the public. Jim Pindel said that it should be added to the website page titled

how to apply for a project, which should read how to apply for project funding. Katelyn then asked if it should appear on the project acceptance criteria document. After some discussion Jim agreed that this was the best place to list these criteria, since this is the document that we go through when deciding to fund a project or not. Jim said he would add it as a footnote and change item #3 from “does the proposed project assist in a local decision-making or formation of a strategy to protect the Fox River ecosystem.” To “Is the proposed project listed on the SEWRPC survey as an imminent threat or a warning categories, or should it be.”

- b) **Schultz Shoreline Protection Project Presentation.** Chad Sampson said that Jon Grove did the presentation for this project at our last meeting. The project amounts to 245’ of shoreline restoration with other portions of the shoreline either already rock ripped or not in need of restoration. Chad said that when he talked to Don Schultz about the restriction we voted to implement earlier in this meeting, he asked if he could do the project in two phases thus getting the \$9000 contribution from the commission twice. Chad said that he would be looking to do phase 1 this year and phase 2 next year. Chad said the entire project will cost between \$40,000 and \$50,000, so Chad told Don Schultz that he will look for other funding sources. Chad asked if we reviewed the Project Acceptance Criteria for this project at our last meeting. We did not do it at the last meeting so we went through the criteria and it passed with a score of 46 out of a possible 55 points which is greater than the required 28 points. The project also met the criteria of points 1 and 8. Therefore the project passed the criteria. Katelyn Bratz then suggested that we keep track of this and other projects that meet our criteria but don’t vote on funding them until we have the money. After considerable discussion it was decided to add a listing of projects that have made presentations and passed the project acceptance criteria at the end of the grant funds page of the treasurer’s report. Then when we have money we can vote to fund them and prioritize them knowing how many projects at what cost and knowing how much money we have available.
- c) **Request for funding of “Wisconsin Saltwise Virtual Training” from non-grant funds** Jayne Jenks/Alan Barrows. Alan Barrows said that this is a two day workshop with the first day being August 10th which concerns road salts and the second session would be on August 24th concentrating on parking lots and sidewalks. Alan said that Jayne Jenks is looking for \$4000 from our non-grant funds to support these workshops. Alan added that they would not be looking for funds until August when the expenditures occur. Alan said that Jayne put together a rather detailed description of the workshops which Jim Pindel forwarded to all the commissioners right after our last meeting. Jim Pindel added that in Jayne’s document she points out that chlorides are listed as an emerging item of concern in our current implementation plan. Another point in Jayne’s letter is that a 10 cubic yard truckload of salts is capable of contaminating 8,000,000 gallons of water. Also Jayne pointed out that 99%

of the attendees at the previous workshops listed the workshop as “very valuable”. Katelyn Bratz asked how Jayne will advertise the workshops to make sure they get proper exposure. Alan Barrows said that the workshops would be advertised through the partner’s webpage in Waukesha, Walworth and Kenosha counties and in the Racine County through the partners at ‘roadpikewin’. Jim Pindel asked if people can sign up for the workshop now and Alan said that they will make it available as soon as they get all the required funding. Jim Pindel motioned that we approve \$4000 from non-grant funds to support these workshops and the motion was seconded by Chad Sampson. The motion carried unanimously.

2021 – 2030 SEWFRC Implementation Plan: Alan Barrows Jim Pindel pointed out that at our last meeting he said that we could use the executive summary from the SEWRPC survey report as the new base of the implementation plan because it pretty much spells out the direction we are moving in with regard to soil management and agricultural concerns. Jim said we need to do some work to clean up the existing plan to include the new member municipalities and county and Alan Barrows mentioned that he would be willing to help out with adding in the new forms like the cost share agreement and project acceptance criteria to the plan. Jim also pointed out that he sent a request to the Executive Director of SEWRPC asking that he allow Tom Slawski to work on the new implementation plan. Tom said that he was told he can work on it. Katelyn Bratz said that we should review the forms we are going to include in the updated implementation plan at our next meeting to make sure they are complete and current.

Reports and Updates

- a) Report on activities of Fox Waterway Agency (FWA) of Illinois – No one from FWA was present and so no report was made.
- 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 an unapproved excerpt from our last meeting minutes to Chuck Wichgers and Tom Ludwig and that they had no problem with our waiting until they obtain the \$200,000 allocation from the state. Andy Buehler said that he had been contacted by the staff of Rep. Kerkman who was working on the language for the request for \$400,000 to address the imminent threat items in the SEWRPC survey. Andy said it will be submitted next week to the legislature for approval.
- c) Possible diversion of City of Waukesha water treatment plant discharge away from the Fox River: No one had any information to share.
- d) Report on the future of the Echo Lake Dam in Burlington: Donny Hefty said that they are out of compliance with the WDNR requirements for this dam. There are two plans in process, one is to eliminate the dam and dredge the lake and the second is to build an entirely new compliant dam. On April 29th they had an

engineering firm come in a assess the situation and they said that they would have to dredge 115,000 cubic yards of sediment. It was estimated that in that material there is 502,000 lbs. of legacy phosphorus. Donny said that the removal of the phosphorus would really help their adaptive management plan because they only discharge about 4000 lbs. per year. Right now they are working on where to dispose of the dredged material and the estimated cost of the dredging is about \$2,500,000. Donny pointed out that the White River comes into Echo Lake on its northwest corner and used to follow the shoreline around the lake over to the spillway. Due to the heavy flooding of the last few years this channel has been block and now the flow runs directly to the spillway. Donny said that this is why they are having problems with stagnant water, odor and algae blooms. Donny said that no matter which way the city goes to fix the problem there will have to be some dredging done. Also he mentioned that a new dam structure has to withstand a 500 year flood event.

- e) SEWFRC Website: Al Sikora or Alan Barrows. Alan said that he noticed that the website had been updated to list Katelyn Bratz as the chair. Alan added that if anyone who has finished up a project they should forward before and after pictures to him.

Correspondence –

- a. 5/03/21 Email from Jim Pindel to Mark your Calendars for today’s meeting.
- b. 5/03/21 Forward of an email link provided by Tom Slawski to all the presentations from the 2021 Virtual Summit.
- c. 5/03/21 Forward of an email from Jayne Jenks with attached “Training Project description.”

Miscellaneous Issues-

There were no miscellaneous issues.

It was motioned by Fred Koeller and seconded by Chad Sampson that the meeting be closed.

Meeting Closed at 2:04 PM

**THE NEXT OFFICIAL MEETING WILL BE Friday
July 30, 2021 at 1:00 PM. Meeting Location: Unknown**

We will determine before 7/30/21 if we will have an in person meeting or another virtual meeting.

After the meeting Jim Pindel asked the commission to change the date to Thursday 7/29/21.