

**Commission members present:**

Dean Falkner (Village of Mukwonago) (Chairman)  
Katelyn Bratz (Town of Mukwonago) (Vice Chairperson)  
Alan Barrows (Waukesha County)  
Chad Sampson (Racine County)  
Bob Bartholomew (Town of Vernon)  
Jim Schneider (Village of Waterford)  
Jeff Lang (Town of Burlington)  
John Soneberg (Village of Big Bend)  
Ken Miller (Town of Waukesha)  
Tom Slawski (SEWRPC)  
Sara DeBruijn (Wisconsin DNR)  
Jim Pindel (Town of Waterford) (Secretary/Treasurer)

**Commission members absent:**

Doug Koehler (City of Waukesha)  
Wayne Jensen (Village of Rochester)  
Jim Bergles (City of Burlington)  
Andy Buehler (Kenosha County)  
Andrew Lois (Town of Wheatland)

**Also present:** Tom Day from Eagle Springs Lake Management District, Dan Treloar Kenosha County and Michael Schwar of Stony Point Hydrology.

At 1:03 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.

**Minutes** The minutes from the May 19, 2017 meeting were reviewed. It was motioned by Bob Bartholomew that the minutes be approved and the motion was seconded by Jim Schneider. The minutes were approved unanimously.

**Treasurer Reports** – Jim Pindel reviewed the highlights of May 2017 treasurer's reports. We started the month of April with \$101,981.67. We made a payment of \$129.95 to Bella Mia to pay for this year's website hosting. We received \$17.30 in interest bringing our Money Market account to a balance of \$101,869.02. The only change to the non-grant funds was the \$17.30 in interest resulting in the net non-grant funds available being \$32,491.31. Jim Pindel pointed out that we paid the first \$1,000 payment toward the AIS detect/prevent/outreach for Waukesha County. Erroneously Jim Pindel thought the Parking Lot and Sidewalk Salting workshop project was missing from the report and then realized it was there in the report and the report was correct. It was motioned by Chad Sampson and seconded by Jim Schneider that the treasurer's report be accepted. The motion carried unanimously.

**Old Business**

- a) Fox River Partnership 2018 Summit: Tom Slawski said that he had nothing to report so far.
- b) Mukwonago River shoreline restoration at WE Energies Site. Alan Barrows said that the project was completed about 2 weeks ago. Alan projected pictures taken from the pedestrian bridge of the site before and after the project. Alan made a special point of acknowledging the work and support provided by the Village of Mukwonago to bring this project to completion. Alan pointed out that a few years ago when Dean Falkner was still working for the Village he volunteered to be the project sponsor. And so the Village hired the contractor seeing WE Energies has some issues with doing the contracting. Last year when there were issues concerning the contract itself and the insurance the Village's attorneys spent the time and effort to work through the issues. As the project got started the shoreline restoration structure moved forward into the river leaving a gap that had to be filled with material. The Village provided 20 cubic yards of material at no cost to remedy the situation. Alan said that without the Village's help the project probably would not have been completed. The before 2009 picture showed how badly the shoreline was undercut and the erosion was obvious. Applied Ecological Services was the contractor and they installed 2 courses of stone filled geotextile bags for the base. The upper bags are filled with mostly sand and some top soil mixed in to support the vegetation growth. There were about 1000 plant plugs planted between the lips of the geotextile bags. The whole wall will blossom and Alan said that some of the plants are already starting to blossom. Along the bottom courses they planted wetland plants and above that they planted upland flowers and sages. Alan pointed out on the picture a white hose of pipe that was visible and this is a temporary water supply that the contractor will use for the next year to maintain the plants as they are taking hold. Alan said that since the picture was taken they installed a fence to prevent the geese from coming in and eating the vegetation as well as stopping them from depositing manure. Alan said that they experienced another invasive they didn't expect. During a visit to the site he found kids running up and down the embankment and jumping into the river. Alan said that he contacted the police department who said that they will patrol the area more often to eliminate this problem.
- c) ESR Project disposal sites environmental impact: No one from the WWMD was present and so Jim Pindel reported what he knew. Jim said that the WDNR asked the WWMD to retract the permit application that they had submitted for the disposal sites. Apparently the new people from the WDNR that are now in charge have different ideas as to what they want. The WWMD is in the process of getting a new proposal from Graef Engineering to cover the cost of the new permit application. We should expect to hear from the WWMD for a request for funding this new permit application.
- d) Schuetze Playground Storm Water Abatement: - Doug Koehler was not present to make a report. Jim Pindel said that he had emailed Doug making him aware of the fact that time was getting critically short. Jim Pindel stated that if the

paperwork is not submitted by the end of June, we would not be able to provide the final \$12,500 that was committed to this project and that we would require the \$12,500 cash advance back. Jim said that as far as the WDNR is concerned, they do not really acknowledge the existence of a project until the final paperwork is submitted. Dean Falkner stated that he was willing to go to Waukesha County's offices and see what he could do to get the paperwork going. Alan Barrows pointed out that this project was not a county project, it is a City of Waukesha Park and David Burch was a county employee who represented the Park Foundation which is a non-profit organization. The discussion ended with the fact that we need to keep in touch with Doug Koehler and David Burch to get the paperwork submitted as soon as possible.

- e) Mukwonago Park Shoreline Restoration – Alan Barrows said that this is essentially a water quality project at Mukwonago Park. They intend to use native plant sod which is grown in a green house and rolled up just like lawn sod. The native plant sod has been ordered and takes 12 weeks to grow and be delivered. Alan Barrows wondered if this was an ENUM-19 project that had to be completed by the end of June and Jim Pindel responded that it was an ENUM-20 project, so we have until the end of June 2018 to finish it off. Jim Pindel asked if Alan knew the cost of each native plant mat and Alan said that he knew that the purchase was in excess of \$20,000 but the order was greater than the amount needed for just this one project.
- f) Village of Waterford East Shore river bank Restoration: - Jim Schneider pointed out that this project for the Village was larger than just the shoreline that we are involved with. The total Village project includes the parking lot and curbs and more. Jim Schneider said that the project was ahead of schedule. Jim Schneider said that all the rock riprap was installed and looked good and encouraged us to visit the site to see how good it looks. Today people are working on pouring curbs and gutters and the planting of native plants will be done in the next few weeks. Right now the Village anticipates completing the project by the end of July. Dean Falkner said that he has been to the site to take water samples and the project looked very good, similar to the work that was done along the Mukwonago River.
- g) SEWRPC Survey for Waterford Dam to the Illinois Border – Tom Slawski said that SEWRPC was working on maps preparing for the field work. Jim Pindel asked if it would be smart to notify the municipalities along the way that we were going to survey the river and adjacent lands looking for areas of concern regarding the Fox River. Tom said that they intended to notify the municipalities looking for places that they can go ashore in an attempt to not trespass on anyone's property. Jeff Lang and Jim Schneider said that they lived along the Fox River within the area that will be surveyed and offered to allow SEWRPC to use their properties for shore access. When Tom Slawski said that they thought they could survey about 5 miles a day, Jim Pindel asked how many river miles were involved and Tom Slawski said there are 26 river miles in the survey. Tom

said that SEWRPC was expecting the survey to take about a week and a half. Tom went on to say that the timing would be dependent on what they find and how much detail has to be recorded. They intend to recommend mitigation alternatives for areas that need work. Dean Falkner asked if SEWRPC intended to go upstream to do any evaluation in this area and Tom Slawski said that they intended to utilize the data provided by the Graef survey. Tom said that the intent is to provide similar data to what Graef provided to get an overall evaluation of the condition of the Fox River throughout our area of jurisdiction. Dean Falkner told Tom that he might want to get the water quality data that has been collected by Jim Burgles in Burlington to further evaluate the condition of the river in the survey area.

- h) Parking Lot and sidewalk Salting Workshop: Jayne Jenks Jayne was not present to make a report. Alan Barrows said that he had been in contact with Jayne and that the workshop was scheduled for October 23, 2017. She has contracted with the consultant who will run the workshop but Alan didn't think she had locked in that location. Alan said that he thought she was favoring the Veteran's Terrance in Burlington and Dan Treloar said that he believed that Jayne was going to contact the Veteran's Terrance yesterday to lock it in for that date. Jim Pindel asked if there was an attendance fee and Dan said there would be a fee to cover the expenses only.

### New Business

- a) How do we handle interpretations of Wisconsin State Statutes regarding: Katelyn Bratz said that she did not have an answer to the question Jim Pindel emailed to her concerning whether we have to pay to have our notice of public hearing and annual budget published. Katelyn said she will advise when she finds out.
- b) Consideration of developing a USEPA 9-Key Elements Watershed Management Plan – Dean Falkner said that he will be announcing a meeting of the subcommittee dedicated to this topic after July 1<sup>st</sup>. The intent of the meeting is to find out how much we know about the plan and what issues have to be investigated. The answers to these questions will direct the work of the subcommittee and a google scheduling app will be set up to follow the progress of the subcommittee.
- c) Gauges: Why do we want more? What kind of gauges? When do we want them? Who will pay for the hardware, installation and maintenance? Tom Slawski said that he had nothing to report at this time.
- d) Consideration of expanding our jurisdiction west to include Mukwonago River Watershed: Tom Day started by saying that he provided a revised version of the MoU for the Town of Eagle to Jim Pindel for review and that Jim said that the MoU was now accurate and acceptable. Tom said that he is now prepared to take the revised MoU's to the Town Boards of Eagle, Troy and East Troy for

acceptance. Tom said that he wants our commission to take a position on where we stand on including these 3 new municipalities. So Tom said that he has not taken the revised to any of the 3 municipalities not knowing where we stand. Jim Pindel asked Tom if all the water sampling locations were in the Town of Eagle. Tom said that 2 of the locations were in our existing area of jurisdiction and 2 or 3 were in the Town of Troy with the balance of the 10 locations in the Town of Eagle. Jim Pindel stated that he was wary of including the Town of East Troy because it included Lake Beulah which has a great number of riparian owners who might have an overwhelming number of projects for us. Jim thought that Lake Beulah was a bit distant from the Fox River with only a small creek flowing out of it which eventually joined into the Fox River. Tom Day clarified the connection saying that there is a small creek that flows out of Beulah near CTH J which eventually flows into the Mukwonago River. Tom said he has not sampled the water in this creek. Tom said that he really wanted us to include the towns of Troy and Eagle so that we could fund all 10 of his sampling location. Tom said that the Town of East Troy was added at the request of Maggie Zuwallner (Sp?) of the Kettle Marine land trust. Tom said that his priority was the towns of Troy and Eagle and he has struck out with all of his other attempts to get funding for his water sampling survey. Tom said that a complete sampling survey costs about \$1,500 with the major portion of that cost being the laboratory work done in Stevens Point. The lab conducts 10 analyses on each of the sampling sites giving him very good data and he has quite a bit of historical data recorded. Tom said he has not done any sampling since 2012. Tom said he wanted to make sure we understand that this survey is for the Mukwonago River watershed not for Eagle Springs Lake. Dean Falkner asked if we could fund the water sampling project including the 2 sites that were not within our area of jurisdiction and Tom said that Jim Ritchie told him that we could not do work outside of our area of jurisdiction. Jim Pindel pointed out that at this time we do not have a signed MoU from any municipality requesting membership. Tom said he can go either of two ways from here. He can go to the towns of Eagle and Troy and get them to sign the MoU's, and then bring them to us for our acceptance or rejection. Tom said it would be embarrassing for him to talk the towns into signing an agreement and then go back and say we didn't accept them. Tom said he would much rather have us take a position of acceptance or not and then go from there. Alan Barrows said that in anticipation of this discussion he prepared a map of our present area of jurisdiction and outlining adjacent to it the expansion Tom Day is proposing. Alan said he only included that portion of the Town of Eagle which is in the Fox River watershed, since the Town of Eagle is split between the Fox River watershed and the Rock River watershed. Alan provided copies of this map to all the commissioners. Alan pointed out that rain or snow that lands on the Fox River side of the township flows into the Mukwonago River that flows into the Fox River which flows into the Illinois River in the Quad Cities. Rain and snow that falls on the Rock River watershed side of the township eventually flows down the Rock River into the Mississippi River which flows down into the Quad Cities and meets up with the water that flowed down from the Fox River watershed. Alan said that both streams are cold water streams rated as AQ2's,

which are aquatic resources of regional significance which support threatened or endangered resources. Alan pointed out that we have a similar situation in the Village of Salem Lakes where he followed the Fox River watershed boundary rather than the municipality boundary showing our area of jurisdiction. Jim Schneider pointed out that he recently spent a considerable amount of time trying to secure funding from the state of our commission. After going through some detail on his efforts he said that at this point we are not sure of any funding whatsoever. Our problem is not finding projects; our problem is finding funding to support the projects we know about. Jim Schneider pointed out that in the last budget we identified 1.3 million dollars' worth of projects that we know need funding, so if we don't know if we have the ability to fund anything then it doesn't make sense to add territory to get additional projects. Katelyn Bratz pointed out that the proposed expansion would gain another representative in the state assembly who might be able to assist us. Ken Miller asked how important is the data that Tom Day is collecting and he was told that this data tells us about the quality of the water that flows into the Fox River from this major tributary. Data collected along the Fox River by Dean Falkner show that the Fox's water quality improves when its water is diluted by the Mukwonago River's water. Dean said that the testing being done by Tom Day would help to identify any new problems or disturbances to the water quality of the Mukwonago River which could then be addressed before it had an adverse effect on the Fox River. Jeff Lang said that he is uncertain how to vote on this expansion and wondered if we could adapt our project evaluation criteria to a rating system for evaluating the acceptability of including additional municipalities. This might help us to evaluate the benefit to the Fox River and the benefit to the municipality seeking membership. Chad Sampson said he agrees with Jim Schneider that it doesn't make sense to expand to pick up additional projects if we are not funded in the new state budget. The consensus of the commission was that if we don't get funding in the upcoming state budget it doesn't make sense to expand our territory to not be able to do anything there. It was decided that Dean Falkner would advise Tom Day as soon as we know what our funding situation is in the new state budget. If we are funded Tom should go ahead and get the MoU's and bring them to us for approval. If not we don't think it makes sense. Alan Barrows and Katelyn Bratz both expressed that fact that expansion into the town of Eagle would be beneficial to the commission.

### **Reports and Updates**

- a) Report on activities of Fox Waterway Agency (FWA) of Illinois – Jeff Lang said that he attended the last board meeting of the FWA and nothing pertained to us.
- b) Possible diversion of City of Waukesha water treatment plant discharge away from the Fox River: Sara DeBruijn said that Jim Ritchie had nothing new to report. No one else had anything to say.

- c) Progress toward designation as a “National Water Trail” – Village of Waterford. Jim Schneider said that they are doing data collection and they are months away from completion. It is an ongoing effort.
- d) SEWFRC Website – Al Sikora was not present. Alan Barrows said that he updated the maps on the website and now they represent the present boundaries of our commission.

**Correspondence** –

- a. 5/22/17 Email from Jim Pindel advising commissioners to mark their calendars for today’s meeting.
- b. 5/23/17 Email from Jim Pindel with attached final version of 2017-2018 SEWFRC budget
- c. 5/25/17 Email from Barbara Messick with invitation to ribbon cutting for the new Fox River Paddle Sports facility
- d. 5/31/17 Forward of email from Tom Day with revised MoU for the Town of Eagle attached
- e. 6/12/17 Letter from Jonathan Delagrave appointing Chad Sampson to our commission for life.

**Miscellaneous Issues** –

Alan Barrows reminded the commission that we now have SEWFRC signs that can be displayed at project sites. Alan said that we purchased enough signs to put some up at older completed projects. There are two sizes available, 10” x 12” and 10” x 20”. Dean Falkner asked Alan to run a copy of the signs over to WE Energies because they indicated that they were willing to put up the signs after they approved the looks of the signs. Chad Sampson asked for one sign of each size.

Chad Sampson pointed out that Racine County has come up with a new format for non-profits and organization like us to request funding. Chad said that the county will allocate some funds to this new format and it will be up to the different organization to apply for these funds. Chad said that the deadline for applying for funds is August 1<sup>st</sup>. Applications submitted by August 1<sup>st</sup> 2017 will be for the 2018 Racine County budget.

It was motioned by Jeff Lang to close the meeting and seconded by Jim Schneider to end the meeting and the motion carried unanimously.

**Meeting Closed** at 2:09 PM

**THE NEXT OFFICIAL MEETING WILL BE Friday, July 21, 2017 at 1:00 PM. (Meeting Location: Town of Vernon Fire Station #1, W233 S7475 Woodland Lane, Big Bend, WI 53103.)**