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Southeastern Wisconsin Fox River Commission Meeting Meeting Minutes

Friday, June 20, 2025 - 1:00 PM

In person Meeting to be held at:

Vernon Fire Station #1. W233 S7475 Woodland Ln Big Bend Wi 53103

Commissioners and (alternates) Quorum= 9		
Representing	Name	Attended (yes/no, by phone)
Kenosha County	Andy Buehler Paul Tollard (non-voting)	Yes- Paul Tollard
Racine County	Chad Sampson (Jon Grove)	Yes- Chad Sampson
Waukesha County	Alan Barrows (Leif Hauge)	Yes- Alan Barrows
City of Waukesha	Robins Grams (Doug Koehler)	Yes- Robin Grams
Town of Mukwonago	Katelyn Bratz (Barb Holtz)	Yes- Katelyn Bratz
Town of Vernon	Lee Manthey	Yes- Lee Manthey
Town of Waterford	Jim Pindel (Shelley Tessmer)	Yes- Jim Pindel
Town of Waukesha		
Village of Big Bend	Larry Long (Ellen Cole)	
Village of Mukwonago	Wayne Castle	
Village of Waterford	Fred Koeller (Al Sikora)	Yes- Fred Koeller
Village of Rochester	Wayne Jensen	Yes- Wayne Jensen
Town of Burlington	Russ Egan	
City of Burlington		Howard Moser
Town of Wheatland	Donna Deuster	Yes- Donna Deuster

Village of Salem Lakes	Andy Kreye	
SEWRPC	Tom Slawski (non-voting)	
WDNR		
WDNR	Rachel Sabre (non-voting)	

Guests	
Representing	Name
	Terrance O'Brien
Village of Salem Lakes	Jared Young
Racine County	Kailyn Palomares
Racine County Emergency Management	Lorenzo Santos, Liz Adams

Southeastern Wisconsin Fox River Commission Meeting

1. Call meeting to order. Katelyn Bratz called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm.
2. Pledge of allegiance
3. Roll call and verify quorum.
4. Confirm the Teams Voice recorder is running.
5. Approval of minutes from the previous meetings held May 9, 2025.
 - a. Fred Koeller made a motion to approve the May minutes.
 - b. Alan Barrows seconded the motion.
 - c. Motion passes.
6. Review the Treasurer's Report and ENUM project status.
 - i. Wayne Jensen clarified the new process for ENUM funds. We will receive the \$100,000 in funds each year in July. There will be no reserve that needs to be requested anymore.
 - ii. We will also not need to send in a report at the end of each project. We will send one report at the end of each ENUM.
 1. Jim Pindel commented that he did not like the one report at the end of the ENUM. If a project is early in the ENUM there could be difficulties 2 years later reviewing the paperwork. Wayne Jensen agreed. We will submit paperwork as we finish projects.
 - b. Chad Samson approved the Treasurer's report as presented.
 - c. Donna Deuster Seconded the motion
 - d. Motion Passes.

Old Business

1. Fox River 2025 Summit – Tom Slawski- No update

2. SEWRPC Survey from Waterford Dam to Illinois border-Tom Slawski- No Update
3. Vernon Wildlife Area DU Impoundment Restoration-Kelsey Norton, WDNR- No Update
4. Poplar Circle Shoreline Restoration (completed)– Chad Sampson been approved and can be removed from the agenda.
5. Racine County Shoreline Projects – Chad Sampson
This agenda item includes the Magner, Plantz, Doering Milczarski, McCormick and Hondel shorelines which were individually approved at the 1/24/25 SEWFRC meeting.
 - a. Kailyn Palomares shared, they are on track. All contractors have been selected. Permits are received. Construction to start after August 1.
6. Noble Brothers Burgers Permeable Pavers – Chad Sampson
 - a. Chad has had no response from the property owner. He will continue to reach out for more information.
 - b. Fred Koeller made a motion that if we do not receive an answer in 30 days we can reallocate the funds
 - c. Jim Pindel seconded the motion
 - d. Motion passes
 - i. Chad Sampson will write a letter informing them of the decision.

New Business

1. 2021 – 2030 SEWFRC Implementation Plan – Tom Slawski & Alan Barrows
 - a. Katelyn Bratz will work this summer to review and edit the final document.
 - b. Alan Barrows reviewed there are some questions, and potential deletions.
 - c. The plan is available for online review, if interested.
2. Fox River Watershed Hazard Mitigation Plan/Regional Coordinator Group- Gail Goodchild. No Update
3. Fox Bend Wetland Restoration Project within Village of Vernon- Alan Barrows
 - a. Vegetation management portion is underway. Originally it was going to be a mowing and herbicide spray to prepare for reseeding of native plants
 - b. Chad Sampson How many acres of open water is that allowed for- The scrapes were expensive because the soil had to be removed from the flood plan. 2-3 acres of water.
4. Margis Phase III Shoreline Protection and Access Improvements – Chad Sampson
 - a. Improve the access, remove the invasive species and stabilize the embankment. Will keep working in phases until the whole shoreline is improved. Project will start in Aug-Sept.
5. Fox River Restoration at Wilmot Wi – Jared Young or Kenosha County

- a. Jared Young shared the bare minimum estimate for the project is \$56,110.00 for the O'Brien property and \$15686.00 for the McManus property.
 - b. All of the paperwork has been submitted. Goal for October to complete the work. They have reached out to other agencies for funding.
 - c. DNR requested the removal of contaminated soil
 - d. Fred Koeller clarified that we have \$18,000 available for use.
 - e. Paul Tollard clarified that the funding is available.
 - f. Jim Pindel clarified that we pay when the work is complete. We require proof of payment and photos of before and after.
6. Annual Budget Report
- a. Wayne Jensen, We will discuss the report in the July meeting. Please submit your projects.
 - b. We will have a preliminary look at the report at the next meeting.
 - c. Then we will publish, the report needs to be published two weeks before the meeting.
7. New River Gauge- The equipment in Burlington is obsolete and the gauge is uninstalled. All the other major areas have operational gauges. Burlington has a gap. They are looking to add the gauge at the Jefferson street bridge. The installation and the yearly maintenance is costly. Before putting a formal application, does this meet the requirements of our projects.
- a. It was decided previously we could not pay for maintenance, does this change with the funding sources?
 - b. \$16,500 for the installation of the gauge.
 - c. Annual \$14,800 per year for the maintenance and running of the gauge.
 - d. Without the historical data we cannot predict what the flood stage data looks like.
 - e. We will review the implementation plan, but we will reach out to our DNR contact. Add this item topic to the agenda for the next meeting.

Reports and Updates

1. Report on activities of Fox Waterway Agency of Illinois – FWA or Tom Slawski No Update
2. Report on future of the Echo Lake Dam in Burlington- Howard Moser shared the plans are done. Ther permit from the DNR has been approved. The project is going out to bid next Thursday. July 10th will have a prebid onsite visit. Construction between May 2026-May 2027. The gates once ordered are about 1 year out. Once that is complete the dredging project will begin. Looking for sites for dewatering.
 - a. Alan Barrows is there an engineer's estimate. Approx. 4 million not including the dredging ballpark 4 for the dredging. These are old, so they may not be accurate
 - b. Is Browns Lake being dredged? Wayne Jensen. They are very close to starting. Dewatering pond is on the east side of the bypass.
3. Report on Fox River Watershed TMDL progress – Rachel Sabre
 - a. Per Alan Barrows- There was a webinar bout two weeks ago. It was recorded and is available on the DNR website. Paul Tollard a lot of the information presented shared the Illinois Chain of Lakes using Grass Lake as the basis for the reductions in the watershed. The water quality criteria for the lake is different than the river. With the

current criteria on the Wisconsin side, the goals are higher, so Grass Lake cannot meet their goals. There is still a lot of work. The target date is 2071. Implementation of the TMDL could lead to great improvement rather quickly. Chad Sampson, Is there any funding available for the TMDL. There is no funding.

- b. Should we be tracking our work in terms of the TMDL? This could be valuable information. Could be a good talking point when we go to the legislature. Can we add to the agenda our TMDL progress. What is the process for our tracking and usage of the info.
4. Watershed Protection Committee of Racine County- Chad Sampson
 - a. They met in March and discussed a grant. They received the grant from the Sand County Foundation for \$100,000. Awareness is rising on the need for cover crops. Come to the Watershed Protection Committee Summer field day is on Sept 11. Encourage all to come.
 5. Kenosha County Regenerative Producers
 - a. Had a field day yesterday. They have events coming up.
 6. SEWFRC Website – Al Sikora or Alan Barrows
 - a. Alan Barrows is looking for the 2014 erosion study. There was a prioritized list of projects there. Presence of some of the studies could be linked to the website.
 - b. There are new projects listed with pictures.

Correspondence

5/12/25 Email from Jim Pindel to all commissioners to mark your calendars for today's meeting.

6/2/25 Email from Christine Halbur of the WDNR outlining the new procedure for handling ENUM tracking and reimbursements. Send to Wayne Jensen and Katelyn Bratz.

6/3/25 Announcement and invitation to today's meeting.

6/18/25. Katelyn Bratz emailed Kelsey Norton of the WDNR asking for a project update on the Vernon Marsh.

Miscellaneous Issues

1. Election of Officers will be at the same meeting as the public hearing.
2. Next Meeting and Location
3. Close Meeting
 - a. Fred Koeller made a motion to adjourn the meeting.
 - b. Chad Sampson seconded the motion.
 - c. Motion passes.

d. Meeting adjourned at 2:12 pm.

* If you have any questions about the Agenda, please contact Secretary Jim Pindel at jpindel@wi,rr.com or 414 550 8213