

Commission members present:

Al Sikora (Village of Waterford) (Chairman)
Chad Sampson (Racine County)
Alan Barrows (Waukesha County)
Barb Holtz (Town of Mukwonago)
Randy Meier (Town of Waterford)
Shelley Tessmer (Town of Waterford)
Ron Peterson (Village of Big Bend)
Robert Bartholomew (Town of Vernon)
Doug Koehler (City of Waukesha)
Mike Hahn (SEWRPC)
Jim D'Antuono (Wisconsin DNR)
Mary Pindel (Town of Waterford – Alternate)
Jim Pindel (Town of Waterford) (Secretary/Treasurer)

Commission members absent:

Don Scott (Town of Vernon) (Vice-Chairman)
Randy Craig (Town of Vernon)
Dean Falkner (Village of Mukwonago)
Francis Stadler (Village of Big Bend)
Any representative from the Town of Waukesha

Also present: John Bostrom, Dick Kosut, Don Baron and Gary Bluemel of the WWMD, Dan Treloar of Kenosha County and Michael Schwar s resident of the Town of Vernon.

At 1:04 PM, 6/21/2013, Chairman Al Sikora 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 17, 2013 meeting were reviewed. Barb Holtz pointed out an error on page 3 of 8 where it was stated that “the herbicides used have a surfactant additive that helps them to penetrate the targeted vegetation and not run off into the waterway”. Barb said that the surfactant is a dispersant and would run off into the water and so cannot be used over water or on shorelines. So the herbicide would be used with the surfactant on dry land but without the surfactant on or near the water. With the correction noted above it was motioned by Chad Sampson and seconded by Ron Peterson that the minutes be approved. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Treasurer Reports – The Treasurer’s Report for May 2013 was reviewed. In summary we started with \$87,809.64 in our money market account. We made payments of \$119.95 to Bella Mia for our website hosting and paid \$167.98 to the Racine Journal Times for our Public Hearing announcement and Budget publication and made \$14.88 in interest resulting in a final amount of \$87,536.59. It was motioned by Shelley Tessmer and seconded by Randy Meier that the Treasurers Reports be approved. The report was approved unanimously.

Old Business

- a) Mukwonago River Restoration within Rainbow Springs – Benjamin Heussner was not present and Jim Pindel stated that he had received an email from Benjamin yesterday saying that he could not attend our meeting. Benjamin also stated that conditions at the site had dried out to the point that work could commence. He expects that work could start as soon as next Monday. Benjamin also asked if he could get an extension past June 30, 2013 when he believed that our ENUM expires. Jim responded to Benjamin that we had received a one year extension and so this was not a problem.

- b) Fox River Partnership Summit – Tom Slawski was not present and so Mike Hahn reported for him. Mike started out by saying that with Jeff Thornton's retirement, Tom Slawski will be the new commissioner representing the SEWRPC and Mike himself will serve as his alternate. Mike said that Tom expected to have all the paperwork ready to complete and close out the 2013 Summit project by our next meeting. Tom has started planning the 2014 Summit and has had discussions with organizations in Illinois and is trying to set up the first planning meeting with them. Remember that the next Summit will be held in Illinois.

- c) Ecosystem Restoration Project (ESR) -Sediment Sampling: –WWMD John Bostrom said that the intention was to have the project wrapped up before this meeting. However there was some additional engineering work required and that he has only received the possibly last two invoices yesterday. John said that the ESR project team would be meeting later today and hopefully they could approve the sediment sampling report soon and get it off to the WDNR for their review. The intent is to get this report off before the scheduled WWMD meeting next Thursday. Overall the report gives the sediment a clean bill of health and the next step is to make the NR30 permit application.

- d) Shoreline erosion mapping and stabilization planning with invasive species mapping – Graef Engineering. Jim Pindel stated that he had forwarded the revised proposal from Graef Engineering which included mapping the newly arrived invasive species' as well as the erosion along the main stem of the Fox River within our area of jurisdiction. The three invasive species to be targeted are common reed grass (*Phragmites australis*), Japanese knot weed (*Fallopia japonica*) and tall manna grass (*Glyceria maxima*). The charge from Graef Engineering for the revised scope of work is based on time and materials not to exceed \$21,500.00. Jim also pointed out that there was a discrepancy regarding where our jurisdiction ended on the south end. Graef said that it ended 3800 feet south of State Highway 20 and I thought it ended at the Waterford Dam. Geoff Parish of Graef said that he thought it went to 3800 feet south of HYW 20 by zooming in on the map of our jurisdiction. Alan Barrows said that this discrepancy was likely due to a difference in the projection system between

Racine and Waukesha's maps and that he could make a correction to clear up this issue. It was the consensus of the commissioners that our jurisdiction stops at the Waterford Dam. Jim D'Antuono asked if Graef was aware of all the previous work that had been done by SEWRPC and the County that could be helpful and avoid being redundant. Jim Pindel said that at the previous meeting we had made them aware of the survey taken for us by SEWRPC and that Alan Barrows made them aware of some of the other data already available. Jim Pindel also stated that the first step by Graef was a paper step where they researched existing data and among other things looked at where the river is now compared to where it used to be.

e) Waterford Impoundment Public Outreach and Education Project – WWMD Don Barron stated that the Outreach program was a huge success thanks to the efforts of all of the different organizations involved. There were about 200 attendees which in one respect is a little disappointing because there are about 1100 riparian owners on the impoundment. There is an expectation that when this issue goes to referendum, then they will see all of them turn up. The WWMD brought along one of the large maps prepared by Graef Engineering which showed all the navigational and access channels intended for dredging. The interest at the outreach was phenomenal with people asking good and interesting questions. One of the questions that was put to Tom Slawski was what kind of response would be required to make the referendum pass and Tom responded that it would take a simple majority. Don said that there are two more outreach meetings planned and that the maps already provided will be available for them as well. Al Sikora said that when the dates for the additional outreach programs are set, he would be willing to post them on our website as well. Apparently there was a constant flow of interested people throughout the entire course of the event. Craig Helker representing the WDNR had quite a few questions regarding weeds and said that this was one of the best informative events he had ever attended.

f) Big Bend boat/canoe launch retaining wall – Francis Stadler was not present, but Jim Pindel stated that before the meeting started, Ron Peterson gave him a copy of the signed Cost Share Agreement. The agreement was signed by Jamie Soneberg. Jim also said that at last month's meeting Francis said that the intent was to get the work done this summer and Ron Peterson agreed. Shelley Tessmer asked if the project had gone out for bid and Ron said it had and it was all settled and agreed by now. Shelley then asked who was awarded the contract and it was stated that the bid was won by Extreme Exteriors of Big Bend. When Shelley asked how much the project cost, Jim Pindel looked into the 2014 proposed budget and told her our 90% contribution was \$8,790.30. So the cost of the project was that sum divided by 0.9.

New Business

a) Consideration of expanding the Commission's jurisdiction south to the Illinois border Al Sikora said that he was supposed to reach out to the City and Town of Burlington, but he didn't have a chance. At this point

Jim Pindel made that suggestion that at our next meeting, hopefully with Tom Slawski in attendance, we should approach him with heading up this effort. His position of President of the Fox River Partnership would probably lend itself to his contacting and learning to know these people in the Fox River municipalities. We will leave this issue until next meeting.

- b) Possible request for grant funds for Mukwonago shoreline restoration:
Dean Falkner was not present. Alan Barrows said that there was an email exchange between Dean, himself and a woman at WE Energies concerning this project. This new contact at WE Energies asked many of the same questions that we have covered before, like what is the background of what was done before and what needs to be done to carry this project forward. The outcome of this whole process is that there will be a meeting at the site next Monday which will be attended by this new woman contact at WE Energies, Dean Falkner, Alan Barrows and possibly Jim D'Antuono to try to settle what will happen. One of the things that came out of the recent emails is that WE Energies may have an alternate plan. So we can compare our plan to what WE Energies wants to do and see where it leads us. What complicates the process is that so many different factions have to be involved. You need someone to grant access to the property, you need authorization to operate machinery under the ATC wires up above. We need someone from WE Energies involved who can interface with all these different concerns. There is also the consideration of the cost share percentage as it seems there are some challenges for WE Energies to dedicate funds to the project. Alan pointed out that when the Village of Mukwonago did the shoreline restoration on the opposite bank, it worked well because they had a contractor who was committed to three years of maintenance for the site. Unless maintenance of this WE Energies site does not have a maintenance component for three, five or even ten years it will probably not be successful. Originally we intended to get the Friends of the Mukwonago River involved, so that possibly a 501 C3 organization could solicit donations from others possibly even the WE Energies Foundation to fund the sponsor's cost share. At this Barb Holtz offered to contact Dick Jenks of the Friends of the Mukwonago River to see if he or some other representative of the Friends could attend Monday's meeting. Jim D'Antuono added that unless their infrastructure is threatened any funds spent by WE Energies is monitored closely by the PSC. This falls in the category of a 'nice to do' project but these are the kind of project scrutinized by the PSC. Shelley then asked if WE Energies Foundation money could be used and Alan responded by saying we have had both positive and negative responses to that question. This is one of the issues that needs to be resolved. Most likely the best way to solve this situation is to have the Friends apply for funding from the Foundation.

- c) Possible diversion of City of Waukesha water treatment plant discharge away from the Fox River: Al Sikora asked Jim D'Antuono if he had any information on this topic and Jim responded that all he knew was what he has read in the newspapers. They are trying to move forward with an application and the WDNR has promised to provide a quick review. At this time Oak Creek will be the supplier of the Lake Michigan water and they are still trying to determine which is the best discharge location or waterway. They have a goal of having everything done by the deadline of 2018.

Reports and Updates

- a) Report on activities of Fox Waterway Agency (FWA) of Illinois – Ron Barker was not present and Mike Hahn said he had nothing to report.
- b) SEWFRC Website – Al Sikora said he had no updates on the website.
- c) Highway 164 Construction update: - WWMD Don Baron said that he attended a meeting with the contractors yesterday and that they were installing new silt fences where necessary. With the rain that has occurred recently some of the fences have to be replaced with fences that have a metal mesh backing for additional strength. They will begin seeding in the next week and continue to complain about the traffic along 164, noting some traffic is going at high speeds endangering the workers. Asphalt application will start in the first area on the highway in the second to the last week of July. They had the rock riprap ready for installation where the WWMD did their HWY 164 project some years ago, but it was limestone and Don pointed out again that the WWMD used field stone since it had a longer life, so they need to replace the riprap with field stone. As part of the reconstruction they have installed culverts on both the east and west sides of the highway which will increase the flow rate into the creek that eventually discharges into Michigan Lake. The WWMD has gotten Norm Aplinalp a retired WWMD commissioner involved since he was the project manager when this work was originally done. Norm has written them letters regarding this issue. Norm has also contacted engineers who say that the increased flow will require more check dams to be installed to slow the flow down to prevent erosion. The contractors said they would take it under consideration. The contractors said that they have reduced the pitch going into the system to 1%, so the water will be absorbed more by the grass than before. Don said he contacted Jim Ladwig of Racine County asking that his engineers look into the situation and make sure it is being done properly.

Correspondence –

- a. 5/30/13 Email with attachment from Jim Ritchie extending ENUM – 18 until 6/30/14

- b. 5/30/13 Email announcing the retirement of Dr. Jeff Thornton on 6/7/13 with response from Jim Pindel wishing Jeff the best and thanking him for all the work he has done for us.
- c. 6/7/13 Email correspondence originated by Dean Falkner setting up a meeting concerning WE Energies site erosion control
- d. 6/7/13 Email correspondence concerning WE Energies site erosion control project with background from Alan Barrows
- e. 6/20/13 Email from Benjamin Heussner stating he could not attend today's meeting and advising work could start as soon as next Monday on the final five culverts.
- f. Don Barron added that he on behalf of the WWMD sent us an email thanking us the \$5000 and support of their public outreach program.

Miscellaneous Issues –

Considering the fact that both Shelley Tessmer and Chad Sampson were present, Jim Pindel asked that since the last follow up evaluation of the Schmidt & Caton Island erosion control project was performed July 2, 2010, if it wouldn't be appropriate to do a follow up inspection at this time. Shelley said that quite a bit has changed on the island in the meantime and that yes she would do (presumably with Chad's assistance) a follow up inspection.

Randy Meier motioned to end the meeting and the motion was seconded by Shelley Tessmer, the motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Closed at 1:45 PM

THE NEXT OFFICIAL MEETING WILL BE Friday, August 2, 2013 at 1:00 PM. (Meeting Location: Big Bend-Vernon Fire Station #3, W233 S7475 Woodland Lane, Big Bend, WI 53103.)