

**Commission members present:**

Doug Koehler (City of Waukesha)  
Robert Bartholomew (Town of Vernon)  
Randy Meier (Town of Waterford)  
Shelley Tessmer (Town of Waterford)  
Randy Craig (Town of Vernon)  
Francis Stadler (Village of Big Bend)  
Chad Sampson (Racine County)  
Dean Falkner (Village of Mukwonago)  
Barb Holtz (Town of Mukwonago)  
Jim Ritchie (Wisconsin DNR)  
Tom Slawski (SEWRPC)  
Mary Pindel (Town of Waterford – Alternate)  
Jim Pindel (Town of Waterford) (Secretary/Treasurer)

**Commission members absent:**

Al Sikora (Village of Waterford) (Chairman)  
Don Scott (Town of Vernon) (Vice-Chairman)  
Ron Peterson (Village of Big Bend)  
Alan Barrows (Waukesha County)  
John Marek (Town of Waukesha)

**Also present:** Don Baron of the WWMD, and Dan Treloar of Kenosha County.

At 1:05 PM, Jim Pindel standing in for Chairman Al Sikora called the SEWFRC meeting to order.

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

Before going into the agenda, Jim Pindel stated that he had a copy of the Spring 2014 Fishing Report which was put out by the WDNR and attached to a recent Natural Resources magazine. On page 3 there is a 1 paragraph article by Benjamin Heussner about the culvert removal project on the Mukwonago River, which we helped to fund. Jim passed the report around for all the commissioners to see.

**Minutes** The minutes from the May 30, 2014 meeting were reviewed. It was motioned by Randy Craig and seconded by Shelley Tessmer that the minutes be approved. The minutes were approved unanimously.

**Treasurer Reports** – The Treasurer’s Report for May 2014 was reviewed. In summary we started with \$103,428.03 in our money market account. We made a payment of \$119.95 to Bella Mia for our website hosting. We received interest payment of \$17.55 leaving us with a final balance of \$103,325.63. Jim Pindel explained to the commission that Alan Barrows emailed us stating that the Mukwonago Streambank restoration project has run into a snag and could not be completed by 6/30/14 as earlier expected. Based on this information Jim Pindel sent a letter to Jim Ritchie of the WDNR requesting a further extension of ENUM-18 until the end of the year. Jim Ritchie responded with a grant

extension, so now the Mukwonago Streambank restoration has to be completed by the end of this year so we can use ENUM-18 funds. It was motioned by Francis Stadler and seconded by Randy Meier that the Treasurers Reports be approved. The report was approved unanimously.

### Old Business

- a) Fox River Partnership Summit – Tom Slawski stated that he had completed the paperwork for reimbursement for the 2014 Summit. He handed that documentation over to Jim Ritchie. Jim Ritchie said that he would scan the documentation and email a copy to Jim Pindel for our records. Tom then indicated that he had not officially requested funds for the 2015 Summit, which will be held on March 14, 2015. After some slight discussion Tom requested \$5,500 again even though he thought he might not need all of it, in which case he would simply come in under budget. Shelley Tessmer motioned that we provide the funding for the summit and the motion was seconded by Barb Holtz. The motion carried unanimously.
  
- b) Shoreline erosion mapping and stabilization planning with invasive species mapping – Graef Engineering. Jim Pindel reported that he had completed the paperwork for reimbursement against ENUM-18 to Jim Ritchie and Jim Ritchie indicated that it was all in order. Jim Pindel pointed out that the project came in about \$1000 under budget. Therefore this item will be removed from future agendas. Francis Stadler asked if this was something we would do every year. And Jim Pindel responded that we did this once only for the main stem of the Fox River. If for some reason we think it would be beneficial to do an additional survey of some particular tributary of the river we would consider it. The main reason for doing the survey in the first place was to identify erosion and invasive species projects we could identify in upcoming annual budgets. Jim also stated that if and when we expand our boundary south to the Illinois border, it would make sense to survey from the dam in Waterford down to the Illinois border to see what problems there are. A hardcopy of the report was borrowed to Shelley Tessmer to take home and study.  
Shelley Tessmer asked if each of our municipalities gets a copy of the GIS report and we said they do not, but it would be a good idea if it generated sponsors to head up projects that need to be done. Barb Holts suggested that the commissioners representing each of the municipalities inform them that this information is available. Tom Slawski and Dan Treloar pointed out that Graef provided .shp files to Alan Barrows of Waukesha County. The .shp files or layer can be overlaid on different county or municipality maps to identify who is the land owner, what municipality and county are involved. Chad Sampson added that with the .shp files Racine County would probably overlay the GIS data from Graef on their maps and allow people to see and investigate on individual computers in their offices, but would not put it on their website. Jim Pindel said that if any county or municipality wanted the

.shp file they should email him with the request and he would get it from Graef.

- c) Mukwonago River shoreline restoration at WE Energies Site. Neither Alan Barrows nor Dean Falkner was present at this point in the meeting. Jim Pindel stated that Alan had sent an email to Al Sikora, Jim Ritchie and himself stating that there was a problem. Apparently the individual landowner, Alex Seifert, would not sign the work agreement and so the design will have to be changed so that the work that has to be done can be accessed from the opposite side of the project. The change in design will require the project to be rebid and a new cost determined. Based on this information and the fact that we were going to pay for this project with ENUM-18, Jim Pindel requested an additional 6 month grant extension from the WDNR which Jim Ritchie granted. Now this project in whatever form it takes has to be completed by the end of this year. At this point the project is on hold.
- d) Big Bend Boat/canoe launch retaining wall fence & vegetation – Francis Stadler said that he had talked to the Village and the contractor and the work would be completed in a month or two. Jim Pindel said that he had stopped by the site and said that the fence was installed but was about 3.5 feet back from the retaining wall. It would be possible for anyone to walk along the edge of the retaining wall outside of the fence. He said he hoped that the plan was to plant some large thorny bushes between the fence and retaining wall to prevent anyone from walking there. Francis said that he has instructed the contractor to put something up at least to the second rail of the fence to prevent anyone (especially children) from going through and getting in a dangerous location. Barb Holtz reminded us that we specified that the vegetation had to be native.

### New Business

- a) Wood Drive Erosion Control Project – Chad Sampson said that an unexpected thing has happened. The farmer (Paul Bauman) who owns the land where the project was supposed to be done has passed away. With this being the fact the project is on hold until he can identify whoever can make a commitment to allow the project to go forward. Chad did say that the home owners who use the gravel drive (Indian road) are anxious to get the job done. Chad said the project needs to be done with a grass swale all the way from highway 164 down to Indian Road. To get this done will require permission/cooperation from Kevin Malchine, who owns the land adjacent to highway 164 and the Bauman's who own the land from the fence line to Indian Road. Don Barron of the WWMD said that their special projects people had just walked through this area last week and said that they need to be kept apprised of what the County was doing so that we did not duplicate efforts.

At this point Dean Falkner just showed up and so we brought him up to speed on what was covered regarding the Mukwonago Shoreline restoration project. Dean

- seemed to agree with what was said. Dean asked if we had gotten an extension to ENUM-18 and we said that we had.
- b) Consideration of expanding the Commission's jurisdiction south to the Illinois border Tom Slawski said that he did not know if the City of Burlington had voted on or generated a MoU to join the commission. He said he would follow up with them. Tom has not had any success with contacting the municipalities in Kenosha County but will work on it.
  - c) Consideration of how we operate with a larger membership base: Jim Pindel said that at the last meeting we discussed the term of appointment for commissioners and that he will add this requested change to the word document that lists all of our requested changes, so that when we are ready to go to the legislature to change our boundaries we have our requests documented. He also asked that as any of us think of changes we think would be appropriate they should email him and he would put them on the agenda for our next meeting.
  - d) Possible diversion of City of Waukesha water treatment plant discharge away from the Fox River: Jim Ritchie said that the status is the same as last month. The environmental impact statement is being prepared and he didn't have a time frame on when it will be finished. Jim also advised the commission that the WDNR's regional water supply supervisor position has been vacant since last year and that position has now been filled. This is another local person who will oversee this effort. However the diversion is being handled by the staff in Madison.

### Reports and Updates

- a) Report on activities of Fox Waterway Agency (FWA) of Illinois –Tom Slawski said that he has been trying to find a contact at the FWA to arrange a meeting with them.
- b) SEWFRC Website – Al Sikora was not present and we agreed that Al seems to have everything up to date on our website.
- c) Highway 164 Construction update: - Don Baron of the WWMD said that he had been in contact with Chad Sampson who advised there were federal programs that would help pay for some of the improvements that need to be done. During a recent site visit to the area where the erosion is occurring they noticed that the corn was planted in rows running east and west which allows the rain to run and washout between the rows. They will ask the farmer to plant in a north south direction to minimize the runoff. Additionally they will try to get the 85 foot vegetative buffer extended or add a berm to stop the runoff.  
Don also announced to the commission that the WWMD is sponsoring a public outreach and informational meeting tomorrow 6/28/14 at the Waterford town hall to update everyone on the progress of the Ecosystem Restoration (ESR) Project

(dredging) in the Waterford impoundment. Don did say that Andres Peekna from the ESR committee did a study that shows that the sediment fill in rate is 0.56” per year. So in 10 to 20 years the impoundment will be nothing but marshland. Barb Holtz asked what was the source of the sediment. It was explained that some of it comes for the natural decay of leaves and weeds on a yearly basis since the impoundment was established in 1836. A large contributor was the flood of 2008 which flushed the Fox River out and deposited the silt in Conservancy Bay and the rest of the impoundment.

Correspondence –

- a) 6/6/14 Response from Jim Ladwig of Racine County stating that they would consider our request for funding
- b) 6/6/14 Response from David Craig thanking us for the update and requesting that we keep him apprised of our expansion progress.
- c) 6/11/14 Forward of an email from Graef Eng. to all commissioners with an attachment concerning a federal grant program. Jim Pindel said that he wished we had a lawyer on the commission who could study this program and see what if anything we should do. Don Barron of the WWMD said they had a lawyer who was investigating this program and would keep us apprised of anything we could do.
- d) 6/24/14 Email from Alan Barrows outlining problems which will delay the completion of the Mukwonago Shoreline restoration project; culminating in a request to Jim Ritchie for extension to ENUM-18 (as an attachment) for an additional 6 months.

Miscellaneous Issues –

Jim Pindel said that before our last meeting he had talked to Jim Ritchie saying that we really don't know how to measure water quality. There are probably biological, chemical and suspended solids involved in the rating. He asked that Jim Ritchie either find the information or provide someone from the WDNR who could explain it to us.

It was motioned by Bob Bartholomew and seconded by Randy Meier that the meeting be closed and the motion carried unanimously.

Meeting Closed at 2:14 PM

**THE NEXT OFFICIAL MEETING WILL BE Friday, August 8, 2014 at 1:00 PM. (Meeting Location: Town of Vernon Fire Station #1, W233 S7475 Woodland Lane, Big Bend, WI 53103.)**