

Commission members present:

Greg Kessler (Town of Waterford) (Chairman)
Howard Garvens (Town of Waukesha) (Vice-Chairman)\
Shelley Tessmer (Town of Waterford)
Randy Craig (Town of Vernon)
Jamie Soneberg (Village of Big Bend)
Barb Holtz (Town of Mukwonago)
Ron Peterson (Village of Big Bend)
Chad Sampson (Racine County)
Jim D'Antuono (Wisconsin DNR)
Alan Barrows (Waukesha County)
Al Sikora (Village of Waterford)
Joe Boxhorn (Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission)
Jim Pindel (Town of Waterford) (Secretary/Treasurer)

Commission members absent:

Don Scott (Town of Vernon)
Steven Crandell (City of Waukesha)
Mary Pindel (Town of Waterford) (Co-Secretary/Treasurer)

Also present: Dick Kosut of the WWMD, Jim Ritchie Wisconsin DNR, Audrey Greene Walworth County Lake Specialist, and Steve Brunner Ruckert/Mielke.

At 1:02 PM, 7/16/10, Chairman Greg Kessler called the Commission Meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Roll call was taken and a quorum was confirmed.

Minutes from the May 21, 2010 meeting were reviewed. It was motioned by Jamie Soneberg and seconded by Shelley Tessmer that the minutes be approved as submitted. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Treasurer Reports – The Treasurer's Report for May and June 2010 was reviewed. The only real change from the April statement was the two interest payments made on our money market account and one check written to cover out website hosting for the next year. Howard Garvens motioned to accept the Treasurers Report and Ron Peterson seconded the motion. The treasurer's report was approved.

Old Business

- a) Schmidt & Canton's Island Demonstration Erosion Control Project. (active)
Shelley Tessmer said that she met with Chad Sampson on July 2nd and they surveyed the project site together. Chad took pictures of the four erosion control sites. Shelley owes Chad a list of the plants that she planted but Chad was going to try to identify the plants from the pictures taken. Shelly reported that there was more beaver damage to the trees on the island. Chad summarized the survey saying that the Erosion matting with native planting and the rock riprap with native vegetation planting immediately behind the shoreline were the most successful erosion control methods used. The fiber block remained in place with

minimum movement and erosion but the plant growth was not as successful. It is possible the water level may have affected the plant growth at this site. The coconut fiber log was dislodged and missing. Without the log there was minimum plant growth at the water level. Erosion has occurred, and plant growth immediately behind the missing log contained more thistles and weeds than at the other sites. Shelley pointed out that just across the bay from this island a property owner had coconut logs installed professionally and that they stayed in place and seem to be doing a fine job. In the final analysis the erosion matting with native planting and the rock riprap with native vegetation appear to be the most successful erosion control methods on this island and probably for all the shoreline areas within this region of the Fox River.

- b) Boat/Canoe Launch in Big Bend (active) –Jamie Soneberg reported that the project has been out for bids and was awarded. Bids for the launch ranged from \$39,000 to about \$58,000 and the bids for the pier ranged from \$21,000 to \$26,000. The project as awarded comes to a total of \$60,825 which is over the estimate and the budget. Jamie requested that the commission pay 90% of the overage amounting to an additional \$13,270.90. Reviewing our 2010 budget we only have \$12,840.42 in unreserved grant funds available. Looking for alternate possibly available funds not being used by other project, we asked Jim D’Antuono to ask Brian Glenzinski, if he gets the large federal grant for the Vernon Wildlife Flowage Restoration project if he still needs the \$20,000 we budgeted for this project. If he no longer needs any or all of our budgeted money then we can use some of this money to pay for the Boat/Canoe launch. Construction should start anytime the river recedes enough to allow for work to begin. Due to present high water levels the village has extended the completion date for the project out to September 2010. In the end it was decided to wait for an answer from Brian Glenzinski on whether he needs our \$20,000 and spend some time looking for any other possible funds before making a decision at an upcoming meeting on how much if any of the overage we can afford to cover.
- c) Grand Drive/ Buena Park Project (active) – WWMD Dick Kosut stated that the plans are finally done and will be turned over by Crispell-Snyder to the DNR for approval and permitting. Hopefully the project will go out for bids in two weeks.
- d) Idlewood Drive Project (active) – WWMD Dick Kosut said the project is totally complete and the documentation has been turn over to our commission earlier this week. Dick reported that this project has also gone over budget due to engineering charges which occurred because of the dispute concerning whether the drainage system was to design specifications and/or even worked. The commission’s 90% share in the project overage amounts to \$2,831.80. Dick said that we can take this money out of the funds we have reserved for the WWMD’s Grand Drive / Buena Park project. This was agreeable with the commission.
- e) Phantom Woods Road Channel Enhancement (active) – Barb Holtz Barb Holtz stated that they had experienced some incremental delays but were moving

forward. Permits have been obtained the biologists and fill are in place and the next step is to plant the native plants. Barb will be picking up the plants shortly and expects to do the planting on July 31, 2010. Barb said that she has ordered over 1000 plant plugs. Jim Ritchie asked Barb to keep track of the number of volunteers she uses to accomplish the planting. Barb said that she has photos from before and during the project and Alan Barrows said that he also has photos since he has been stopping by periodically to review the site. When asked if the project is within budget, Barb said that it was probably a little over budget, but that the town had built some contingency into their project funds and would absorb the overage.

- f) Mukwonago Shoreline Stabilization Project (active) Steve Brunner of Ruckert-Mielke passed around copies of the plan for the river bank shoreline stabilization project as well as having full size drawings he could refer to in his report. The design for this project took longer than expected because it had to be approved by WE Energies the owner of most of the property. ATC has an 80 foot easement through the property and also has to approve of the plan. There are a lot of overhead and underground wires that go through this property, resulting in many restrictions regarding maintenance and access to the wiring. Steve pointed out on the approved design drawing that most of the small trees and shrubbery are close to the river bank avoiding close proximity to the overhead and underground wiring. This is close to what we did across the river but different because of the restrictions. The new design employs a single layer of coconut fiber logs backed up by engineered soil bags. What they learned on the project across the river is that one layer of coconut fiber logs does a good job of wicking up the water to sustain vegetation, but additional layers don't work as well. When asked by Alan Barrows if they considered the fact that black soil bags tend to heat up too much burning up the vegetation, Steve said that the bags used are gray to overcome that problem. Steve said that WE Energies and ATC have given them verbal approval for the design. The expectation that WE Energies Foundation would have paid for the execution phase of this project can not happen because the rules of the Foundation state that the funds can not be used for WE Energies properties. The Village does not have the funds for this project at this time so the project must stay on hold until funds become available. The next step is to apply for permits and wait for funding. Steve said that the Village of Mukwonago is in the process of appointing a new appointee to our commission. Greg Kessler told Steve that a simple email about the project if nothing significant as occurred would be acceptable for feedback, but if anything significant occurred a report from someone from the Village would be appropriate.
- g) Vernon Wildlife Area Stream bank Stabilization Project (pending) – Jim D'Antuono said that the buckthorn was mowed down and treated last spring and now they are working on the re-contouring of the streams. He said that Brian Glenzinski expects to do the bidding next month and have the work done this fall.

- h) Vernon Wildlife Area Flowage Restoration Project (tabled until August) – Jim D’Antuono reported that Brian Glenzinski said that he has had a very positive indication that the federal grant he has applied for will come through. Jim also said that they had to draw down the impoundment in Vernon Marsh for safety reasons because the dam needs to be replaced. Brian expects to hear a final decision on the federal grant in September.
- i) Kossik Stream Restoration Project (active) – Jim D’Antuono said that the DNR has reviewed the submittal of the proposed plan for the stream restoration plan and there are a lot of challenges with it. The next step is to meet with Mary Kossik and her consultant next week. After that meeting Jim D’Antuono will be prepared to report to us at our next meeting. Mary is concerned with some of the maintenance issues the County has asked her to do. The dam has to go and the question is whether she can maintain her pond is really going to be the issue.
- j) Possible boat/canoe launch on Highway ES (pending) – Alan Barrows said that there was nothing to report at this time.

New Business

- a) Aquatic invasive species – NR 40 – Audrey Greene the Lake Specialist from Walworth County passed around her business card and copies of the following three brochures, “A field guide to Aquatic Exotic Plants and Animals”, Help Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers” and “Fishing with Bait”. Audrey’s role is to provide education and information about aquatic invasive species be they plants, animals or a packogen like VHS. VHS is present in the Winnebago chain of lakes. Exactly what they are and how to prevent there spread and introduction. Any invasive species cause changes to our ecosystem and out compete our native species. Eurasian Milfoil is an example of what an invasive species can do causing a chain reaction of failures in the ecosystem causing a loss in recreational opportunities in our waterways. There are about nine aquatic invasive species in southeastern Wisconsin and about 185 in the Great Lakes. It has been illegal to launch a boat into any body of water if it has invasive species on board, but now it is illegal to leave a launch with invasive species on board. This includes weeds animals like clams or crabs and any water in the outboard motor or in the live well. This has become a local law enforcement issue. More information is available by googling “Clean Boats Clean Waters” or going to the DNR’s website concerning invasive species. SEWFRC already has a link from our website to NR – 40 about invasive species.
- b) Water level gauge for Village of Big Bend – Jamie Soneberg said that he was looking at other options because \$11,000 annual maintenance was a bit too expensive. Jamie motioned that this item be removed from the Agenda and the motion was seconded by Shelly Tessmer and carried unanimously. At this point Jamie Soneberg and Greg Kessler had to leave the meeting and so Howard Garvens took over as Chairman of the meeting.

- c) Disposition of SEWFRC Digital Camera - Jim Pindel said that because we could not sell the camera because we didn't know whether it was purchased using grant funds or nonre-embursible funds, he wanted to know where to donate it. Shelley Tessmer said that she knew that it was purchased with nonreimbursable funds, so now Jim Pindel will try to sell it to get more non reimburseable funds into our coffers. He will contact Jamie Soneberg and Paul Moderacki of the Village of Mukwonago to see if they want to buy it.

Reports and Updates

- a) Update of SEWFRC Implementation Plan – Joe Boxhorn said that they are proceeding on the plan and what he has been working on lately is trying to run down projects that the SEWFRC has accomplished to date. On some of the projects he has as little as just the name of the project. At this point he has a collection of about 40 project names that have come up from old meeting minutes. Chad Sampson said that somewhere in his archives he has probably all the meeting minutes from all the SEWFRC meetings. Joe said he will be contacting commissioners concerning these projects over the next two weeks. Joe said that they have been estimating watershed areas that might be brought into our jurisdiction. Also they have been trying to identify funding sources for our projects. They are investigating bringing in the Village of Rochester and the Town and Village of Burlington as well as everything upstream of Waukesha. Jim Pindel asked if SEWRPC considered extending our jurisdiction all the way down to the Illinois boarder and Joe was not sure. Joe reported that he does not know when Jeff Thornton will be able to get out on the river to do his assessment.
- b) Waterford Dam Restoration – Chad Sampson Chad Sampson said that there was nothing new to report.
- c) Mukwonago River Basin Protection Plan – SEWRPC Joe Boxhorn said that Mike Hahn was in the process of reviewing the last chapter of the Plan at this time. Chapters 1 through 3 and chapters 5 and 6 are complete and the public comment period has ended. These chapters are available on SEWRPC's website. Chapter 4 should be posted on their website in the next few days. The final report will be issued on July 31, 2010.
- d) Frame Park Creek Watershed – Jim D'Antuono said that a draft plan for Frame Park and the upper Fox River watershed has been prepared by the University Extension in cooperation with the DNR. It is now open for public comment. This is one of twenty some watersheds around the state that had a plan prepared for them. It is required by the EPA that these plans be updated every five years. The plan is required in order to obtain EPA funding.
- e) Report on activities of Fox Waterway Agency (FWA) of Illinois – Joe Boxhorn said that he did not have anything to report at this time.

- f) SEWFRC Website – Al Sikora reminded all project leaders to provide text and photos so that he can add them to the website to keep it current.

Correspondence –

- a) 5/26/2010 through 6/1/2010 Chad Sampson & Greg Kessler making arrangements for NR 40 Aquatic invasive species presentation
- b) 5/13/2010 Greg Kessler advising Steve Crandell that we need an appointee from the City of Waukesha
- c) 6/3/2010 Steve Crandell notifying Greg Kessler that he will attend SEWFRC meetings representing the City of Waukesha.
- d) 6/5/2010 Jim Pindel emailing Greg Kessler and Jim Ritchie that the WWMD's Idlewood Drive project went \$1670. over budget.

Miscellaneous Issues –

Howard Garvens advised the commission that Waukesha County is seriously considering adding a 'West Bypass' around the city of Waukesha. The 'West Bypass' would circumvent the city of Waukesha just as the highway 164 and highway 59 serves as a bypass around the east and south sides of the city now. The 'West Bypass' is intended to link up with Interstate 94 north of the city. There are several proposed routes for this bypass being considered. One or possibly more of the routes will go through Pebble Creek which dumps into the Fox River a half mile or so after the point of intersection with the bypass. The plans are very preliminary at this time and Howard volunteered to attend the meetings on this proposed bypass to monitor the affects on Pebble Creek and then report back to the commission. The section of Pebble Creek in question has seven springs and small streams feeding it, which could be endangered by the construction. Howard said he is familiar with this area because he spent time there during his youth. It was decided to add this 'West Bypass' to the Reports & Updates section of the Agenda so that Howard would keep the commission apprised of the consequences to Pebble Creek and consequently to the Fox River.

Dick Kosut of the WWMD asked when the draw down of the impoundment is made to work on the Waterford dam in the summer of 2011, if a general permit will be issued to allow people to do shoreline work. Chad Sampson said that a general permit was issued by Racine County during the last draw down and he would check if one is going to be issued this time. Chad also said that at this time no one has applied for such a permit.

Barb Holtz said that Waukesha County is required to have its Farmland Preservation Plan completed by the end of 2011. There is a committee working on this plan and Barb is a member of the committee. She said that the committee is considering a standard plan which will only include five square miles within the county. This would prevent most of the farms in Waukesha County from applying for any kind of farmland protection program that's now available from the state. Barb stated that this affects the Fox River because the farmland represents uplands and recharging areas for the ground water that

feeds the Fox River. Barb pointed out that the Mukwonago River Basin Protection Plan as being written up by SEWRPC calls for conservation easements on farmland and free space for this same reason. Barb asked that the Farmland Preservation Plans for both Waukesha and Racine counties be added to our agenda so that the commission is made aware of this important contributor to the Fox River. Chad Sampson said that Racine County was in its very preliminary stages on its plan. Randy Craig said that the reason that only five square miles in the far western portion of Waukesha County was being considered was that this plan should have been initiated twenty or thirty years ago before there was so much expansion into what was farmland. At the end it was decided to bring this topic up at our next commission meeting to have a vote on whether to add Farmland Preservation Plans as an agenda item under Reports and Updates.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Randy Craig and seconded by Shelley Tessmer, the motion carried.

Meeting Closed at 2:43 PM

NEXT OFFICIAL MEETING WILL BE Friday, August 20, 2010 at 1:00 PM. (Meeting Location: Big Bend-Vernon Fire Station #3, W233 S7475 Woodland Lane, Big Bend, WI 53103.)

Respectfully submitted by Jim & Mary Pindel