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Southeastern Wisconsin Fox River Commission Meeting

Minutes

Friday, July 25, 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)	
City of Waukesha	Robins Grams (Doug Koehler)	
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
Village of Waukesha	Roger Adams	
Village of Big Bend	Larry Long (Ellen Cole)	
Village of Mukwonago	Wayne Castle	Yes- 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 Duester

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

Guests	
Representing	Name
WWMD	Grant Horn
WDNR	Kelsey Norton
Racine County Emergency Management	Lorenzo Santos, Liz Adams

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1. Call meeting to order. Katelyn Bratz called the meeting to order at 1:02 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 June 20, 2025.
 - a. Fred Koeller made a motion to approve the June Meeting Minutes.
 - b. Donna Duester seconded the motion.
 - c. Motion Passes
6. Review the Treasurer's Report and ENUM project status.
 - a. Have received the ENUM-25 funding of \$100,000.
 - i. June balance \$257,473.02
 - ii. ENUM-24 has been complete.
 - b. Bill Hopkins made a motion to approve the treasurer's report as read.
 - c. Chad Sampson seconded the motion.
 - d. Motion passes.
7. Review of the preliminary 2025 -2026 SEWFRC Budget.
 - a. Fred Koeller made a motion to approve the preliminary budget for publication.
 - b. Bill Hopkins seconded the motion.
 - c. Motion passes.

Old Business

1. Fox River 2025 & 2026 Summits – Tom Slawski
 - a. 2025 has been approved and can be removed from the agenda.
2. SEWRPC Survey from Waterford Dam to Illinois border-Tom Slawski
 - a. Grant Horn asked, how long has this been on the agenda?

- i. Exact time frame was unknown.
 - b. Jim Pindel will send email Tom Slawski inquiring for the update of the report.
- 3. Vernon Wildlife Area DU Impoundment Restoration-Kelsey Norton, WDNR
 - a. Majority of the dike rebuild was done in December.
 - b. This past week the two water control structures were completed.
 - c. All that remains is seeding and riprap.
 - d. Will be done ASAP.
 - e. Preliminary estimates have come in at \$49,000. Don't have the exact numbers yet.
 - f. Submit the invoices when complete.
 - g. Public seems happy with the project.
 - h. Will coordinate for a sign out there.
- 4. 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. All are ready, 2-3 will potentially come in under budget.
 - b. Contractors has been selected. August 4th is the estimated start date.
 - c. Permits and approvals have been acquired.
 - d. Goal of completion is September 30th.
- 5. Noble Brothers Burgers Permeable Pavers – Chad Sampson
 - a. Owner has not submitted a new plan.
 - b. Talking about rain garden and pricing.
 - c. Owner began construction on the raingarden without approval.
 - d. They are not doing the permeable pavers where originally planned. There are smaller raingardens going in.
 - e. What they are planning will be an improvement.
 - f. Chad Sampson has requested plans for the project.
 - g. The Commission needs to see the plans before moving forward.
 - h. What happens when there are changes in the project from what was proposed for the project? Discussion Followed.

New Business

- 1. 2021 – 2030 SEWFRC Implementation Plan – Tom Slawski & Alan Barrows
 - a. Can we add a section about the revisions as a whole?
 - b. Do we just remove the information? If we revise, do we remove what is not relevant? The old plan will not disappear. 1st edition revision one.

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. No Update
4. Margis Phase III Shoreline Protection and Access Improvements – Chad Sampson
 - a. Spoke with the parks manager, project will begin after August 1st.
5. Fox River Restoration at Wilmot Wi – Jared Young or Kenosha County
 - i. Paul Tollard received an email from Jared Young. They brought in the loads of boulders for the 2-1 slope. They have begun the plantings. They are about a month out from final completion.
6. Request from Racine County Office of Emergency Management for Funding for two new flow gauges for the Fox River. The request includes purchase of the hardware, installation and maintenance. – Lorenzo Santos
 - a. Jim Pindel emailed Lorenzo, he said he would be here. Jim requested the cost for the project.
 - b. Howard Moser- one of the gauges is planned for Jefferson Street. Gauge is 16,500 for gauge and installation The annual Maintenance is approx. \$14,800 per gauge. We are not sure what the maintenance entails. Maintenance is maintaining the physical location and the website and processing of the gauge information
 - c. Wayne did email the WDNR what could be funded from our ENUMs, but has received no response.
 - d. Lorenzo Santos- The gauges measure water levels it is going to NWS with continuous information to create forecasting of the potential water levels.
 - e. Where will these be located
 - i. Burlington will be on Jefferson Street bridge on the Fox.
 - f. The old gauge was removed as the technology was obsolete.
 - g. Rochester still has a gauge.
 - h. Burlington is the only location that does not have a gauge.
 - i. Can we access the information. All the information is on the county website.
 - j. How much of the maintenance money goes to USGS? The city/town/county are all funding to USGS.
 - k. Earlier you mentioned that the city/county and two are funding the project. Who would we be providing the money to? Most likely the city.
 - l. We could potentially fund the set up of the hardware. Cost sharing of the maintenance?
 - m. What was the cost on the maintenance for the previous gauge? Unsure. There was USGS funds available in the past, which is no longer available.
 - n. This could be seen as two projects installation and maintenance.
 - o. Jim Pindel will complete the project acceptance criteria.
 - p. Do you have a timeline you are hoping for? Talking to USGS it would be ideal to shoot for October to start. As a goal, but not set in stone.
 - q. We will need a project proposal and criteria.
7. Consideration of putting a Wisconsin Statue attorney on retainer to advise us on legal issues. This would have to be paid for from non-grant funds.
 - a. It would be nice for an understanding of what we can and cannot do.
 - b. Jim Pindel will reach out to Rachel Sabre for more support on this.

Reports and Updates

1. Report on activities of Fox Waterway Agency of Illinois – FWA or Tom Slawski

- a. No Update
- 2. Report on future of the Echo Lake Dam in Burlington-
 - a. Held a pre bid meeting on July 10th. Bids are due on August 4th.
 - b. There is some concern about the timeline. May 15, 2026 is the start date.
 - i. DNR has amended the date to April 1st.
 - c. Burlington also received 10 million from the state for the Echo Lake Project.
- 3. Report on Fox River Watershed TMDL progress – Rachel Sabre
 - a. No Update.
- 4. Watershed Protection Committee of Racine County- Chad Sampson
 - a. There is a presentation of Case Eagle Park coming up. There are starting to see improvement in the quality of the crops.
 - b. September 11, Summer Field Day, Case Eagle Park.
- 5. Kenosha County Regenerative Producers-
 - a. Paul Tollard received an email about a week ago. Still accepting applications for cost sharing.
- 6. SEWFRC Website – Al Sikora or Alan Barrows
 - a. No Update.

Correspondence

6/23/25 Email from Kelsey Norton, WDNR in response to Katelyn Bratz's inquiry on the status of the project.

6/23/25. Email from Howard Moser asking for a template for appointment approval. Responded with a letter before Katelyn was able to respond.

6.25/25 Email from Jim Pindel to all commissioners to mark your calendars for today's meeting.

6/26/25 Letter formally appointing Howard Moser as the City of Burlington Commissioner. Forwarded to Jim Pindel.

6/30/25 Email from Eric Faulker, City Intern for the City of Burlington
 My name is Eric, and I'm an intern with the City of Burlington. I'm reaching out to see if SEWFRC is aware of any labs or organizations that offer phosphorus flux rate analysis for waterways.

I was exploring the feasibility of using a dredging project to qualify for credit under the water quality trading program. In discussions with the WDNR, they indicated this type of analysis would be required. I am having trouble finding companies that conduct the testing, and I thought the Commission might be aware of some.

Comissioners recommended the following:

Chris Murphy cmurphy@res.us

Northern Lakes Service in Waukesha- Ask the lab themselves. They also sub out to other labs.

7/15/25 Announcement and invitation to today's meeting.

7/22/25 Email from Kelsey Norton, WDNR inquiring about the upcoming meeting to present on the almost completed project.

7/25/25 Photos of the WDNR project.

Miscellaneous Issues

1. Jim has a box of correspondence of the fox river committee from the 1950-1960's it is sitting in his garage. It is before the commission if anyone is interested in the documents.
 2. Appointment of officers will be at the annual meeting.
 3. Next Meeting and Location
 - a. August 22nd 1pm. Meeting at Vernon Fire Station.
 4. Close Meeting
 - a. Bill Hopkins made a motion to adjourn the meeting.
 - b. Chad Sampson seconded the motion.
 - c. Motion Passes.
- * If you have any questions about the Agenda, please contact Secretary Jim Pindel at jpindel@wi,rr.com or 414 550 8213