

Commission members present:

Dean Falkner (Village of Mukwonago) (Chairman)
Alan Barrows (Waukesha County)
Jon Grove (Racine County)
Jeff Lang (Town of Burlington)
Fred Koeller (Village of Waterford)
Doug Koehler (City of Waukesha)
Donny Hefty (City of Burlington)
Bob Bartholomew (Town of Vernon)
Michelle Clark (Village of Big Bend)
Jim Pindel (Town of Waterford) (Secretary/Treasurer)

Commission members absent:

Katelyn Bratz (Town of Mukwonago) (Vice-Chairperson)
Andy Buehler (Kenosha County)
Andrew Lois (Town of Wheatland)
Wayne Jensen (Village of Rochester)
Ken Miller (Town of Waukesha)
Tom Slawski (SEWRPC)
Rachel Sabre (Wisconsin DNR)
Sara DeBruijn (Wisconsin DNR)

Also present: Don Barron and Dave Spurlock of the WWMD.

1. At 1:05 PM, Chairman Dean Falkner called the SEWFRC meeting to order.
2. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Roll call was taken and a quorum was confirmed.
3. **Minutes** The minutes from the June 22, 2018 meeting were reviewed. It was motioned by Jeff Lang that the minutes be approved and the motion was seconded by Fred Koeller. The minutes were approved unanimously.
4. **Treasurer Reports** – Jim Pindel reviewed the June and July 2018 treasurer's reports. We started the month of June with \$42,429.38 in our Money Market Account. We made payments of \$458.80 to the Waukesha Freeman, \$1000 to the Waukesha AIS activity we are supporting from non-grant funds and \$129.95 to Bella Mia for our website hosting. We received \$8.59 in June interest bringing our Money Market account to a balance of \$40,849.22. We started July with \$40,849.22. We made payments of \$208.01 to Racine Journal Times, \$572.16 to the Kenosha News and \$182.50 to reimburse the five commissioners who attended the Fox River Summit \$36.30 each. Resulting in a Money Market Balance at the end of July of \$39,896.43. The change to the non-grant funds was the \$8.59 in interest in June and \$9.88 in interest in July resulting in the net non-grant funds available being \$31,576.40. There were no changes to the grant fund page. During the treasurers report review it was noticed that the non-grant funds

to pay for the Kenosha News was not reported. It was motioned by Fred Koeller that the treasurers report amended to include the Kenosha New payments in the non-grant funds be added and seconded by Donny Hefty that the treasurer's report be approved as amended. The motion carried unanimously.

Old Business

- a) Fox River Partnership 2018 Summit: Tom Slawski was not present and Dean Falkner stated that there has been an effort to get various organizations within the overall Fox River Watershed in Wisconsin and Illinois together to collaborate. The first meeting of this group will be held on 8/24/18 in an effort to share ideas.
- b) Mukwonago River shoreline restoration at WE Energies Site. Alan Barrows said that he visited the site but was not able to visit it from the project side because WE Energies has the property gated off. Alan said he will need access to the property to certify it and he said he is waiting for the one last final invoice from the contractor Applied Ecological Services. Alan said that he emailed them asking for the invoice. Alan said that he has been approached by several citizens who commented on how beautiful the site looks. Alan said that all the flowers are in bloom and the bags used to stabilize the shoreline can no longer be seen because the native plantings have grown up and hide the bags. Alan pointed out that they used plugs rather than seeds to grow the native plants. Dean Falkner asked if they used the same bags and plugs on the Mukwonago Park shoreline restoration project and Alan said that they did. However Alan said that he found that they didn't provide a place for people's dogs to access the river and so the vegetation has taken a beating from the dogs running over it.
- c) ESR Project disposal sites environmental impact: Don Barron said that they had a conference call with the WDNR last Thursday and the conclusion was that they cannot use the Super Mix site to hold all the dredged materials because they cannot get the ammonia levels down to where the WDNR requires it to be. Don said that they tried several methods to try to get the ammonia level down to an acceptable level but none of them worked. Don said that Graef Eng. has been talking to agricultural experts looking into spreading the sediment on farm fields. They are considering applying 1 to 2 inches of sediment on the fields and they would require about 1200 acres over a 6 to 8 year time frame. Don said that they are considering a pilot project where they would dredge 25,000 cubic yards of sediment as a proof of process and to demonstrate how the spread sediment will enhance farm fields. Don said that some of the 25000 cubic yards would be dredged from the sediment trap on the north end of Conservancy Bay, so that the trap could collect new sediment coming down the river before it gets into the impoundment. Don said that the pilot project would be in the spring of 2019 and that actual dredging project would start in 2020. Dave Spurlock then spoke saying that his ESR funding committee is meeting with the Racine County Executive and his management team on 8/9/18. Also attending the meeting will be Rep. Chuck Wichgers, Senator David Craig and

someone to represent the WDNR. The object of the meeting is to go over the finalized plan and to review the economic and environmental impact and look for funding help. Dave said that they are looking for a county grant to fund this project. Dave said that a study by UW Whitewater showed that there is a 16% to 18% decline in economic activity due to the decline in the condition of the Fox River. There are also impacts to property values and of course to the environment itself.

Don finished by saying that they are investigating somehow utilizing the dredging equipment of the FWA of Illinois during their down times.

- d) Schuetze Playground Storm Water Abatement: - Jim Pindel said that he received all the documents he needed and submitted the paperwork for reimbursement to Sara DeBruijn at the WDNR.
- e) Mukwonago Park Shoreline Restoration – Alan Barrows said that he had nothing to report and Jim Pindel said that he has submitted all the paperwork for reimbursement.
- f) Village of Waterford East Shore river bank Restoration: - Jim Pindel said that he has completed all the paperwork and submitted it to the WDNR for reimbursement. Dean Falkner told Fred Koeller that his group had tested the water at the East Shore location and the phosphorus and suspended solids counts were up significantly. Fred said he wasn't aware of anything that should have contributed to these increases but would check into it. Fred did say that he noticed more algae and lily pads in certain places in that area.
- g) SEWRPC Survey for Waterford Dam to the Illinois Border – Tom Slawski was not present so no report was made. Jim Pindel pointed out that he heard from Al Sikora that he had a copy of the CD of the Graef survey that Tom was looking for. Jim thought that Tom arranged to get the CD from Al.
- h) Birch Lane Shoreline Protection Project: Jon Grove said that the land owner had to apply for an extension on his county permit and that the construction should happen after Labor Day.

New Business

- a) Consideration of developing a USEPA 9-Key Elements Watershed Management Plan – Dean Falkner said that Alan Barrows had put together a map showing the source of non-point source pollution along the river. Dean said that he was waiting for Racheal Sabre to review Dean's assessment of phosphorus concentrations along the river hopefully before our next meeting. At that point we should be able to identify where is the phosphorus coming from and what are the concentrations along the river.

- b) **Riverside Dr. Launch:** Jim Pindel pointed out that at our last meeting Fred Koeller made a presentation which included a description of the project including an aerial map that showed the location and extent of the project. Jim said that at this point we need to run through the Project Acceptance Criteria to see if the proposed project meets our requirements. After reviewing the criteria, the project scored 45 of a possible 55 points and met categories 1 & 8, therefore passing the criteria. Regarding point #4 “Does the proposed project protect critical riverine ecosystems or special concern, threatened or endangered species and/or habitat” no one was able to positively state that any endangered species are present at this location, so Jeff Lang stated that to show the integrity of our assessment we should consider a lower score than 8 out of 8 points. The commission agreed and the award for this point was changed from 8 to 6 out of 8. Jim Pindel asked Fred to be sure that the project cost would be \$3,000 for this preliminary engineering and feasibility study. Fred Koeller said that they had a group from Madison come in and access the project. This particular group specializes in this kind of work and actually the engineer was a graduate of Waterford Union High School. Jeff Lang motioned that we support this project for \$3000 for the Village of Waterford and the motion was seconded by Doug Koehler. The motion carried unanimously. Dean Falkner pointed out that the Park Foundation of Waukesha is a 501c3 organization and is providing funds to projects like 50% for some kayak launches in Waukesha and asked Fred if the Village of Waterford had looked into getting funding from similar 501c3 organizations.
- c) **Recycling of Nutrient Rich Sediment within the Fox River Watershed:** Jim Pindel explained that Brian Schneider of Graef Eng. had sent emails to Dean Falkner (Village of Mukwonago) Katelyn Bratz (Town of Mukwonago) and Alan Barrows (Waukesha County) to see if they could identify farm fields within a 20 mile radius of the Waterford impoundment where sediment could be spread. Dean Falkner said that Mukwonago would be looking at community land for this purpose. Dean questioned if using community land for recycling the sediment could provide phosphorus credits for the wastewater treatment plants. Alan Barrows said that the county has about 1200 acres of WDNR lands which might be used for this purpose. Donny Hefty said that Burlington has about 1200 acres of WDNR land that they use for injecting their sludge (bio solids). These lands meet all the requirements of distance from wells and waterways. Donny said that if you have an 80 acre field you cannot inject the entire field only a percentage of it. Donny also said that they have a number of farmers who are waiting in line for this nutrient rich sludge. After the meeting Donny said that one farmer had two fields right next to each other, one was injected with sludge and the second one was treated with the normal fertilizers and the sludge injected field produced 25% more corn than the fertilized field. Donny said that they inject the sludge 18” below the surface and when they are done it looks like a tilled field. Donny said that he didn’t know if the Waterford sediment has the right consistency for injection. He said that their sludge is about 7 to 8% solids. Jim Pindel said that when the sediment is pumped out of the impoundment it will be 9 parts water to 1 part of solids. Donny asked about the PH of the sediment and Jim Pindel couldn’t

remember what the PH would be right out of the impoundment, but did say that they had to do work to try to get the PH up to 9. Donny said the PH is a critical factor in deciding if the sediment is useable. Jeff Lang asked Donny if they could do a conference call with Dawn (don't know who Dawn is) and see if they can figure out what can be done with the sediment. Donny said that some of their lands are in Walworth County and likely outside of the Fox River watershed. Jim Pindel said that he thought that he the lands must be within the Fox River watershed to comply with this program. Donny said that the land he was referring to is only 3 or 4 miles out of Burlington and probably within the Fox River Watershed. Dean Falkner said that he thought that it had already been considered but he remembered when they used a 'frack' tank and ran a hose behind a tractor and dispersed the liquid around a field. Donny said that what they do is similar but injecting the sludge 18" below the surface. Donny said that they can inject about 2,000,000 gallons in about 4 days. Donny said that they use a company call TK Edwards out of Darien Wisconsin that specializes in manure injecting. Donny said that TK Edwards has miles of hose and they go out to the far end of a field and work their way back and forth across the field until the whole field is injected that is why the field looks like it has been tilled when they are finished. Donny asked if the sediment had a lot of sand in it and Jim Pindel said it was mostly rotted organic material with some sand and it is dark black and very fine in texture. Donny also said that they can only do the injecting 3 times a year because they cannot interfere with the crops. Donny said that they inject on corn fields in the spring before planting and in the fall for soy beans and other grains. Dean asked Donny and Jeff Lang to follow up on this possible use of the Waterford sediment.

Reports and Updates

- a) Report on activities of Fox Waterway Agency (FWA) of Illinois – No one from the FWA was present and Jeff Lang said that both he and Dean Falkner intended to go to the last FWA meeting but were unable to attend. The next FWA meeting will be held on 8/24/18 and both Jeff and Dean intend to be present.
- b) Possible diversion of City of Waukesha water treatment plant discharge away from the Fox River: No one present had anything to report.
- c) Progress toward designation as a "National Water Trail" – Village of Waterford. Fred Koeller said that they are moving along and that he had not seen the minutes from their last meeting. Alan Barrows said that he say Village of Waterford people on the Dan Small show discussing the water trail. As it turned out this was a repeat of the program shown last year, which some of us saw at that time.
- d) SEWFRC Website –No one had any comments.

Correspondence –

- a. 7/2/18 Response from Mike Havey that WDNR says we can get 50% cash advance on AB911 funds and we can support kayak and canoe launches.
- b. 7/5/18 Email from Jim Pindel to mark your calendars for today's meeting
- c. 7/20/18 Forward of an email from Dean Falkner regarding Recycling of Nutrient Rich Sediment within the Fox River Watershed.
- d. 7/30/18 Email discussion among Dean Falkner, Chad Sampson and Steve Larry concerning the Frost farm and possible efforts to stop erosion (nutrient loading) from coming down into Tichigan Lake. Dean Falkner said that they were considering putting in a buffer strip between the farm field to the north and the lake.

Miscellaneous Issues –

Jeff Lang asked if we had some of the money from AB911 and Jim Pindel said we have not received anything yet. Jim said he is still not sure just how this works and needs to get back with Mike Havey of Rep. Wichgers staff to see what we need to do. Jim also pointed out that the grant funds we have committed to the Village of Waterford for the Riverside Rd. launch will have to come from the AB911 funds. Jim Pindel also said that he is not clear on how we will report showing that we have used the funds in accordance with what the state or WDNR requires. Jeff Lang asked if the forms we now supply (WDNR forms 870-001 & 8700-002) are a matter of public record. Jim Pindel said that he thought that they were. Then Jeff said that maybe we could just post them on our website as a means of documenting how we spent our money.

Jeff Lang then asked the question that if we identify enough farms that were willing to accept the dredge spoils from the Waterford impoundment, could we use the funds from AB911 to pay for the trucking of the sediment to the farms? Jim Pindel said he thought that we probably could but he would much prefer that someone from the state or WDNR ruled that it was acceptable. In the past the WDNR representative usually made this call.

Alan Barrows said that earlier this year Waukesha County hired a new conservation biologist whose name is Julie Robson and she is really good at what she does. She is good at botany, wild life management and especially good at bringing people together and creating synergy between volunteer groups. Alan said that he talked to her about the Fox River Commission and she said that she had a possible project for us to fund. Alan said she likely will come to one of our meetings possibly to present a project. The project is located on the Graef survey map as locations 250 and 251, which is close to Bob Bartholomew's and Randy Craig's farms in Waukesha County. The project is in the bend of the river and the things she is proposing are invasive species management, buffering along the river and some reforestation. She also wants to involve the Waukesha County Conservancy who owns some land in this area. She wants to increase public access, recreational and educational sites, building a hiking trail with a board walk and wild life viewing platforms. She expects to accomplish this work using volunteer

groups and funding from the Land Conservancy and possibly our commission. Alan said that she will probably attend one of our meeting in the near future and could be a resource for us. Dean Falkner asked if the two sites 250 and 251 were identified on the Graef survey as highly in need of erosion control and Alan confirmed that they were.

It was motioned by Jeff Lang and seconded by Doug Koehler that the meeting be closed. The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Closed at 2:11 PM

**THE NEXT OFFICIAL MEETING WILL BE Friday
September 7, 2018 at 1:00 PM.** (Meeting Location: Burlington
Department of Public Works 2200 S. Pine Street, Burlington, WI.