

**Commission members present:**

Dean Falkner (Village of Mukwonago) (Chairman)  
Alan Barrows (Waukesha County)  
Chad Sampson (Racine County)  
Jeff Lang (Town of Burlington)  
Fred Koeller (Village of Waterford)  
Doug Koehler (City of Waukesha)  
Jessie Medrow (City of Burlington)  
Andy Buehler (Kenosha County)  
Andrew Lois (Town of Wheatland)  
Wayne Jensen (Village of Rochester)  
Bob Bartholomew (Town of Vernon)  
Tom Slawski (SEWRPC)  
Rachel Sabre (Wisconsin DNR)  
Jim Pindel (Town of Waterford) (Secretary/Treasurer)

**Commission members absent:**

Katelyn Bratz (Town of Mukwonago) (Vice-Chairperson)  
Ken Miller (Town of Waukesha)  
Michelle Clark (Village of Big Bend)  
Sara DeBruijn (Wisconsin DNR)

**Also present:** Barbara Messick of the Village of Waterford.

1. At 1:04 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 August 3, 2018 meeting were reviewed. It was motioned by Doug Koehler 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 August 2018 treasurer’s reports. We started the month with \$39,896.43 in our Money Market Account. We received \$13.55 in interest bringing our Money Market account to a balance of \$39,909.98. The change to the non-grant funds was the \$13.55 in interest resulting in the net non-grant funds available being \$40,786.29. There were no changes to the grant fund page. It was motioned by Alan Barrows that the treasurer’s report be approved and seconded by Bob Bartholomew. The motion carried unanimously.

**Old Business**

- a) **Fox River Partnership 2019 Summit:** Tom Slawski said that he is slowly picking up speakers for the 2019 summit which is only about 6 months away. Tom asked

the commissioners to advise him of any potential speakers and topics that might be appropriate. Chad Sampson asked Tom if there was a price cap on speaker fees. Tom said there isn't one, but he has to be conscious of costs. Chad said that there was a speaker Ray Archeluta who was very good and would rev up the entire audience. Chad said that Ray could give a talk on cover crops that would inform everyone of what benefits can come from cover crops including water quality and soil health. Chad said that he thought that Ray gets \$1500 per presentation and so it would be up to Tom to see if we can afford it. Chad said that the talk would be geared toward farmers but the average environmentally interesting individuals would give quite a bit of understanding. Chad said he would forward Ray's contact information to Tom. Jessie Medrow said that at the 2017 summit there was a speaker who talked about cover crops and he was received with quite a bit of attention and was asked many questions by attendees after his talk. Tom agreed that it would be good to get the farmer group interested and attending the summits. Chad went on to say that they had a cover crop field day yesterday which was well attended by 60 attendees. Chad said that he has a list of all the farmers in Racine and Kenosha counties with their names and addresses. Dean Falkner reported that he had heard of farmers utilizing cover crops and getting increase yields as well as eliminating runoff. Chad said that one of the speakers at the field day said that the day before he got 0.9" of rain and even after all the rain earlier in the week he believes that all of it was absorbed in the field because it was so healthy and absorbent. Tom asked Chad if he could get some local farmer as a speaker and Chad said that he had a few in mind and would look into it. When Jeff Lang asked about any involvement with the drainage district, Chad said they are not into it yet but some of them are trying it out on a limited basis. Chad said what they are trying to do is make sure that when farmers try cover crops the first time they do not have a negative result. Bob Bartholomew said that he has been doing cover crops for about 5 years and once you start doing it you will not quit. He said it costs a little bit more for seed and the labor to plant it but the increase in soil quality resulting in greater crop yield makes it worth it after a few years.

- b) Mukwonago River shoreline restoration at WE Energies Site. Alan Barrows said that he talked to Applied Ecological Services today. We still owe them one payment we have only paid the first 3 of 4 payments. Alan said that he will be meeting with them at the site where they still have one more round of maintenance to do and then we should see the final invoice. Alan wants to have a final walk through with the contractor and someone from WE Energies to close the project out.
- c) ESR Project disposal sites environmental impact: No one from the WWMD was present. Chad Sampson said that he had been contacted by Andrew Craig of the WDNR yesterday. Andrew was looking for farm locations in Racine County for spreading the dewatered sediment from the Waterford impoundment. Andrew asked Chad what regulations Racine County has for the spreading to the sediment on farm fields. Chad said that the only regulation they have is nutrient

- management planning. Chad said that you cannot overdose the fields, if the sediment is 'hot' that is high in nitrogen or phosphorous you may be limited to the depth of sediment can the field can accept. Another concern is how much weed seed will be introduced from the sediment. Jim Pindel added that it looks like the only way that we can get rid of the sediment will be spreading it on agricultural lands. There is a pilot project being planned for next summer where they will dredge about 30,000 cubic yards of sediment, dewater it and spread it on adjacent farm fields in 1", 2" and 3" depths. Then they will evaluate the effects of these doses for crop yields and any other effects that occur. Regarding the possibility of seeds in the sediment. Jim Pindel pointed out that he will probably be involved in providing 6 five gallon samples of sediment from 6 different locations in the Waterford impoundment to Tom Greil so that he can evaluate how much if any seeds germinate from the sediment.
- d) Schuetze Playground Storm Water Abatement: - Jim Pindel said that he received an email from Sara DeBruijn listing the items that needed to be provided to close this project out. Jim said that he forwarded the email to Melissa Phillips, David Bursh and copied Doug Koehler. Jim said that he got a response from Melissa saying she would work on it right away.
- e) Mukwonago Park Shoreline Restoration – Jim Pindel said that in the same email referred to above Sara DeBruijn said she needed the invoices and proof of payment and Jim said he sent them to her yesterday. Alan said that this project really went well and if anyone wants to see how the native vegetative mats look after they have grown go to see it there. Alan said the plants with many Wisconsin natives is really colorful with many flowers about three feet tall. Alan said that they used coconut logs along the shoreline and the native vegetation mats for about 50' back from there. Alan said that one of the reasons for doing the project was the fact that they had to close the beach four or five times a year because of the bacteria caused by the goose manure. Now with the native plantings the geese have move on to new areas where they have short cut grass.
- f) Village of Waterford East Shore river bank Restoration: - Fred Koeller said that all they are waiting for is the check from us. Jim Pindel said that Sara DeBruijn had indicated that the documentation for this project was complete, so now he is waiting for two checks from the WDNR so we can reimburse our sponsors.
- g) SEWRPC Survey for Waterford Dam to the Illinois Border – Tom Slawski said that he was scheduling some visits to some sites north of the Waterford dam to further evaluate them and sent the ranking of priorities for the projects along the whole stretch of river in our boundaries. Tom said that he met with Fred Koeller and investigated the area just south of the Waterford dam and got a clearer understanding of the conditions there. Tom said that he will make new more detailed recommendations for this area. Tom said he is also tidying up the load analysis data for the report.

- h) Birch Lane Shoreline Protection Project: Chad Sampson said that it hasn't happened yet but will be completed this fall.
- i) VoW Riverside Dr. Launch – Fred Koeller. Fred thanked the commission for the grant of \$3000 and said they are just getting started. Jim Pindel handed Fred a cost share agreement which needs to be signed by someone from the Village.

### New Business

- a) Consideration of developing a USEPA 9-Key Elements Watershed Management Plan – Dean Falkner said that they will be having a subcommittee meeting shortly. He said he is working on identifying the concentration of phosphorus along the river to decide which areas to include in the plan. Dean said that they are not necessarily going to include all 9 elements of the plan. Tom Slawski asked Alan Barrows if he was working on a loading map to identify the areas of greatest concern. Alan said he was working on it and had a print out of it with him. Alan said that initially he broke the range of phosphorus loading into 7 segments and he felt that this didn't differentiate the loading clearly enough. Alan said he redid the map in 10 segments but unfortunately didn't save it, so he will have to go back and rework the map. Alan did pass around the print out of the map for all of us to review. Alan also said that at the last 9-key elements meeting Andrew Craig offered to do a Presto analysis which amounts to a spreadsheet analysis that shows the point and nonpoint phosphorus discharge. Alan said that he used this analysis to generate the map of nonpoint loading that he made above.
- b) Recycling of Nutrient Rich Sediment within the Fox River Watershed: Dean Falkner said that he didn't think there was anything new to report about spreading the sediment of fields. Jim Pindel pointed out that he had asked Mike Havey in an email which he forwarded to everyone asking if we can use AB911 grant funds to pay for trucking the sediment from Waterford to Mukwonago and Burlington, but has not heard back from him yet. Dean Falkner said that he wondered why we couldn't pump the non-dewatered sediment directly onto close by farm fields. This would eliminate trucking and dewatering expenses. Dean said that there was a farm with hay fields very near the impoundment that he and Chad Sampson visited where this could work. Jessie Medrow asked what is the consistency of the sediment. Dean said it would be just as it was when dredged out of the impoundment. Jim Pindel added that the dredge output is a 9:1 mix of water to sediment.

### Reports and Updates

- a) Report on activities of Fox Waterway Agency (FWA) of Illinois – Jeff Lang said that their next meeting will be 9/26/18 and he intends to attend. Dean Falkner said that he attended their last meeting and they indicated that it would be beneficial to them if we reduced the sediment loading on them. Dean said that much of the discussion was on way to profit from selling the dewatered sediment.

- Dean said that they have a tremendous amount of sediment to dredge and many of the attendees were concerned about having their own part of the waterway dredged. Dean said that one of the things that came out in the meeting was the fact that they were trying to get FEMA money to help with the remediation work. Andy Buchler said they had meetings with Thelin Sand and Gravel who has gravel pits in Illinois and are thinking of moving up into Kenosha County. Andy said that one of the things they do is dredge sediment from the Fox River and mix it with sand and sell it to the IDOT who uses it as fill along roadways. Alan Barrows pointed out that if we were to consider getting FEMA funding our cost share and bidding procedures listed in our implementation plan don't consider federal wage rates and other requirements for federal funding. If we were to go this route we would have to make sure our cost share and bidding procedures met federal standards.
- b) Possible diversion of City of Waukesha water treatment plant discharge away from the Fox River: No one present had anything to report. Dean Falkner said that there was an instance where rain hit the Mukwonago area but not the Waukesha area and the phosphorus levels in the Fox River were very low that day. So Dean wondered what the effect of losing the 10,000,000 gallons a day from the Waukesha treatment plant would do to the phosphorus levels. Dean indicated that the phosphorus levels went down from dilution of the Fox River water by the cleaner Mukwonago River water. So the solution to pollution is dilution. Tom Slawski asked Doug Koehler if they have started manufacture of the piping and Doug said that they are still in engineering.
- c) Progress toward designation as a "National Water Trail" – Village of Waterford. Barbara Messick said that thanks to the WDNR grant Tom Slawski obtained for them they are now working on developing a logo, developing a website with interactive maps and a brochure. Tom Slawski pointed out that the water trail is a joint venture between Kane County in Illinois, the Village of Waterford, SEWRPC, the visitor's bureau, the National Park Service and the WDNR. Tom said that the brochure is not ready yet but they will share it with us as soon as it is finished. Barbara Messick said that they intend to use Summits for the unveiling of the new marketing tools. One summit will be in Wisconsin and two will be in Illinois. Barbara said that they wanted to get some more involvement from the northern area of the Fox River and asked Alan Barrows if he would join their committee. Alan said someone not necessarily himself would join the committee. Barbara said there are 8 counties along the water trail.
- d) SEWFRC Website – Jim Pindel said that he printed out a copy of the website and marked it up with little details like adding Kenosha County updating the list of commissioners and other small details. Al Sikora made all the changes in short order. Jim said that Al told him he was thinking of updating the website with some features that would make it better and more current.

**Correspondence** –

- a. 8/6/18 Email from Jim Pindel to mark your calendars for today's meeting.
- b. 8/16/18 Forward of an email from Farmers Watershed Protection Committee with attached brochure for cover crop field day.
- c. 8/16/18 Emails between Jim Pindel and Al Sikora stating that all the updates to the website have been implemented.
- d. 8/16/18 Forward of an email from Jim Pindel to Mike Havey concerning how to get our AB911 funds and also asking if we can use our grant funds to pay for transportation of Waterford impoundment sediment to Mukwonago and Burlington.
- e. 9/6/18 Email from Jim Pindel to Sara DeBruijn asking for progress report on projects submitted for reimbursement. Response from Sara is mostly done with questions on Mukwonago Park Shoreline Restoration Project and Schuetze Playground project.
- f. 9/6/18 Email from Jim Pindel to Mike Havey and Rep. Chuck Wichgers asking how to get AB911 funds and about ENUM-21.

**Miscellaneous Issues** –

Chad Sampson made a report on the Cover Crops Field Day that was held the day before (9/6/18) Chad said there were 61 attendees, 13 to 16 of which were environmental groups or citizens and 40 farmers. This was a good turnout for this kind of field day. There was a lot of conversations with lots of questions being answered. They are planning another field day which will be held indoors in February.

Alan Barrows asked if there was any interest in a review of our bidding procedures and working agreements. Alan said he would volunteer to make a presentation for the commission. Alan pointed out that these procedures are included in our implementation plan in the appendixes. Jim Pindel asked Alan if he thought what we have is insufficient and Alan responded that they are not unless we apply for federal funding. The consensus of the commission was that we want Alan to make a presentation to make us all aware of our bidding and work agreement procedures. Alan said that it was not necessary to do it at our next meeting and we should put it on the agenda when we want it. Alan said that one of the good things is that our procedures are written in common language not lawyer language.

Jeff Lang pointed out that when the Town of Burlington sends out its tax bills it includes other informative notices. Jeff said that this was an inexpensive way to get information out to the general populous and thought it might be a good way to get the word out to the farmers in our municipalities that we are looking for fields to spread the Waterford sediment. Jeff asked if any of our other municipalities sent our flyers with some of their required mailings. Rochester said they send out a newsletter and Dean Falkner said that Mukwonago sends our informative information with every water bill. Chad Sampson mentioned that he has a list of over 300 farmers in Racine and Kenosha Counties. Dean

Falkner said we will have to work out how to implement this idea and said he will get in touch with Jeff Lang in this regard.

Regarding the next meeting date and place, Andy Buehler said he appreciated moving the meeting location further south making it easier for the southern members. Jessie Medrow said that we could use this location if it is not already booked. Jessie checked and found the room is available and so we decided to meet here again in October.

It was motioned by Andy Buehler and seconded by Fred Koeller that the meeting be closed. The motion passed unanimously.

**Meeting Closed** at 2:04 PM

**THE NEXT OFFICIAL MEETING WILL BE Friday  
October 12, 2018 at 1:00 PM.** (Meeting Location: Burlington  
Department of Public Works 2200 S. Pine Street, Burlington, WI.