

Southeast Wisconsin Fox River Commission Meeting Minutes

Friday, September 19, 2025 at 1 p.m. – In person meeting at Vernon Fire Station #1. W233 S7475 Woodland Ln. Big Bend, WI 53103

Commissioner's Present:

Alan Barrows, Waukesha County
Jim Pindel, Town of Waterford
Fred Koeller, Village of Waterford
Barb Holtz, Town of Mukwonago
Wayne Jensen, Village of Rochester
Lee Manthey, Town of Vernon
Chad Sampson, Racine County
Paul Tollard, Kenosha County
Dave Brown, Village of Mukwonago
Howard Moser, City of Burlington
Rachel Sabre, WI DNR

Guests:

Grant Horn, WWMD
Liz Adams, Racine County
Terrance O'Brien, Citizen of Kenosha County

1. Alan Barrows called the meeting at 1:03 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll call and verify quorum
4. Chad Sampson recording the meeting and taking minutes.
5. Jim Pindel made a motion to request qualified individuals to be allowed to represent their municipality, even if they do not live in the municipality, seconded by Howard Moser.
The actual motion was If a commissioner and his/her alternate cannot attend the meeting the commissioner can appoint a knowledgeable and responsible person to take his/her place at the meeting.
 - a. Motion passed unanimously.
6. Fred Koeller made a motion to approve the previous minutes, seconded by Wayne Jensen.
 - a. Motion passed unanimously.
7. Review of the Treasurer's Report. A motion made by Chad Sampson and seconded by Fred Koeller to approve the Treasurer's Report.
 - a. Motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

8. Fox River Summit – No report
9. SEWRPC Survey from the Waterford Dam to the Illinois border – No report
10. Vernon Wildlife Area DU Impoundment Restoration – No report

11. Racine County Shoreline Projects - Chad Sampson stated that Magner, Plantz, Milczarski, McCormick and Hondel are all installed and paid for. The only snag is the Doering project, where there was some damage to an underground sprinkler system, so this was not “paid in full” yet.
12. Noble Brothers Burgers Permeable Pavers – Chad Sampson stated the portion that was completed was not permeable and will not be paid with cost share. There is going to be phase II next spring, which will be permeable. The contractor may submit a quote and request a down payment up front.
13. Liz Adams stated that agreements are being finalized. Howard Moser said between the City of Burlington, Town of Burlington and Racine County there is draft agreement to cost-share the maintenance of the new river gauge to be installed. Liz Adams asked about the funding being dispursed. Jim Pindel commented that the Commission prefers to reimburse funding. Howard Moser said the City will pay and be reimbursed.
14. Noble Brothers Burgers Permeable Pavers
 - a. Chad Sampson said Phase I is complete, but nothing is permeable. Phases II and III are planned to be permeable. The contractor requested a down payment, but nothing is planned to occur until Spring 2026. Wayne Jensen suggested waiting with payment until July to use the next ENUM.

New Business

1. 2021 – 2030 SEWFRC Implementation Plan – No report
2. Fox River Watershed Hazard Mitigation Plan / Regional Coordinator Group – Alan Barrows said he will speak to Gail next week.
3. Fox Bend Wetland Restoration Project within the Village of Vernon
 - a. Alan Barrows said the project was entirely under water during the flooding, but there is no damage.
4. Margis Phase III Shoreline Protection and Access Improvements
 - a. Chad Sampson said construction is planned for late-September.
5. Fox River Restoration at Wilmot WI – Terrance O’Brien stated the project is complete and was looking for reimbursement funding. Alan Barrow suggested a sign for the project.
6. Consideration of having a Wisconsin Statute attorney on retainer to advise us on legal issues.
 - a. Rachel Sabre sent an email to the legal team at WI DNR with no response.

Reports and Updates

1. Report on the activities of the Fox Waterway Agency of Illinois – No report.
2. Report on the future of the Echo Lake Dam in Burlington.
 - a. Howard Moser said the contract was awarded to Yahnke Construction. The plan is to begin in April 2026.

- b. Howard said they are still doing some water quality testing to plan for the dredging.
- 3. Report on the Fox River Watershed TMDL Progress
 - a. Rachel Sabre said the monitoring has been completed and the report should be done by the end of this year.
- 4. Watershed Protection Committee of Racine County
 - a. Chad Sampson said the Summer Field Day at Case Eagle Park was a success. There were 65 people in attendance. The next event will be at the Cotton Exchange in February.
- 5. Kenosha County Regenerative Producers – No report.
- 6. SEWFRC Website
 - a. Alan Barrows stated we still must update the officers on the website.

Correspondence

8/26/25 Email from Jim Pindel to all commissioners to mark your calendars for today's meeting.

8/29/25 Email from Jared Young asking what he needs to do and provide to get our funding.

9/18/25 Meeting announcement for today's meeting.

Miscellaneous Issues

- 1. The next meeting was set for November 7th at 1 p.m. at the Big Bend Fire Station.
- 2. A motion to adjourn by Fred Koeller, seconded by Howard Moser to adjourn at 1:43 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Chad Sampson, SEWFRC Commissioner and modified by Jim Pindel Secretary SEWFRC