

Commission members present:

Al Sikora (Village of Waterford) (Chairman)
Ron Peterson (Village of Big Bend)
Chad Sampson (Racine County)
Alan Barrows (Waukesha County)
Barb Holtz (Town of Mukwonago)
Doug Koehler (City of Waukesha)
Dean Falkner (Village of Mukwonago)
Francis Stadler (Village of Big Bend)
Jim D'Antuono (Wisconsin DNR)
Tom Slawski (SEWRPC)
Mary Pindel (Town of Waterford – Alternate)
Jim Pindel (Town of Waterford) (Secretary/Treasurer)

Commission members absent:

Don Scott (Town of Vernon) (Vice-Chairman)
Randy Meier (Town of Waterford)
Robert Bartholomew (Town of Vernon)
Randy Craig (Town of Vernon)
Shelley Tessmer (Town of Waterford)
Any representative from the Town of Waukesha

Also present: Dick Kosut of the WWMD and Dan Treloar of Kenosha County.

At 1:10 PM, 10/11/2013, Jim Pindel acting as Chairman until Al Sikora arrived called the SEWFRC meeting to order.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Roll call was taken and a quorum was confirmed.

Minutes The minutes from the September 13, 2013 meeting were reviewed. It was motioned by Francis Stadler and seconded by Doug Koehler that the minutes be approved. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Treasurer Reports – The Treasurer's Report for September 2013 was reviewed. In summary we started with \$20,546.24 in our money market account. We made a payment of \$1,250 to the Fox River Partnership as the final payment toward the 2013 Fox River Summit and made \$2.46 in interest resulting in a final amount of \$19,298.70. Dan Treloar pointed out a typo in the report the ending balance in the Money Market Account should have been as of 9/30/13 instead of 5/31/13. Francis Stadler reported that he had read an article in the Mukwonago Chief section of last Sunday's Milwaukee Journal Sentinel regarding shoreline stabilization and erosion control projects along the Mukwonago River. There was no mention of the support (funding) provided by our commission. Barb Holtz of the Town of Mukwonago was made aware of this comment and may be able to advise the proper people who were involved in developing this article. It was motioned by Francis Stadler and seconded by Chad Sampson that the Treasurers Reports be approved as corrected. The report was approved unanimously.

Old Business

- a) Mukwonago River Restoration within Rainbow Springs – Benjamin Heussner was not present and Jim D’Antuono stated that the situation was exactly as reported in last month’s meeting minutes that the project was pretty much completed. Jim Pindel reported that he had received a US mail letter from Joicelyn Schwager of the Natural History Association requesting a payment of \$16,178.63 which was due on 10/4/13. Jim Pindel said that he contacted Jim Ritchie and Benjamin Heussner of the WDNR and found out from Jim Ritchie that we should be getting the \$100,000 cash advance against ENUM-19 this week and found out from Benjamin Heussner that the payment could be a couple weeks late without any problems. So Jim Pindel said that even though we would exceed the 50% cash advance limit we imposed on ourselves, we would issue a check to the Natural History Association as soon as we receive the ENUM-19 cash advance.
- b) Fox River Partnership Summit – Tom Slawski started by reminding everyone that the date for the next Summit will be Friday 3/21/14. The organizing committee is working on getting speakers and especially a keynote speaker. Tom also advised everyone that the 2014 Summit will be held at the same location as the 2013 Summit.
- c) Shoreline erosion mapping and stabilization planning with invasive species mapping – Graef Engineering. Jim Pindel reported that he had heard from Geof Parrish of Graef Engineering who said that they had an issue with their canoe and would be starting on the field survey this coming week. Geof also said that the late start would not affect the overall timeline since they should still have the final report to us in late November or early December. Alan Barrows said that he had not been contacted by Graef Engineering. He had offered to share the GPS data that he had collected when they did the recent inventory of the Fox River. Alan asked Jim Pindel to advise Graef to contact him so that they might take advantage of the data which shows hot spots and some gaps in the data collected. Jim Pindel said he would ask Geof Parrish to contact Alan.
- d) Big Bend boat/canoe launch retaining wall – Ron Peterson said that the contractor will start the project this coming week and most likely will finish the project the same week.
- e) Schmidt & Caton Island erosion control methods – Site inspection report. Chad Sampson said that he did not have a report ready at this time but probably could report on it at our next meeting.

New Business

- a. Wood Drive Erosion Control Project – Chad Sampson Chad said that they had a plan about 80% completed for the project. Chad also reported that the professional engineer he had on staff resigned and went to work for the

City of Greenfield. So now Chad has no one to sign off on the design. So Chad is looking to get a sign off from the regional professional engineer or possibly some other alternatives. The plan is to get this project completed this fall so that it is effective next spring when the water flow will probably be high again.

- b. Consideration of expanding the Commission's jurisdiction south to the Illinois border Tom Slawski said that he had contacted both the Town and City of Burlington and that he had a set date of November 14, 2013 for a presentation to the Town. The City did respond and advised that we should make our presentation to the City Counsel. Jim Pindel added that the presentation Tom Slawski sent to Al Sikora and himself was not the presentation that Jeff Thornton had been making. Jim said there was a presentation Jeff made up for the Fox Waterway Agency of Illinois and modified somewhat for a presentation to the Lake Winnebago municipalities. This PowerPoint presentation was somewhat scaled back for the expansion introduction to the new municipalities. Tom thought that he might have a way to find these presentations. Al Sikora said that he would look to see if he had a copy of the presentation to send to Tom. Jim D'Antuono warned us that Burlington might want to bring up their dam as a topic and we certainly do not want to take ownership of this issue.
- c. Consideration of how we operate with a larger membership base: Jim Pindel pointed out that at our last meeting we agreed to try to change the makeup of the expanded commission to one commissioner and one alternate commissioner from each county and municipality. Jim went on to say that the new state statutes that define us should limit the cash advance amount on any project to 50% of the total grant amount. However we should have the ability to award larger cash advances for special situations. Jim also stated that the new statutes should state that quorum is met by 9 commissioners either voting or exofficio, but when a vote comes up the decision is based on the majority vote of the voting commissioners present.
- d. Possible request for grant funds for Mukwonago shoreline restoration: Alan Barrows said that he went to the site last week to look around. One thing Alan was concerned about was what materials were used on the Indianhead park side of the river on the county right-of-way. On photos Alan said it looked like rock and actual site investigation showed that it was indeed a river rock or natural stone material used along the bridge abutment. On the side we are working on now it is just broken concrete. So what Alan plans is to use natural stone along the abutment and then change over to biologs of some other soft erosion control media. Alan said that he talked to WE Energies and they are getting anxious to get the work done because the power poles are getting dangerous. Now the

emphasis is on getting the permits and bids to get the job done. Alan asked Jim D'Antuono if it would be possible to have the dam adjusted to get the water level down during the construction phase of the project. Jim D'Antuono pointed out that dropping the water level at the work site would also drop the water level in Lower Phantom lake which would likely cause complaints from the local residents. After a little further discussion it was pretty much decided by Alan to forget dropping the water level. Jim Pindel asked if the \$46,000 figure we have in our budget was still a good number and Alan said that we are now at the point of getting bids to do the work and that even though WE Energies has a preferred contractor, Alan will get three bids for doing the work. Alan said it is even possible we will have two different contractors working on the same linear project. So the cost of the project will not be known until the bids come in.

- e. Possible diversion of City of Waukesha water treatment plant discharge away from the Fox River: Jim D'Antuono said he really didn't have anything to report except that the City has not submitted its application to the WDNR yet.
- f. Consideration of purchasing a Three Panel Backboard for table top display purposes: Alan Barrows said he has not heard back from the supplier that the county bought their backboard from. Alan asked one of the program assistant in his office to take the lead on getting information and possibly samples for us. So Alan expects to have something for us at our next meeting.

Reports and Updates

- a) Report on activities of Fox Waterway Agency (FWA) of Illinois – Ron Barker was not present and Tom Slawski said that he had not heard anything to report.
- b) SEWFRC Website – Al Sikora said that he had nothing to report regarding the website.
- c) Highway 164 Construction update: - Don Baron of the WWMD was not present. Dick Kosut said that he heard that they are now expecting to finish the middle of November. Al Sikora reported that they were tearing up the highway near highway 36.

Correspondence –

- a. 9/19/13 Emails between Jim Ritchie and Jim Pindel saying we have the new grant and sending the completed application form via email and US mail back to Jim Ritchie
- b. 9/20/13 Email to Scott Gunderson thanking him for the grant from the WDNR and for his support of the commission. Also included a short summary of our current activities.

- c. 9/30/13 Email from Jim Pindel to Jim D'Antuono concerning our request to be considered as an "Area of Concern" (AOC) or being considered for some other similar program in the Mississippi watershed.

Jim D'Antuono reported that he had forwarded our email to several people within the WDNR. Jim did say that the AOC program was for the Great Lakes watershed only and that it was primarily concerned with areas of high concentrations of chemical contaminants. These areas of contamination are generally due to past industrial discharge most commonly PCBs. Jim said he was not aware of any similar program for inland waters and that the programs for the Mississippi watershed were mostly concerned with contaminant flow into the Gulf of Mexico.

Jim suggested that we go back in our records and look at a study that was done for the commission by a consultant to find what grants and programs existed that might be applicable to our commission. Pointing out how tight federal grant money is Jim mentioned the Pike river restoration project in Kenosha county which had nine phases to the project, six have been completed and there has been no action toward the last three phases to bring the project to completion.

Miscellaneous Issues –

Chad Sampson said that the draft copy of the Racine county budget has just come out and it is available on the Racine county website. Chad looked for the Fox River Commission as a line item but it was not there. The budget is open for comment for about the next month, so if we wanted we could formally make a case for funding which would be reviewed by the proper authorities.

Barb Holtz made the announcement that the Friends of the Mukwonago River were hosting a watershed awareness weekend starting tomorrow. There are four speakers and a lunch included tomorrow for an entrance fee of \$10.00. On Sunday from 1:00PM to 3:00PM is a tour of the Rainbow Springs property and restoration project guided by WDNR officials. For more information on the watershed awareness weekend, Barb said we should consult the Friends of Mukwonago River website.

It was motioned by Dean Falkner and seconded by Ron Peterson that the meeting be closed. The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Closed at 1:51 PM

**THE NEXT OFFICIAL MEETING WILL BE Friday,
November 15, 2013 at 1:00 PM. (Meeting Location: Town of
Vernon Fire Station #1, W233 S7475 Woodland Lane, Big Bend,
WI 53103.)**