

Commission members present:

Al Sikora (Village of Waterford) (Chairman)
Don Scott (Town of Vernon) (Vice-Chairman)
Ron Peterson (Village of Big Bend)
Randy Meier (Town of Waterford)
Chad Sampson (Racine County)
Alan Barrows (Waukesha County)
Barb Holtz (Town of Mukwonago)
Dean Falkner (Village of Mukwonago)
Francis Stadler (Village of Big Bend)
Jim Ritchie standing in for Jim D'Antuono (Wisconsin DNR)
Tom Slawski (SEWRPC)
Jim Pindel (Town of Waterford) (Secretary/Treasurer)

Commission members absent:

Doug Koehler (City of Waukesha)
Robert Bartholomew (Town of Vernon)
Randy Craig (Town of Vernon)
Shelley Tessmer (Town of Waterford)
Mary Pindel (Town of Waterford – Alternate)
Any representative from the Town of Waukesha

Also present: Paul Kling of the WWMD and Michael Schwar of the Town of Vernon.

At 1:05 PM, 11/15/2013, Chairman Al Sikora 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 October 11, 2013 meeting were reviewed. It was motioned by Randy Meier and seconded by Ron Peterson that the minutes be approved. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Treasurer Reports – The Treasurer's Report for October 2013 was reviewed. In summary we started with \$19,298.70 in our money market account. We made a deposit of \$100,000 the cash advance against ENUM-19 and made a payment of \$16,838.58 to the Kettle Moraine Historical Association as a second cash advance payment toward the culvert removal project within Rainbow Springs and made \$11.30 in interest resulting in a final amount of \$102,471.42. The grant funds sheet of the report reflected the addition of \$200,000 from ENUM-19 resulting in current available grant funds of \$176,466.35. It was motioned by Francis Stadler and seconded by Randy Meier that the Treasurers Reports be approved. The report was approved unanimously. Then Randy Meier asked if there was a deadline for when the grant funds had to be spent by. Jim Pindel stated that we were granted a one year extension on ENUM-18 so all its funds must be spent by 6/30/14. Regarding ENUM-19 all the funds must be spent by 6/30/14, but we can apply for a one year extension out to 6/30/15.

Old Business

- a) Mukwonago River Restoration within Rainbow Springs – Benjamin Heussner was not present. Barb Holtz reported that the Friends of the Mukwonago River ran an open house at Rainbow Springs on the Sunday after our last meeting. It was attended by about 35 people and the toured all seven sites where the culverts had been removed. Barb reported that the landscaping and erosion control measures taken looked very impressive. Barb also said that she took pictures which she intends to bring to a future meeting. Jim Ritchie said he will contact Benjamin Heussner asking him to process the forms and documentation so that the project can be closed out.

- b) Fox River Partnership Summit – Tom Slawski said that he and his committee are on track and are about half way finished with the program. He has some great keynote speakers lined up. The two main keynote speakers had articles published in the North American Lake Management Society magazine. They have developed a program called ‘clear choices – clean waters make a difference’. Their program won the award for the most outstanding outreach program for this last year. Tom said that if this conference had a theme it would be “tools”. Tom expects to have the brochure ready by our next meeting. Tom said that he will take Al Sikora up on his offer to help him establish a PayPal account for collecting the admissions. Someone from the Federal Fish and Wildlife Service will talk about programs to assist in water and recreational trail development. Tom said he is already getting asked when the next summit will be and he is hopeful of exceeding the 150 participants we had last time.

- c) Shoreline erosion mapping and stabilization planning with invasive species mapping – Graef Engineering. Jim Pindel reported that he had heard from Geoff Parrish of Graef Engineering. Jim passed around two pictures of sites where erosion was noted and said the Graef said that there were three sites of obvious significant erosion. One area was an unvegetated slope extending from a road to the water adjacent to a bridge. Alan Barrows said that he was pretty sure where this site was and that it needed attention. Alan said it was a new bridge in the City of Waukesha and that he had talked to Doug Koehler about it. Jim also said that they only found colonies of phragmites and none of the other two species they were looking for. Jim said Graef is now working on the GPS map and is prioritizing the erosion sites so we can address them in the best manner. Their report will be ready by our next meeting. Considerable discussion ensued concerning how we know that fixing one site might not cause problems nearby and so we realized that we depend on the expertise of our county, WDNR and SEWRPC members to guide us in reviewing the plans and designs of the projects. Alan Barrows pointed out that the culvert removal project in Rainbow Springs has a Notice of Termination associated with that permit and this would not be a bad thing for us to collect on projects. The notice shows that the regulatory

authorities have signed off accepting the outcome of the project.

d) Big Bend boat/canoe launch retaining wall – Francis Stadler stated that the project is nearly completed and that there was an oversight in the estimate of the project cost. There was a \$1400 item that was quoted as part of the proposal that was not added into the final cost estimate. The commission accepted the fact that this was a simple oversight, not any fault of the contractor or a cost overrun and so Dean Falkner motioned that we revise the expected cost to include the additional \$1400 and the motion was seconded by Ron Peterson. The motion passed unanimously.

e) Schmidt & Caton Island erosion control methods – Site inspection report. Chad Sampson provided a report in a handout form to all commissioners. Shelley Tessmer and Chad did the physical site inspection sometime in August. The report started with an aerial view of Elm Island Bay and the Fox River surrounding the island, followed up with a close up aerial of the island showing the locations of the different erosion control method tested. The next photo was a view from the river showing all the test sites next to each other. The following close up photos recorded the conditions of the coconut fiber logs, the rock riprap and the fiber block. In conclusion Chad stated that the most successful demonstration of erosion control was still the erosion matting with native planting and the rock riprap. Both sites demonstrated minimal or no erosion and good plant growth with natural and native appearance. The plant growth was not as successful in the fiber block currently this site is growing up with some weeds. One of the coconut fiber logs was missing causing this portion of the island to be unprotected and eroding. The site includes native species that were planted including rush plants, sedges, marsh milkweed and other native plants.

New Business

- a. Wood Drive Erosion Control Project – Chad Sampson Chad said that Dick Kosut suggested that he contact the farmer who rents the land just to the east of the project site. Chad thought that it would be a good idea to get the whole situation completed at one time. Chad said he is still in negotiations with the farmer who owns the land that floods and erodes above the roadway that needs rebuilding and additional culverts. Chad said he would like to see a grass swale all the way from highway 164 down to the roadway that currently acts as a dam. The programs that the county has to offer usually require a 10 to 15 year commitment and sometimes the land owners don't want this especially if they are thinking about possibly selling the property. Chad is hoping to get things in place this winter so that the work can be accomplished in spring. Barb Holtz asked if the county used native grasses when they installed a grass swale. Chad said they don't because the native grasses take longer to get started and so they use ryes and other grasses that grow and establish themselves more quickly so the grass and ground doesn't wash out. Chad did say that they use native grasses in buffer zones where there is less risk of getting washed out. Barb suggested that they mix in some native grasses either

initially for a while after not only because they are native but because they have deeper roots which hold the ground together better.

- b. Consideration of expanding the Commission's jurisdiction south to the Illinois border Tom Slawski said that he and Jim Pindel had a meeting last night with the Town of Burlington, this was a follow up meeting since Al Sikora, Jeff Thornton and Jim Pindel made an initial presentation with the town about 2 months ago. Tom thought that they were interested and would probably sign on with the commission. It seemed that some of their members were concerned that our opposition to the City of Waukesha diverting its treated waste water away from the Fox River meant that we were opposed to the Great Lakes Compact, not wanting them to return whatever water they took from Lake Michigan back to Lake Michigan. We tried to explain that we didn't want Waukesha to take water from Lake Michigan in the first place since we felt there were other/better options to resolving their radium problem. We had agreed to send them a copy of the resolution we sent to the City of Waukesha, the WDNR and others. Also Jim Pindel said that after the meeting he realized that they were under the impression that the commissioner they would appoint would have to be one of the board members. Jim will advise them in the email with the resolution attached that they can appoint anyone of their citizens. Tom pointed out that their main concerns were flooding issues and so Waukesha reducing the flow in the river was not a big concern to them. Tom also said that he had contacted the City of Burlington and it looked like we would make our presentation to them in January or February.
- 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 this item on the agenda was intended so that any of the commissioners could bring up points that they thought could be included in the state statues when they are rewritten based on our proposed expansion. Barb Holtz said maybe we should have something written into the statues that require all member municipalities to have commissioners assigned. For example, right now the Town of Waukesha has not had a commissioner assigned for a long time. Barb then asked if we had contacted the Town of Waukesha requesting the appointment of a new commissioners and Jim Pindel said that he intended to but hadn't done it yet. It is on him to get it done by the next meeting.
- d. Possible request for grant funds for Mukwonago shoreline restoration: Alan Barrows said that he didn't have a lot to report right now. The project leader from his group Jim Rose is out of the country right now. Alan said that it was interesting looking at the report that Chad Sampson just made concerning the Schmidt & Caton island project. The coconut

logs which didn't work out so well are the primary erosion control option being used on the WE Energies proposed project. Alan said that he would be in favor of a new product called American Excelsior Block. It is a Wisconsin product in square sections of shredded aspen in a cotton sock which is biodegradable. Alan said that in the section of the project which is no county right-of-way they will be using field stone. The goal is to get the request for proposals out within the next 30 days. At that time we will finally have a solid cost estimate. Don Scott asked if any consideration was given to prevention or protection against ice damage. Alan agreed that this is a major concern and that they would review the design considering the effects of ice. Alan said that ice is one of the reasons that stone is used often at the waterline and Chad added that decreasing the slope of the shoreline causes the ice to slide up the slope instead of digging into it.

- e. Possible diversion of City of Waukesha water treatment plant discharge away from the Fox River: Jim Ritchie said there are four public hearings scheduled the only one left will be held in Milwaukee next Monday night. Al Sikora pointed out that the meeting schedule was sent to all commissioners last week. Barb Holtz said that a friend of hers from the Friends of the Mukwonago River attended the meeting on 11/14/13 and told her that two attendees spoke out against the diversion because of the negative impact it would have on the Fox River. Tom Slawski said it would be to our benefit if we went on record opposing the diversion because of the negative impact on the Fox River. It was decided that Tom and Jim Pindel would put together some bullet points and send them out to the commission so that each of us, in our own words, could individually go on record against the diversion. There is a link in the email sent by Jim Pindel with the meeting schedule where the comments can be sent. Tom pointed out that it would be a lost opportunity if we didn't comment.
- f. Consideration of purchasing a Three Panel Backboard for table top display purposes: Alan Barrows said he will simply purchase the three panel display and make sure we have it before the Fox River Summit next March. He pointed out that what we had for the last Summit was good but could be updated and improved upon. Possible additions to the display would be to feature the work we did within Rainbow Springs and at the Big Bend boat launch.

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. With the fact that the construction is completed, this item will be removed from the agenda.

Correspondence –

- a. 10/14/13 Jim Pindel email to Graef Engineering asking them to contact Alan Barrows of Waukesha County about GPS data the county has already collected.
- b. 10/11/13 Email from Jim Ritchie saying that the cash advance from EMUM 19 has been US mailed to us. Jim Pindel responded that the check was received and deposited into our Money Market account.
- c. 10/15/13 Email from Jim Pindel to all commissioners that our next meeting will be on 11/15/13.
- d. 10/18/13 Email with link forwarded from Barb Holtz to all the commissioners concerning the City of Waukesha submitting their application for use of Lake Michigan water. The article boasts the benefits to the Root River but does not mention the detrimental effects to the Fox River.
- e. 10/22/13 Email from Laurie Longtine advising us of a presentation by Dr. David Garman on 11/14/13 on water use, water management and conservation. Asking us to attend and promote.
- f. 10/25/13 Email from Brian Schneider of Graef Engineering asking if the FRC has done any work toward phosphorous reduction and Total Maximum Daily Load. This email was forwarded to all commissioners asking if anyone had any comment.
- g. 10/27/13 Email response from Dean Falkner stating “I haven’t heard of the Fox River getting a TMDL for phosphorus. I believe this is going to be an issue that needs to eventually be addressed. Phosphorus is a mobile element within the aquatic environment. A notable issue is the whole concept of the water quality based phosphorus limit and how the DNR will enforce it under these options.
- h. 11/7/13 Email from Jim D’Antuono concerning TMDL for phosphorus in the Fox River. There is no TMDL scheduled for the Fox at this time. Maureen McBroom said she will get back to Jim in January concerning urban non-point grants and TRM grants.
- i. 11/15/13 Email from Laurie Longtine reminding us too late that Dr. David Garman is making a presentation 11/14/13 on water policy, water use and management and water conservation. The intent was to consider these topics in regard to the City of Waukesha’s use of Lake Michigan water.

Miscellaneous Issues –

Paul Kling of the WWMD stated that they were proceeding with their project to dredge parts of the Waterford impoundment. They are currently in phase 3 of the program which should end up with an application to the WDNR for a dredging permit. Presently most of the work being done is to find dewatering, storage and disposal sites. The WWMD is working hand in hand with Graef Engineering to secure these sites. Jim

Pindel added that the WDNR has stated that the sediment can be sold but only by the truck load.

Paul went on to say that the WWMD has identified several new projects around the impoundment and that is has been working with Chad Sampson to get at least one of them organized. Paul indicated that they will be coming to us for funding.

Paul also said that the WWMD is concerned about the diversion of the City of Waukesha's treated waste water away from the Fox River. He said that they are looking to us for information that they can use to educate their members on this issue.

Alan Barrows said that after a two inch rainfall there was some erosion at the end of the rock spillway the county had installed. The county has installed an additional twelve feet of rock which has stabilized the situation. Alan said that they will continue to monitor the site and make additions and corrections as needed. He did say the Parks division did a real nice job of adding the stone.

It was motioned by Don Scott and seconded by Chad Sampson that the meeting be closed. The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Closed at 2:29 PM

**THE NEXT OFFICIAL MEETING WILL BE Friday,
January 10, 2014 at 1:00 PM.** (Meeting Location: Town of
Vernon Fire Station #1, W233 S7475 Woodland Lane, Big Bend,
WI 53103.)