

Commission members present:

Al Sikora (Village of Waterford) (Chairman)
Barb Holtz (Town of Mukwonago)
Chad Sampson (Racine County)
Alan Barrows (Waukesha County)
Don Scott (Town of Vernon)
Francis Stadler (Village of Big Bend)
Ron Peterson (Village of Big Bend)
Doug Koehler (City of Waukesha)
Jim D'Antuono (Wisconsin DNR)
Jeff Thornton (Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission)
Mary Pindel (Town of Waterford) (Co-Secretary/Treasurer)
Jim Pindel (Town of Waterford) (Secretary/Treasurer)

Commission members absent:

Shelley Tessmer (Town of Waterford)
Dean Falkner (Village of Mukwonago)
Randy Craig (Town of Vernon)
Howard Garvens (Town of Waukesha) (Vice-Chairman)

Also present: Dick Kosut of the WWMD, Jim Ritchie of the WDNR.

At 1:03 PM, 12/07/10, Interim Chairman Al Sikora called the Public Hearing to order.

The only order of business was the review of the Southeastern Wisconsin Fox River Commission Proposed Budget for 2011. The proposed budget was read for the record. Al Sikora asked the non-commission attendees if they had any questions or comments concerning the proposed budget. Al Sikora then asked three times if there was anyone who wanted to speak in favor of the proposed budget and then asked three times if there was anyone who wished to speak in opposition to the proposed budget. Al Sikora then asked the commissioners present if they had any questions, concerns or need for clarification.

There were no comments from the Public concerning the budget.

The Public Hearing was closed at 1:10 PM.

At 1:10 PM, 12/07/10, Interim Chairman Al Sikora called the Commission Meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Roll call was taken and a quorum was confirmed.

Proposed Budget for 2011 - The first order of business was to approve the Southeastern Wisconsin Fox River Commission Proposed Budget for 2011. It was motioned by Chad Sampson and seconded by Barb Holtz that the proposed budget be approved and the budget was approved unanimously.

Minutes from the November 11, 2010 meeting were reviewed. It was motioned by Don Scott and seconded by Doug Koehler that the minutes be approved as submitted. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Treasurer Reports – The Treasurer’s Report for November 2010 was reviewed. Francis Stadler asked how we can handle the fact that we have gone negative in our non-grant income to pay for operating expenses such as public hearing and budget publications. It was stated that in the short term we will have to use grant funds to cover our bills and hope that we can gain future funding to get more non-grant income from interest on our money market account. Jeff Thornton pointed out that we still could take advantage of the county budget cycles as was intended by the legislature at our inception. We should use the portfolio of projects that are unfunded and the revised implementation plan to approach the two County Executives. Francis Stadler motioned to accept the Treasurers Report and Chad Sampson seconded the motion. The treasurer’s report was approved.

Election of Officers for the 2011 Calendar Year

Jim D’Antuono stated that Al Sikora has performed in the role of Chairman for a couple of months now, Howard Garvens has performed the duties of Vice-Chairman for some time now, even though he made mention of the possibility of retiring from the commission this coming April, and Jim Pindel has indicated a willingness to continue in the role of Secretary/Treasurer. Jim D’Antuono noted that for the last couple years, instead of going through a formal nomination and election procedure, we have made a motion to maintain the existing officers for the next year. Jim D’Antuono made the motion to retain the present officers for 2011. Jeff Thornton seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Old Business

- a) Schmidt & Canton’s Island Demonstration Erosion Control Project. (completed)
Since this project is totally completed it was unanimously agreed by all commissioners present to remove this item from the old business portion of the agenda. An annual report from Racine County on the status of the different erosion control methods employed will still be appropriate whenever a survey of the island is held.
- b) Boat/Canoe Launch in Big Bend (completed) – Ron Peterson said that the project was complete and there would be nothing further to report, except that the Village has decided to charge a nominal launching fee of \$5.00 for non-residents and \$3.00 for residents. Jim Ritchie of the DNR said that as long as the fees were below \$7.00 the Village does not require state approval. Al Sikora said that Francis has provided photos of the project and that he is still waiting for text from Jamie Soneberg.
- c) Grand Drive/ Buena Park Project (completed) – WWMD Dick Kosut said that the project was complete and that the only thing remaining to be done is to provide photos and a write up to Al Sikora for our website. This project will also be

- removed from the agenda.
- d) Phantom Woods Road Channel Enhancement (completed) – Barb Holtz Jim Pindel stated that just prior to this meeting Barb Holtz provided an invoice from Wolf Paving, which was the only piece of documentation missing for the project. The grant payment application should be completed and sent to Jim Ritchie of the DNR, before our next meeting. At that time we should decide whether to remove this project from the agenda.
 - e) Mukwonago Shoreline Stabilization Project (completed) Jim Pindel said that this project has been accepted by Jim Ritchie and so there is no reason to keep it on the agenda.
 - f) Vernon Wildlife Area Streambank Stabilization Project (completed) – Jim Pindel stated that we have to wait for documentation from Brian Glenzinski. Jim Ritchie added that he knows that Brian has been tied up by the deer hunting season and that he has tried to get together with him to organize the documentation.
 - g) Vernon Wildlife Area Flowage Restoration Project (active) – Brian Glenzinski was not present and no report was made. This project has to be kept on the agenda since our \$20,000 contribution toward this very large project will be used by Brian during the first half of 2011.
 - h) Kossik Stream Restoration Project (active) – Jim D'Antuono said that Mary has finished the dam removal and stabilization of the area. And now she will have to wait for spring to access the condition of the area and decide what further steps if any need to be done.
 - i) Possible boat/canoe launch on Highway ES (pending) – Alan Barrows said that he had nothing to report at this time. He also said that a couple meetings ago he said he would meet with the Public Works department and the Parks department regarding plans for the boat/canoe launch and will do so in the future.

New Business

- a) What to do with the Thirteen (13) pending non-funded projects. One thought that was considered was to post these projects on our website. The positive here would be to show people (especially people who might provide funding) that we have more work to do. On the negative side is the fact that other people who come to our website looking to see if we might provide some funding for a project that they might have would be discouraged by the fact that we already have too much to do that we can't get done. Jeff Thornton stated that he felt that the projects should be listed in the new implementation plan as potential projects. The fact that the new implementation plan will be circulated to all the involved units of government could provide a means of soliciting funding. It was then decided that the project spreadsheet should be expanded to include the

municipality in which the project exists. Also it was decided that if and when we list these unfunded projects on our website the cost of the projects should not be displayed. We also need to come up with a softer title for these projects that conveys the fact that they are preliminary or under consideration, but not approved by the commission as official projects. The discussion then turned to having a place on our website where people could apply for funding for a project or at least make us aware of a potential project. Al Sikora said that he might need some help in deciding exactly what information we need from people applying for help so that we get a proper submission. Alan Barrows asked if we listed the cost of our completed projects on our website and for the most part it is not there. After some discussion it was decided that the cost of the project by all the participants should be listed and Al Sikora asked Jim Pindel to look up these costs and provide them to him. Jeff Thornton said that these projects will appear in the implementation plan and that it seemed to be a logical sequence of events to wait for approval of the plan before we published this list on our website. Having these potential projects as sort of an initiative in our plan, it makes sense to display them on our website as something that needs to be done. Jim Pindel asked Jeff Thornton if the “Waterford Dam Operation Enhancement” element #5 in our current implementation plan would also be included in the upcoming plan. Jeff said it would again be included and after some discussion it was decided that we should investigate rewording this section of the plan. The new wording should (or might) consider flood abatement for the people north of the iron bridge where flooding has been a problem as of late.

Reports and Updates

- a) Update of SEWFRC Implementation Plan – Jeff Thornton said that this was the next thing on his desk and agenda. The funds available to offset the cost of this project must be used up this year, so therefore a draft copy of the plan will be finished this month. The method of distributing the draft copy of the plan to all involved will have to be worked out. Whether the plan is emailed or posted on the SEWRPC’s website or by hard copy or by some other means will be worked out and we will be made aware of the means of viewing and commenting on the draft plan.

- b) Waterford Dam Restoration – Chad Sampson Chad Sampson said he didn’t have any hard facts to report and that he would check into the notes of the meeting held at the Town of Waterford on December 1st, to see what he might be able to report at our next meeting. Jim D’Antuono, who attended the December 1st meeting, said that the plans for the dam work are nearing completion. They are looking at a drawdown in order to remove some trees and do some scouring work in areas. Apparently the drawdown is now scheduled for August 2011 and Dick Kosut stated that the last drawdown in 1994 was done in September after Labor Day and after the official end of the boating season. Jim D’Antuono said that the drawdown can not be done in spring because of the fish issues, can not be done in summer because of boating issues and can not be done too late in fall because of

- the hibernation issues of reptiles and amphibians.
- c) Mukwonago River Basin Protection Plan – SEWRPC – Jeff Thornton stated that plan has been removed from their environmental divisions tab and relocated to the data and publications page on their website. The plan is published and done and being implemented. This item is to be removed from future agenda's
 - d) Report on activities of Fox Waterway Agency (FWA) of Illinois – Jeff Thornton said that there is nothing to report at this time.
 - e) SEWFRC Website – Al Sikora reiterated that he needs photos and narratives for projects. He also said he has to revisit all completed projects to make sure he has costs attached. Al then asked Jim Pindel to provide these costs to him. It was decided that the cost share of all participants should be listed. Jim Pindel pointed out that the brochure or booklet provided by Chad Sampson for the environmental tour he ran for Racine and Kenosha counties did an excellent job of listing costs and expected lifetime of projects. Chad agreed to send an electronic version of whatever was available to Jim Pindel so it could be forwarded to all the commissioners and interested parties.
 - f) Waukesha County Farmland Preservation Plan – Barb Holtz said there will be a public hearing on the plan in Genesee on Thursday December 9th and she will be able to make a report to the commission based on what happens at that meeting.
 - g) Waukesha West By-pass Plan – Howard Garvens was not present. Jim D'Antuono there will be a briefing of the DNR staff tomorrow. Basically the plan has been narrowed down to three alternatives. There are three different routes being considered north of Sunset Boulevard each having its own environmental issues along that corridor. The plan is to pick a route and then issue the environmental documentation in the next year and then design portions of the by-pass and seek funding for implementation.

Correspondence –

- a. 11/10/10 Email from Mary Kossik including Dam Removal Grant Agreement, Grant Payment Worksheets, and required documentation.
- b. 11/12/10 Email to Barb Holtz regarding documentation for the Phantom Woods Road Project. Invoices from Wolf Paving are missing and there is a discrepancy regarding one Ruekert-Mielke invoice.
- c. 11/12/10 Email from Waukesha Freeman stating our Public Hearing Notice and Proposed budget will be published on Nov. 17, 2010
- d. 11/16/10 Email from Racine Journal Times stating our Public Hearing Notice and Proposed budget will be published on Nov. 19, 2010

Miscellaneous Issues – Next Meeting Date(s) Possibly set for additional future dates.

Jim D'Antuono noted that in past years we had taken some months off during the winter when project typically are not being worked on. After some discussion it was decided to have a meeting in January to discuss the draft copy of the new implementation plan and then take off a month or two after that meeting.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Francis Stadler and seconded by Don Scott, the motion carried.

Meeting Closed at 2:02 PM

NEXT OFFICIAL MEETING WILL BE Friday, January 28, 2011 at 1:00 PM. (Meeting Location: Big Bend-Vernon Fire Station #3, W233 S7475 Woodland Lane, Big Bend, WI 53103.)