

**Commission members present:**

Dean Falkner (Village of Mukwonago) (Chairman)  
Alan Barrows (Waukesha County)  
Chad Sampson (Racine County)  
Bob Bartholomew (Town of Vernon)  
Fred Koeller (Village of Waterford)  
Francis Stadler (Village of Big Bend)  
Doug Koehler (City of Waukesha)  
Donny Hefty (City of Burlington)  
Sara DeBruijn (Wisconsin DNR)  
Tom Slawski (SEWRPC)  
Jim Pindel (Town of Waterford) (Secretary/Treasurer)

**Commission members absent:**

Katelyn Bratz (Town of Mukwonago) (Vice-Chairperson)  
Rachel Sabre (Wisconsin DNR)  
Wayne Jensen (Village of Rochester)  
Jeff Lang (Town of Burlington)  
Andy Buehler (Kenosha County)  
Ken Miller (Town of Waukesha)  
Andrew Lois (Town of Wheatland)

**Also present:** Dan Treloar of Kenosha County and Jayne Jenks of Waukesha County.

At 1:06 PM, Chairman Dean Falkner 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 27, 2017 meeting were reviewed. It was motioned by Bob Bartholomew that the minutes be approved and the motion was seconded by Fred Koeller. The minutes were approved unanimously.

**Treasurer Reports** – Jim Pindel reviewed the October and November 2017 treasurer's report. We started the month of October with \$35,071.39. We made a payment of \$190.00 to Eagle Springs Lake Management District (ESLMD) in October for the testing of the two water quality test site within our jurisdiction and a payment of \$2,200.00 in November to the consulting company that ran the Smart Salt Workshop. We received \$5.94 in interest in October and \$5.73 in November bringing our Money Market account to a balance of \$32,693.12. The changes to the non-grant funds was the \$5.94 and \$5.73 in interest and the payments to ESLMD and the Smart Salt Consultants to resulting in the net non-grant funds available being \$30,158.26. Tom Slawski pointed out that the 2018 Summit was not listed among the active projects awaiting completion and Jim Pindel said that it needed to be added. Jim Pindel pointed out that he saw an email bill for \$27.00 for our Domain Registration; and then a receipt thanking us for the payment which we didn't pay. Jim contacted Al Sikora who said that he has been paying the Domain Registration for us every year and so we need to thank Al for his donations for us. There were no

changed to the grant section of the treasurer's report. It was motioned by Alan Barrows and seconded by Doug Koehler that the treasurer's report as amended to include the 2018 Summit to the active projects be accepted. The motion carried unanimously.

At this point the discussion changed to a report on what has been happening with regard to funding for the commission. Jim Pindel said that last Monday he emailed Representative Chuck Wichgers asking if anything has happened regarding getting funding for our commission. Jim then said that he received a phone call from Chuck Wichgers on the next day. Chuck said that he was planning a meeting in the next two days in Madison with people from the finance department and the recreational boating facility to see what could be done to get some funding for us. Jim asked if it would help if he attended this meeting and Chuck said that it would help if Jim explained what we are, what we do and why we need funding. As a result of this phone call Jim contacted Dean Falkner asking him to accompany himself to this meeting. Dean agreed to come along. The meeting occurred on Wednesday morning in Chuck Wichgers office in the state capital. In attendance were Chuck Wichgers his legislative assistant Gabriel Szerlong, three members of the finance department, one person from a different department and of course Jim and Dean. Jim brought along paper copies for all present of a Power Point presentation that he put together for this meeting. The presentation highlighted the fact that we were created by state statutes and have channeled \$1,681,554.32 into about 50 worthy projects. The funds came primarily from state grants, with some Racine County allocations and some non-grant SEWFRC funds. The projects were mainly erosion control, stormwater abatement, public access, educational efforts and feasibility studies. The presentation pointed out that in 2016 our area of responsibility increased by 71% and now in 2017 we have received no funding. The presentation then showed the \$185,160.00 of active projects we are working on. Then the \$2,486,722.34 of anticipated grant fund projects in Racine County; the \$366,333.33 of anticipated grant fund projects in Waukesha County and then the \$572,333.33 of anticipated grant fund projects in Kenosha County. The presentation ended with a slide showing the home page of our website, encouraging those present to visit the website to get further details on what we have done so far. The points that were made that seemed to help our cause were that we are a clearing house for grant funds, we are a volunteer organization with no one collecting any salaries and that 100% of the grant funds we receive go to grant funded projects to improve the quality of the Fox River system. At the end of the meeting it was decided that the finance department would generate two draft assembly bills that would be sponsored by Chuck Wichgers. The first bill would seek one time funding for our commission of \$200,000 to cover 2017 and 2018. The second bill would establish funding for the commission on an ongoing basis in every subsequent biannual state budget to support the commission's work. Chuck Wichgers said that we should hold an 'in district' meeting in early to mid-January inviting all of the state legislators who represent our commission municipalities to get them on board to support the two bills we need to get passed through the legislature to get our funding. At this point Jim suggested that we hold this meeting on Friday January 12, 2018 and later in the meeting we established that date for our next commission meeting. Jim suggested that we start the meeting at 1:00 PM with the presentation and discussion with the legislators concerning funding for the commission, then take a 10 minute break to say

good bye to the legislators and thank them for attending and then hold our normal SEWFRC monthly meeting. Legislators who want to attend or listen in on our meeting would be welcomed to do so, or if they have other commitments they would be free to go. Jim then passed around a sheet listing all of the municipalities of our commission asking the commissioners present to fill in the names of the senator and state representative that represent their municipality. Jim then said that he would forward in an email this partially completed worksheet to all the commissioners so it can be completely filled out so he knows who to invite to the 'in district' meeting. Jim said he would also include in that email an excerpt from these unapproved meeting minutes so the commissioners not present would know what has transpired regarding our funding. It will be very important for all commissioners to attend the 'in district' meeting on 1/12/18 so the legislators who attend see their constituents present and supporting the work on the SEWFRC. Francis Stadler asked if the second bill which provides for ongoing funding had a fixed dollar amount in it or if it could be adjusted based on our needs at the time. Jim and Dean said that we didn't know because we have not seen the bills yet. Dean also added that we told the people in the meeting in Chuck Wichgers office that we are working on a 9-Key elements plan and we expanded our domain down to the Illinois border so that we could apply for federal grant funds that could augment the money we have available to get our work done. Francis asked if all the commissioners could see the draft copies of the two assembly bill and Jim Pindel said he would forward them to all the commissioners for review as soon as he gets them.

### **Old Business**

- a) Fox River Partnership 2018 Summit: Tom Slawski reminded us that the 2018 Summit is on March 23<sup>rd</sup>. Tom said that he will be sending out emails listing speakers and topics for sessions to keep us informed. Tom asked the people from Burlington if they would possibly do a presentation on the flooding that occurred this last year, since it is a topic of interest for most of the attendees. Donny Hefty said that he worked with Jim Kleinschmidt (guessed at the spelling) to do a webinar concerning the flooding. Donny said that he would contact Jim Kleinschmidt to see if he would do the presentation. Jim Pindel added that at our last meeting Tom Day provided copies of the Mukwonago River – Watershed Nutrient Study which was packed with useful data on the water quality of the Mukwonago River. Jim thought that possibly someone could do a talk based on this study. Tom Slawski said he would contact Tom Day. Chad Sampson said that Racine County has started a new partnership called "User lead watershed protection group". This is a group of farmers that get together to discuss farming practices, like cover crops and not tiling at all, that protect the watershed. Chad said that the Racine group was too new to make a presentation but they attended a Wisconsin watershed protection conference at which there were some very good speakers on topics that should be of interest to the Summit attendees. Chad said that he would try to get one of these speakers to make a presentation at the Summit.
- b) Mukwonago River shoreline restoration at WE Energies Site. Alan Barrows said that he stops at the site monthly to assess its condition. He said that this last

growing season went well. The irrigation line is still there and of course will not be active during the winter time. Alan said that he expects another quarterly maintenance bill to show up which we will have to pay. Alan said that the project is holding up well and that as the winter ice starts to form he will watch to make sure that there is no ice damage. Alan said that the CHW ES bridge right there helps to protect this project site.

- c) ESR Project disposal sites environmental impact: No one from the WWMD was present, so Jim Pindel stated that the project has taken another left turn. Because there are 5 locations in the impoundment that have high concentrations of arsenic the ESR committee contacted Waste Management (WM) to see if they would take this sediment into one of their landfills. As it turns out WM has purchased a company called Dolphin in Houston Texas who dewater sediment using special centrifuges. WM is now in the process of proposing doing the entire dredging of the impoundment, dewatering and taking the dewatered sediment in their landfills. Sample from 5 sites in the impoundment were sent to Houston for Dolphin to process using one of their centrifuges to see if it would work, which it did. Now the dewatered sediment is being shipped to WM here in Wisconsin so that the local WM landfills can see how they can utilize the sediment in their landfill operations. This turn of events has caused the ESR committee and Graef Engineering to focus on the WM solution but still keeping the Super Mix gravel pit as an alternate solution. Jim said that it will be at least 4 weeks before we hear from WM as to if they can consume all 485,000 cubic yards of sediment and how much it will cost for them to do the entire project.
- d) Schuetze Playground Storm Water Abatement: - Doug Koehler asked Jim Pindel if he received anything for the City and Jim said he had not. Doug said it was sent out this morning and Jim said he will check when he gets home. Doug said he would forward what he received to Jim Pindel. Jim said that he did receive an email from David Burch concerning making a partial payment to someone for some aspect of the project but will check it all out when he gets home. Doug said that if anything is missing Jim should contact the City or Doug himself.
- e) Mukwonago Park Shoreline Restoration – Alan Barrows pointed out for the sake of the commissioners who were not familiar with this project that this project amounted to shoreline restoration at the park that had to be closed 8 times a year due to bacteria in the water caused by goose manure. The project repaired the shoreline to eliminate erosion and provided tall vegetation that the geese don't like because they can't see over it. Alan then passed around 3 pictures of the site. The first one was of the site before work began showing that the grass was cut right up to the water line. The other 2 pictures were taken during construction which showed coconut logs near the water line to prevent erosion or water undercutting the shoreline before the vegetation had a chance to establish itself. Alan said that the coconut logs were moved down and staked at the shoreline when the work was completed to provide a water control buffer to stabilize the shoreline. Alan said that the Parks department checked the site in October and

- said that the native vegetation mats had taken root and all looked good. Alan said that he will eventually get final pictures of the site to send to Al Sikora for the website and that he provided the final documentation to Jim Pindel before the meeting to close out the project.
- f) Village of Waterford East Shore river bank Restoration: - Fred Koeller said that the project has been completed. Jim Pindel said that before the meeting started he gave paper copies of the emails between himself and Rebecca Ewald to Fred Koeller that showed that back in September he met with Rebecca and two other members of the Village staff giving them the documentation forms required to close out the project and get reimbursement from us. The 8700-001 form was completed by Jim Pindel and the staff had to complete the 8700-002 form showing when the work was done an invoice for the work and proof of payment. The staff said that the work would be done within 2 weeks and now it has been 2 months. Fred said that the Village has a new Administrator and that he would communicate our needs to the staff. Jim Pindel said that if they need help he would be willing to go to the Village hall and help with anyway needed. Sara DeBruijn said that the 8700-001 form has changed and is available on line and is intended to be completed on line. Sara said that the form is intended to be easier to fill out on line than on paper.
- g) SEWRPC Survey for Waterford Dam to the Illinois Border – Tom Slawski said that all the field work has been completed. Tom said one of the biggest difficulties was that they drew down the Rochester dam while he was working his way up the river. This caused some turbulence and made parts of the river hard to navigate. Fred Koeller said that the drainage district did the draw down so they could work on repairs to the Wind Lake canal. Tom said that due to the draw down he noticed that the rough fish got trapped in deeper holes and that the game fish seemed to be smart enough to escape to deeper waters. Tom also said that he was surprised that there was no slit in this stretch of the river; it was just clean sand bottom. Tom said that at a future meeting he would bring in video showing some of the worst stretches of the river. Tom said that there will be a presentation on this survey at the upcoming 2018 Summit. Tom said that the final report on the survey will be completed by June of 2018.
- h) Parking Lot and sidewalk Salting Workshop: Jayne Jenks started by thanking the commission for funding the workshop. Jayne said that 47 people attended the workshop. Jayne said that the workshop came in under budget, she budgeted \$3000 and the final cost came in around \$2460. Jayne said that part of the workshop had the participants identify an area that they regularly salt and record how much salt they historically spread in these areas. Then after the workshop they calculated how much salt was recommended to be used and the results were dramatic. Jayne gave some examples from the participants in one case they were using 800 lbs. and should have used 117 lbs., in another case they were using 9000 lbs. and the recommend use is 420 lbs. in another case they were using 200 lbs. and the recommended use was 23 lbs. In all Jayne sited 6 examples all

showing great reductions in salt usage. In the 6 cases cited there was a savings of 7945 lbs. Jayne said that the workshop was money well spent. Tom Slawski pointed out that SEWRPC has started a regional chloride study. They have one monitoring site going on an experimental basis to measure water conductivity and chloride levels. SEWRPC is gearing up to monitor 40 sites throughout the region. They will be looking for detailed concentration changes.

- i) Birch Lane Shoreline Protection Project: Chad Sampson said that the project has not been completed. He said he had a contractor all lined up but then the contractor had to take care of some other obligations and so did not get started. Chad said that he has concerns about the stabilization of the site due to the steepness of the property and so would recommend waiting till spring to do the work.

### **New Business**

- a) Consideration of developing a USEPA 9-Key Elements Watershed Management Plan – Dean Falkner said that this has been a learning process for the subcommittee. They are perusing the plan to possibly get additional state and federal funding for the commission. The subcommittee decided this week to go after points 1 and 2 of the plan to identify sources of phosphorus and sediment and means of source reduction. Dean said that they are working with County Land Management group to pull information together to possibly accomplish other points of the 9-Key elements plan. The intent here is to take advantage of the work that has been already done by other groups. Dean said that the WDNR will help with load reduction capabilities. Dean pointed out that Sara DeBruijn made them realize that they and SEWFRC cannot apply for nonpoint source pollution grants because we are not a physical entity but the counties and municipalities can apply for us. Dean said that Andrew Craig was extremely helpful in identifying what they can and cannot do. Andrew suggested doing a smaller area like a HUC-12 area instead of the entire Fox River Watershed. Dean said the federal 319 funds cannot be used for dredging but if the dredging is done for habitat improvement then the 318 funds can be used. Dean said that if we get funded this year we might be able to pay someone from the outside to help develop the 9-Key elements plan.
- b) Consideration of expanding our jurisdiction west to include Mukwonago River Watershed: Jim Pindel stated that we have already decided to fund Tom Day's survey work with non-grant funds and so there is really no need for us to expand our area of jurisdiction. With the fact that we are still not sure of getting any funding, we decided to drop this item from the agenda in the future unless Tom Day or someone else brings it up again.

### **Reports and Updates**

- a) Report on activities of Fox Waterway Agency (FWA) of Illinois – Jeff Lang was not present and Tom Slawski said he has not heard anything so we moved on. Dean Falkner pointed out that we expanded south to the Illinois border partly to apply with the FWA for federal grant funds, so we should get communication going with them to see if a joint effort to get federal funding is possible.
- b) Possible diversion of City of Waukesha water treatment plant discharge away from the Fox River: No one had anything to report.
- c) Progress toward designation as a “National Water Trail” – Village of Waterford. Fred Koeller said that there are only a few miles of river that still needs to be charted for data. Accomplishing this task would be a large step toward getting the designation. Fred said that there are 10 visitor bureaus along the Fox River and that they have all committed to help finance marketing of the water trail. Fred said that there will be the largest canoe and kayaking convention in Madison coming up soon. There will be people coming from all over the world to talk about their fabulous water trails. Fred said that the domain name “fabulousfoxwatertrail” has been purchased for both .com and .org versions. Their group is looking for ways of utilizing the resources of statewide outdoor recreation plan of the WDNR. Fred said that they received a resolution of support from Rochester for the water trail. Tom Slawski said that the Fox River Partnership applied for a river planning grant, the grant application had to be in by December 10<sup>th</sup> and the Village of Waterford agreed to pay the 10% cost share required. This grant will pay for all the digital tools required to make it a water trail. This is a competitive grant and so they do not know if they will get it. They will know if they get the grant by mid-February.
- d) SEWFRC Website – Al Sikora was not present and no one had any comments.

### **Correspondence** –

- a. 10/29/17 Email from Jim Pindel to Representative Wichgers explaining that we want the in district meeting to be held in December of this year.
- b. 10/30/17 Email from Jim Pindel to Representative Wichgers showing History of grants given to SEWFRC
- c. 10/30/17 Email from Jim Pindel to mark your calendars for today’s meeting
- d. 10/30/17 Forward of an email sent from Andy Buehler to Representative Wichgers asking why we didn’t receive funding in the last state budget and asking who received the funds we didn’t receive from the RBA.
- e. 11/22/17 Forward of correspondence between Dean Falkner and Sara DeBruijn regarding how do we get our funding request submitted before state budget submittals.

**Miscellaneous Issues** – There were no miscellaneous issues

It was motioned by Alan Barrows to close the meeting and seconded by Francis Stadler to end the meeting and the motion carried unanimously.

**Meeting Closed** at 2:12 PM

**THE NEXT OFFICIAL MEETING WILL BE Friday,  
January 12, 2018 at 1:00 PM.** (Meeting Location: Town of  
Vernon Fire Station #1, W233 S7475 Woodland Lane, Big Bend,  
WI 53103.)