

**Commission members present:**

Katelyn Bratz (Town of Mukwonago) (Chairperson)  
Andy Buehler (Kenosha County)  
Alan Barrows (Waukesha County) (Vice Chairman)  
Jon Grove (Racine County)  
Doug Koehler (City of Waukesha)  
Fred Koeller (Village of Waterford)  
Lee Manthey (Town of Vernon)  
Wayne Jensen (Village of Rochester) (Treasurer)  
Wayne Castle (Village of Mukwonago)  
Jeff Lang (Town of Burlington)  
Donny Hefty (City of Burlington)  
Larry Long (Village of Big Bend)  
Bill Hopkins (Village of Salem Lakes)  
Rachel Sabre (Wisconsin DNR)  
Tom Slawski (SEWRPC)  
Jim Pindel (Town of Waterford) (Secretary)

**Commission members absent:**

Andrew Lois (Town of Wheatland)  
Ken Miller (Town of Waukesha)

**Also present:** Grant Horn of the WWMD and Mark Jenks of Kenosha County.

At 1:01 PM, Chairperson Katelyn Bratz called the SEWFRC meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Roll call was taken and a quorum was confirmed.

- 1) **Minutes** The minutes from the December 11, 2020 meeting were reviewed. Jeff Lang pointed out that in the discussion concerning shoreline restoration projects the minutes listed eminent threat sites, Jeff thought that it should read imminent threat sites, checking with Tom Slawski who agreed, Jim Pindel said he will make the correction. It was motioned by Jeff Lang that the minutes be approved as corrected and the motion was seconded by Donny Hefty. The minutes were approved unanimously.
- 2) **Treasurer Reports** – Jim Pindel reviewed the December 2020, treasurer’s report. We started the month with \$215,794.57 in our Money Market Account. The only changes to the report were the \$9000 payment to close out the Knollcrest project and the \$23.06 of interest we made. This brought the money market account to \$206,817.63. The non-grant income came to \$30,267.89. There were no changes on the grant funds page. Jim Pindel pointed out to Jon Grove who is taking Chad Sampson’s place today that he still needs proof of complete payment for the Gordon Shores shoreline restoration project. Jon said that they were trying to get

it from the property owner. It was motioned by Doug Koehler that the Treasurer's Report be accepted and seconded by Andy Buehler that the treasurer's reports be approved and the motion carried unanimously.

- 3) **Election of Officers for 2020 – 2021 fiscal year.** Still Looking for a volunteer for Secretary. Katelyn asked if anyone wanted to take this position and no one volunteered. Katelyn said that we will take it up again at our next meeting.
- 4) **Old Business**
  - a) **Fox River Partnership 2021 Summit:** Tom Slawski: Tom Slawski displayed a draft copy of the agenda for the Summit. It showed a short panel discussion at 8:00 AM followed by a break and then the start of the real summit at 9:00 AM with an introduction and the first keynote speaker. There will be short breaks between sessions ending with a breakout time when attendees will chose between four topics like recreation, water quality, soil health and game & fish. After the breakout session the attendees will all come back together and each session will make a report on what they discussed and any decisions made. This is exactly what was done in person at the last Summit at Veterans Terrace. Tom said the program is about 95% complete. Tom reminded everyone that the Summit is on March 11<sup>th</sup> which is the Thursday of the overall Water Week webinar. Tom said he will work with Jim Pindel to put together a slide that will portray what the SEWFRC is all about. Although we allocated \$5,500 for the Summit, Tom said we will only have to provide \$150 if we choose to be a sponsor. Jim Pindel made a motion that we provide the \$150 for sponsorship and the \$20 attendance fee for any commissioners or alternate commissioners who attend. In addition Jim added that we would invite Representative Chuck Wichgers and Senator Julian Bradley and reimburse them the attendance fee. The motion was seconded by Bill Hopkins and was approved unanimously. Tom Slawski pointed out that we can pay the \$150 through a PayPal link charging it to our credit card. Tom said he would forward a link to Jim Pindel to help get this done.
  - b) **SEWRPC Survey for Waterford Dam to the Illinois Border** – Tom Slawski said that they are making enhancements and improvements to the erosion site locations. Tom put up a screen that showed one of the erosion sites near a bridge along CHW F. The screen showed the Fox River the highway, bridge and superimposed with the river depth details. This data was obtained by Tom when he did the sideways sonar scan of the river when he did the SEWRPC survey. Tom said that they are on track to get the report finished in the next couple weeks.
  - c) **Oakwood Shores Park Streambank Stabilization Project** – Andy Buehler. Andy Buehler asked Mark Jenks to make a report on how the project was completed. Mark said that the work was done in just a few days at the beginning of November and the contractor had no issues. Mark said everyone is pleased with the outcome. Earlier Andy Buehler asked if Jim Pindel had

received a request to pay the final payment. Jim Pindel reported that he had sent the check and that he received an email from the Town of Wheatland thanking us for the payment. Jim Pindel asked if they had placed one of our signs indicating that we helped fund the work at this location. Mark said that he was not aware of the fact that we had such signs. Alan Barrows told Mark and Andy that he and Chad Sampson have signs and that he would provide a box of signs for Kenosha County. There are two sizes of signs 8x10" and 10x20". Alan said he would give the signs to Mark's wife Jane to give to him.

- d) John Kojis Farm Field gully repair project: Chad Sampson Jon Grove was in attendance as Chad's alternate and said that Chad said that the work could have been done this last fall, but the farmer had corn in this field and didn't want them to destroy his crop with the construction. Jon said they expect to do the project early next spring.
- e) Report on the Fox River Park Project: Alan Barrows. Alan Barrows said that as he reported previously the Village of Mukwonago has expressed interest in partnering with the County on this project. So they have been working on developing an intergovernmental agreement. Alan said the agreement is about ready for signing. Alan said that now that we are in the cold weather time they are working on agreements and permits.
- f) Small-Scale Dewatering Test Engineering – WWMD. Grant Horn said that they are in the process of doing a review of the project by an independent engineering group, to see if they should continue with it or take some alternate way. Grant said that the review should be done in the next week and he will report on it at our next meeting.
- g) Small Scale Dewatering Test: Grant Horn said that fate of this project will be decided based on the engineering review that is now in process.
- h) Zanella Shoreline Restoration Project: Chad Sampson. Jon Grove said that he expects to do this project this year. Originally they thought that it would be pushed off until 2022, but the property owner has come up with his 50% cost share and wants it done as soon as possible.
- i) Reidy Shoreline Restoration Project: Chad Sampson. Jon Grove said that they expect to do this project this year and that it will come in under budget, so we will not have to provide the entire \$9000 we allocated for it.
- j) White Oak Lane Shoreline Restoration Project: Chad Sampson. Jon Grove said that this project is completed. Jon asked Jim Pindel if he needed anything for this project and Jim said he didn't think so.
- k) ER31 Streambank Erosion Site – Waterford Landing HOA: Fred Koeller & Chad Sampson. Fred Koeller said that they completed 195 feet of shoreline restoration

along this site. This covered the most dire needed areas along the shoreline. Fred thanked the commission for their funding and special thanks to Jon Grove for all the time he spent on site monitoring the work. The cribbing that Paul Peters did went very well. Fred said that they are looking forward to next spring to do additional work. They planted seed and covered it with a mat just before the snow came down. Some of the work they will do in spring is some jibbing and extending a pipe all the way to the river. Fred said that the project looks fantastic. Tom Slawski asked if Fred or Jon could provide photos and some design details that he can showcase in his report and remove it from the list of 41 sites that need repair. Fred said that he will get together with Jon and get something to Tom.

### **New Business**

- a) Discussion concerning Acceptance Criteria for Shoreline Restoration Projects:  
Jim Pindel provided a motion at our last meeting that is copied here, so we can consider it:

I motion that we restrict privately owned residential Shoreline Restorations as follows:

We would provide up to 90% cost share to a maximum limit of \$9,000.

We have an annual limit on privately owned residential shoreline restorations of \$50,000 per year.

We give preferential treatment to imminent threat erosion sites as identified in the SEWRPC survey authored by Tom Slawski.

Tom Slawski pointed out that the preferential treatment should not be limited to imminent threat erosion sites because most of them are associated with some infrastructure like a roadway or bridge which need to be addressed by the appropriate municipality or highway department and are probably larger in scale than we want to address. Tom suggests that we add warning sites to the preferential treatment category since they would tend to be ones that would fall on us to take care of. Andy Buehler asked if the warning site were all privately owned residential properties and Tom responded that it was a mix of private and public sites. The question came up about whether we would have been able to fund the HOA project we just finished if we applied the above criteria. Fred Koeller pointed out that there is a public walkway along this shoreline which is used by many people not part of the HOA, so for all intents purposes it is not privately owned residential shoreline. Wayne Jensen commented that if instead of the 90% to 10% cost share split we went to a 50% to 50% split; we could do more projects per year within our \$50,000 annual limit. After some discussion it became apparent that a two tiered cost share split should be considered. Andy Buehler suggested that we have a different cost share split for imminent threat and warning sites than for watch sites. Jeff Lang asked if we knew what would have happened to a number of projects we accomplished over the last few years if we applied these new criteria. Jim Pindel said that he thought we should ask Chad Sampson this question because he was personally involved in most of these projects. Jon Grove said that he thought that most of them would not have

happened at a 50% split. Jon said he would discuss this issue with Chad Sampson and see what kind of split might be appropriate. Jim Pindel volunteered to rewrite the motion and circulate it before our next meeting. At this point Jim Pindel motioned that we table this issue until our next meeting and the motion was seconded by Jeff Lang we decided to table this issue until our next meeting.

**2021 – 2030 SEWFRC Implementation Plan;** Alan Barrows Alan said that Tom Slawski found old original word document files of the plan at SEWRPC and provided them to Alan. Alan said he has all of the chapters data and appendixes but has not started to work on them. Alan asked Tom Slawski if there was anything that we had to do to get SEWRPC to help with the updating of the implementation plan. Jim Pindel pointed out that we made that request to Tom Slawski two meetings ago. Tom said it would be helpful if we formally requested assistance from the executive director of SEWRPC Kevin Huhs. Katelyn Bratz said she had notes that stated that the things we wanted to include were soil health, cover crops, no till farming, changing the fiscal year to July 1 to June 30 of the next year, no effective end dates, adding the project acceptance criteria, project completion sign off and the addition of the new members in Kenosha County. Katelyn asked if we were planning on just adding an addendum to the plan or rewriting the body of the plan and Alan said we will modify the plan itself. Katelyn said she has time to work on this update right now, so if someone can tell her what she could do, she is willing to work on it.

#### Reports and Updates

- a) Report on activities of Fox Waterway Agency (FWA) of Illinois – Jeff Lang pointed out that he has not attended any of their meetings since the one he reported on the last time. Therefore no report was made.
- b) Possible diversion of City of Waukesha water treatment plant discharge away from the Fox River: Alan Barrows said that there is some work being done on the return flow pipeline. Also there are some lawsuits in process.
- c) SEWFRC Website –Alan Barrows. Alan said that he has not done anything on the website recently, but did ask for photos and short write ups on any current or completed projects.

#### Correspondence –

- a. 12/11/2020 Forward of an email from Barb Holtz concerning cleaning up the Milwaukee River.
- b. 12/12/2020 Forward of an email from Tom Slawski to mark your calendars for the 20201 Summit
- c. 12/16/2020 Email from Jim Pindel asking you to mark your calendars for today's meeting.
- d. 1/14/2021 Forward of an email from Chad Sampson with attached brochure for the Watershed Protection Committee's Winter Workshop.

- e. 1/18/2021 Email from Jim Pindel to Representative Chuck Wichgers, thanking him for arranging the meet with him and Senator Bradley.
- f. 1/18/2021 Email from Jim Pindel to all commissioners asking for input concerning how much money we should ask for in the Emergency Bill for the SEWFRC.
- g. 2/2/2021 Forward of an email from Tom Slawski concerning the commission be a sponsor to the upcoming summit for \$150.
- h. 2/5/2021 Forward of an email from Tom Slawski with the attached Lake Tide Newsletter.

**Miscellaneous Issues-**

Alan Barrows said that he was asked by Jane Jenks if we could possibly help fund another salt workshop, and Jim Pindel said that we probably could from non-grant funds.

Jon Grove stated that the Racine County watershed protection committee is having their winter workshop next Friday and today is that deadline for signing up.

It was motioned by Bill Hopkins that the meeting be closed and the motion was seconded by Jeff Lang. The motion passed unanimously.

**Meeting Closed** at 2:18 PM

**THE NEXT OFFICIAL MEETING WILL BE Friday  
April 30, 2021 at 1:00 PM.** Meeting Location: This will be a  
Zoom virtual meeting.

**Commission members present:**

Katelyn Bratz (Town of Mukwonago) (Chairperson)  
Andy Buehler (Kenosha County)  
Jon Grove (Racine County)  
Doug Koehler (City of Waukesha)  
Fred Koeller (Village of Waterford)  
Lee Manthey (Town of Vernon)  
Wayne Jensen (Village of Rochester) (Treasurer)  
Wayne Castle (Village of Mukwonago)  
Jeff Lang (Town of Burlington)  
Donny Hefty (City of Burlington)  
Larry Long (Village of Big Bend)  
Bill Hopkins (Village of Salem Lakes)  
Tom Slawski (SEWRPC)  
Jim Pindel (Town of Waterford) (Secretary)

**Commission members absent:**

Alan Barrows (Waukesha County) (Vice Chairman)  
Rachel Sabre (Wisconsin DNR)  
Andrew Lois (Town of Wheatland)  
Ken Miller (Town of Waukesha)

**Also present:** Greg Horeth and Grant Horn of the WWMD, Mark Jenks of Kenosha County, Russ Egan of the Town of Burlington and Representative Chuck Wichgers.

**This was a virtual zoom meeting.**

At 1:05 PM, Chairperson Katelyn Bratz called the SEWFRC meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Roll call was taken and a quorum was confirmed. Jim Pindel pointed out that when he called around to make sure we have quorum, he called Andrew Lois who said he is quitting the commission and is unhappy with us. Jim asked if the Town of Wheatland would appoint a replacement and Andrew said he didn't know. Jim said he will try to contact the Town and get them to assign someone else.

- 1) **Minutes** The minutes from the February 5, 2021 meeting were reviewed. It was motioned by Donny Hefty that the minutes be approved and the motion was seconded by Bill Hopkins. The minutes were approved unanimously.
  
- 2) **Treasurer Reports** – Jim Pindel reviewed the January, February and March 2021 treasurer's reports. We started the month of January with \$206,817.63 in our money market account. We made payments of \$16,000 and \$11,000 for the Waterford Landing HOA project and \$33,595.60 for the Oakwood Shores project. We made \$16.83 in interest leaving us with a balance of \$146,238.86 in our money market account. In the grant funds page the 2021 Summit was reduced from \$5500 to \$0.0 because the summit when virtual. The only change in the

February report was the addition of \$11.22 in interest. In the March report we paid out \$150 from our money market account from non-grant funds and made \$11.33 in interest leaving us with \$146,111.41 in our money market account. It was motioned by Donny Hefty that the Treasurer's Reports be accepted and seconded by Larry Long that the treasurer's reports be approved and the motion carried unanimously.

- 3) **Still looking for a volunteer for Secretary.** Jim Pindel made a point of saying that the meeting minutes may not have to be as detailed as he makes them, possibly they could just list decisions made and questions to be answered. The feeling of the group was that they liked the details recorded.
- 4) **Old Business**
  - a) Fox River Partnership 2021 Summit: Tom Slawski: Tom Slawski said that all the talks from the 2021 summit are now on 'you tube' and can be accessed from the UW extension website. Tom said he will send a link UW extension website to Jim Pindel who will forward it to everyone else. Tom said that hoping that the 2022 Summit can be in person it is scheduled for 3/17/22. As always Tom is looking for speakers and topics and hoping for suggestions from the group.
  - b) SEWRPC Survey for Waterford Dam to the Illinois Border – Tom Slawski said that he is working with the counties trying to establish costs for the different sites he has identified. He is still working on the preliminary draft of the report.
  - c) Oakwood Shores Park Streambank Stabilization Project – Andy Buehler. Andy Buehler asked Mark Jenks to make a report on how the project was going. Mark said that the work was done and that he checked on the site this spring and it looked good, all the rocks were still in place.
  - d) John Kojis Farm Field gully repair project: Chad Sampson Jon Grove was in attendance as Chad's alternate and said that the project is expected to get started in the next month. He has been working with the contractors and it is very close to construction.
  - e) Report on the Fox River Park Project: Alan Barrows. Alan Barrows was not present and so no report was made.
  - f) Small-Scale Dewatering Test Engineering – WWMD. Grant Horn said that the project is now on hold and he needs to talk to Jim Pindel after the meeting to see what he needs to do to get the reimbursement. Grant did say that the project is well below budget.
  - g) Small Scale Dewatering Test: Grant Horn said that this project is on hold.

- h) Zanella Shoreline Restoration Project: Chad Sampson. Jon Grove said that he expects the project to start very soon and that the rock should be delivered within the next week.
- i) Reidy Shoreline Restoration Project: Chad Sampson. Jon Grove said that they are still soliciting bids and have been holding conference call with the land owner and contractors.
- j) White Oak Lane Shoreline Restoration Project: Chad Sampson. Jon Grove said that this project is completed. Jim Pindel said he will take this project off of the agenda but still track it as an active project in the treasurer's reports until it is accepted by the WDNR.
- k) ER31 Streambank Erosion Site – Waterford Landing HOA: Fred Koeller & Chad Sampson. Fred Koeller said that they started the project back in December and they decided to do it in winter so the soft soil would freeze helping them. Fred said that Paul Peters was out at the site recently and said the rock had stayed in place. Fred said the project is complete and thanked the county people for their help and attention. He said that someone was on site almost every day.

### **New Business**

- a) Discussion concerning Acceptance Criteria for Shoreline Restoration Projects: Jim Pindel provided a motion at our last meeting that is copied here, so we can consider it: [I motion that we restrict privately owned residential Shoreline Restorations as follows:](#)  
[We would provide up to 90% cost share to a maximum limit of \\$9,000.](#)  
[We have an annual limit on privately owned residential shoreline restorations of \\$50,000 per year.](#)  
[We give preferential treatment to imminent threat erosion sites as identified in the SEWRPC survey authored by Tom Slawski.](#)

Katelyn Bratz read the motion for the group. Doug Koehler asked if we should change the annual limit from \$50,000 to some multiple of \$9000. Jon Grove pointed out that most projects don't come out to exactly \$9000. So we dropped this change. Jim Pindel asked if we should consider an 80% - 20% cost share to not make it too expensive for the landowner and still give us more money to do more projects. Jon Grove it would be prohibitive on larger projects and the consensus was to not go this route. Katelyn Bratz asked if we would allow exceptions to this rule in certain circumstances and Jim said the commission has always been willing to make exceptions for special cases. Tom Slawski said that the WDNR's Pond and Lake Grants have been extended to include shorelines and was wondering if we could leverage these funds. Tom said it is not clear what grants we can apply for without double dipping and that he has asked the WDNR to clarify this point. Jim Pindel said that this is another case where we need some legal interpretation and we don't

have that person to go to. Jim also said that now that our grant funds do not come through the RBF, maybe we can use our funds with other state grant funds.

- b) **Schultz Shoreline Protection Project Presentation.** Jon Grove made a Power Point presentation. The first slide showed the location of the property, which is at the entrance into Tichigan Lake on the south end. A zoomed in slide of the property showed that it involves 245' of shoreline. Jon then showed several slides that showed the condition of the shoreline which appears to need armoring to prevent further erosion. One particular slide showed a string along the edge of the property which showed how much of the property eroded away in the last year which appears to be about 1 foot. The project amounts to excavating 245' of shoreline and placing rock riprap and removal of dead, diseased, fallen or undesirable trees. Planting native plants above the riprap and lawn grasses around the pier and high traffic areas. Finally doing mulch and erosion control. The estimated total cost of the project is \$40,000 and if we limit our contribution to \$9000 would require the property owner to come up with the additional \$31,000. Jon said that they have received one bid and it came in at \$34,500, which is less than the initial estimate. Jon said that the landowner said he would not do the project if we only contributed \$9000. Tom Slawski asked if the owner would be willing to not cut the grass all the way up to the shoreline and Jon said he was willing to leave the area near the edge of the shoreline uncut so that the vegetation would discourage the ducks and geese from coming up and eating the vegetation. Jon asked if this might be one of the sites identified in the SEWRPC survey and Tom said there are none on the Tichigan Lake. Fred Koeller pointed out that there is considerable wave action from boat traffic on this shoreline which is at the entrance and exit point for getting into and out of Tichigan Lake. Jon agreed that there was considerable boat wave action adding to the erosion. Fred said that they have found out that just running strings along the shoreline stops the geese from crawling up the shore. Wayne Castle asked if we should consider a lesser cost share percentage for costs over the proposed \$9000 limit. This would allow us to provide some relief for the landowner and still not put too much money into just one project. Jon said that they were considering other options like doing the job in phases. Katelyn Bratz asked if the landowner indicated a \$9000 contribution would not be enough for him to do the project, do we know how much he would be willing to spend. Jon said they didn't ask that question and so he doesn't know. Jon also said that the county has some grant funds available but was afraid that might amount to double dipping. Grant Horn pointed out that this is not the typical cottage owner property and it sold for \$1,300,000 last year. Jim Pindel pointed out that according to our normal practices we will not vote on funding this project until our next meeting and possibly some more information may be available by then.
- c) **Request for funding of "Wisconsin Saltwise Virtual Training" from non-grant funds** Jayne Jenks/Alan Barrows. Jim Pindel said that he received an email

from Jayne Jenks stating that she was looking for \$4000 from our non-grant funds. We have to use non-grant funds because they are getting other state grant funding. Jim asked Mark Jenks if he knew if the funds were needed right now and Mark said that he didn't know. It was decided to wait until our next meeting to vote on approval when hopefully Alan Barrows is present to answer some of our questions. Jim Pindel pointed out that in the past we provided non-grant funding for similar in person training and we probably should fund it again at our next meeting when Alan Barrows is present.

2021 – 2030 SEWFRC Implementation Plan: Alan Barrows Jim Pindel pointed out that if you read the executive summary that Tom Slawski did for the SEWRPC survey it really reads like what we are moving toward as a commission. Jim suggested that we use the summary as the revised implementation plan and provide the existing plan as the legacy section after we modify it to include changes like our expansion. Jim also said that the procedures which have evolved were items Alan Barrows wanted to be added. Jim thought that this would be a much easier way to update our implementation plan than starting all over again. Tom Slawski said that the email Jim Pindel sent to SEWRPC's director resulting in him telling Tom he can work on the implantation plan. Tom said he also agreed with Jim's plan to redo the implementation plan. Tom also said that he was able to find a word document copy of the existing plan and sent it to Katelyn and Alan.

### Reports and Updates

- a) Report on activities of Fox Waterway Agency (FWA) of Illinois – Jeff Lang said that he had nothing to report.
- b) Report on activities of the work being done to obtain Emergency Funding from the State of Wisconsin to obtain federal funding utilizing Foth and RES; Jim Pindel said that he forwarded a copy of the proposal from Foth and RES to all the commissioners and that Tom Slawski responded that he didn't like the reimbursement section which could be interpreted as we have to provide the \$200,000 to Foth and RES. Jim took this concern back the Tom Ludwig of Foth and the reimbursement section was rewritten to state that the \$200,000 would come from a special state grant. Jim then asked Tom Ludwig who will be doing the work to get this special grant and Tom responded that he will be working with Representative Chuck Wichgers at no charge to get this special grant. Jim added that he had talked to Chuck Wichgers who said he has been in contact with Samantha Kerkman another state representative representing Kenosha County. Chuck believes it is important to get her on board because she is part of the leadership of the assembly. Chuck indicated that she would support the request for the \$200,000 grant. Chuck also indicated that the two of them are working on an additional \$400,000 grant for Kenosha County. Jim asked Andy Buehler if he could add anything. Andy said that the cost estimates he provided for the last couple years budgets came from a staff member who is no long with the county and they have no documentation on where the costs came from. Andy said that

they then went to their highway department and asked them to provide estimates for the projects that were listed as imminent threats in the SEWRPC survey and the total cost came up to about \$7,000,000 which is far above anything we can handle. Andy also said he doesn't know where the \$400,000 figure came from. Andy said that he shared this information with both Chuck Wichgers and Samantha Kerkman. Rep. Kerkman has come back to him with some questions a couple times and she will be visiting the sites this coming week with some of the county's staff. Andy Buehler asked why we would sign a contract with Foth and RES right now if nothing is going to be done until we receive the \$200,000 grant which is probably out in the future. The consensus of the group was that we shouldn't sign anything right now and when the funds become available would be the time to sign a contract and possibly it might change by then.

- c) Possible diversion of City of Waukesha water treatment plant discharge away from the Fox River: No one had anything to report.
  
- d) SEWFRC Website –Alan Barrows. No one had any comments but Katelyn Bratz said that the agenda for this meeting was not posting on our website. Jim Pindel said that he copies Al Sikora with the meeting announcement which has the agenda attached. Jim will contact Al to make sure the agendas are posted in the future.

#### **Correspondence** –

- a. 2/5/21 Forward of an email from Tom Slawski with attached Lake Tides Newsletter.
- b. 2/12/21 Forward of an email from Tom Slawski with report on the Waukesha Diversion.
- c. 2/13/21 Email from Jim Pindel asking you to mark your calendars for today's meeting.
- d. 4/29/21 Forward of an email from Tom Slawski with attached picture and newspaper article concerning future of Echo Lake Dam in Burlington.
- e. Jim Pindel will forward the email from Jayne Jenks to everyone so we can vote on accepting it at our next meeting.

#### **Miscellaneous Issues-**

Jeff Lang pointed out that this is the last meeting he will be attending. Now that he is the chairman of the Town of Burlington, he will assign Russ Egan to be the town's commissioner. We thanked Jeff for his participation.

It was motioned by Bill Hopkins and seconded by Fred Koeller that the meeting be closed.

**Meeting Closed** at 2:10 PM

**THE NEXT OFFICIAL MEETING WILL BE Friday**

**June 4, 2021 at 1:00 PM.** Meeting Location: This will be a Zoom virtual meeting.

Time: Jun 4, 2021 01:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://naturesclassroom-ncm.zoom.us/j/97172659661?pwd=WWk1VVFmZGRpNnhQbXNJNnVibStudz09>

Meeting ID: 971 7265 9661

Passcode: 3c1UNn

**Commission members present:**

Katelyn Bratz (Town of Mukwonago) (Chairperson)  
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Fred Koeller (Village of Waterford)  
Lee Manthey (Town of Vernon)  
Wayne Jensen (Village of Rochester) (Treasurer)  
Wayne Castle (Village of Mukwonago)  
Russ Egan (Town of Burlington)  
Donny Hefty (City of Burlington)  
Larry Long (Village of Big Bend)  
Bill Hopkins (Village of Salem Lakes)  
Tom Slawski (SEWRPC)  
Jim Pindel (Town of Waterford) (Secretary)

**Commission members absent:**

Rachel Sabre (Wisconsin DNR)  
Ken Miller (Town of Waukesha)

Also present: Mark Jenks of Kenosha County.

**This was a virtual zoom meeting.**

At 1:00 PM, Chairperson Katelyn Bratz called the SEWFRC meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Roll call was taken and a quorum was confirmed.

- 1) **Minutes** The minutes from the April 30, 2021 meeting were reviewed. It was motioned by Donny Hefty that the minutes be approved and the motion was seconded by Doug Koehler. The minutes were approved unanimously.
- 2) **Treasurer Reports** – Jim Pindel reviewed the April and May 2021 treasurer's reports. We started the month of April with \$146,111.41 in our money market account. We made \$9.05 in interest leaving us with a balance of \$146,120.46 in our money market account. In the grant funds page there were no changes. In the May report we paid out \$129.95 from our money market account from non-grant funds for our website hosting and made \$8.68 in interest leaving us with \$145,999.19 in our money market account. It was motioned by Alan Barrows that the Treasurer's Reports be accepted and seconded by Chad Sampson that the treasurer's reports be approved and the motion carried unanimously.
- 3) **Still looking for a volunteer for Secretary.** Jim Pindel added to the agenda that this will be the last meeting he will record the minutes for. Jim then made the suggestion that someone take the official job of Secretary taking care of

generating the agendas, notifying everyone with meeting announcements and distributing correspondence. Then let everyone take turns at doing the meeting minutes. Tom Slawski asked if he as an ex officio member could serve as Secretary. Jim responded that he didn't know of any reason that he couldn't serve as Secretary. Tom said that he would have to check with his director to see if he could take on this responsibility. Katelyn Bratz said that she would be willing to help out with the Secretary tasks including doing the meeting minutes. The commissioners agreed to share the responsibility for minutes taking and Katelyn said she would do the minutes for the next meeting.

**4) Old Business**

- a) Fox River Partnership 2022 Summit: Tom Slawski: Tom Slawski said that with everything starting to open up in the post covid 19 era, he expects to have the Summit in person at the Veterans Terrace on 3/17/22. Tom said that the UW extension is planning an entirely different meeting for 2022 that would not serve our needs. So he is going ahead and planning for an in person meeting similar to what we used to do.
- b) SEWRPC Survey for Waterford Dam to the Illinois Border – Tom Slawski said that they are working on the final draft and expect to have it done by our next meeting.
- c) John Kojis Farm Field gully repair project: Chad Sampson Chad said that the project has not started yet. Chad said that he talked to the contractor who said he will be starting on the project soon and expects that it will be completed before our next meeting.
- d) Report on the Fox River Park Project: Alan Barrows. Alan Barrows said that the project amounts to 305' of river bank stabilization, a boat/kayak/canoe launch and a fishing deck. Alan said that they have a completed plan for the shoreline restoration and a design for the fishing deck. Alan said that they estimated the engineering to cost about \$5000 but it has come out to be closer to \$20,000. Because the park is in a flood plain the structures have to be very robust and consequently expensive. So right now they are working on cost estimates. The project that was originally estimated to cost about \$90,000 now looks to be about double that amount. Because the project is now over \$100,000 they have to go through a different approval process for the county. The county board will have to vote on and approve the cost. Alan said he is looking for different funding sources for different parts of the project with the Village of Mukwonago providing some funds toward the shoreline restoration. Alan pointed out that because the scope of the project has grown so much, the county will not be looking for reimbursement from the commission until sometime in 2022. This will get us past the deficit that we have in our grant funds. Alan said that they are very enthusiastic about this project and it will be an integral part of the water trail. Jim Pindel pointed out that it would be beneficial for us if the payments were held

- off until after July 1, 2022. Alan said that the major portion of the \$82,000 would likely be that late, but because they have already incurred some engineering expenses he will likely look for some smaller partial payments before that time.
- e) Small-Scale Dewatering Test Engineering – WWMD. No one from the WWMD was present and so no report was made.
  - f) Small Scale Dewatering Test: No one from the WWMD was present and so no report was made. At the last meeting Grant Horn said that this project is on hold.
  - g) Zanella Shoreline Restoration Project: Chad Sampson. Chad said that this project has a threatened and endangered species time line requirement. They missed their spring timeline window and now have to wait until after August 1<sup>st</sup> to start. Chad said that the contractor said he will get it done in August.
  - h) Reidy Shoreline Restoration Project: Chad Sampson. Chad said he talked to Pam Reidy and she said that the cost estimates from the different contractors have come in higher than expected. Chad pointed out that the portion of the shoreline we were going to cost share on is about 50% of the shoreline. Chad said that she is now in the process of getting other and hopefully less expensive bids.
  - i) ER31 Streambank Erosion Site – Waterford Landing HOA: Fred Koeller & Chad Sampson. Fred Koeller said that the project is complete and looks very good with some vegetation growing in. Fred said that the HOA has purchase some native vegetation and will plant it to make the area more native and natural. Jim Pindel said he will take this item off of the agenda and will continue to track it in the treasurer's report. Katelyn Bratz asked Fred if he could provide before and after pictures for our website. The question then came up about putting up some of our signs giving the commission some credit for supporting this project and it was decided to install signs facing the water and facing the walkway.

### **New Business**

- a) Discussion concerning Acceptance Criteria for Shoreline Restoration Projects: Jim Pindel provided a motion at our last meeting that is copied here, so we can consider it: [I motion that we restrict privately owned residential Shoreline Restorations as follows:](#)
  - [We would provide up to 90% cost share to a maximum limit of \\$9,000.](#)
  - [We have an annual limit on privately owned residential shoreline restorations of \\$50,000 per year.](#)
  - [We give preferential treatment to imminent threat erosion sites as identified in the SEWRPC survey authored by Tom Slawski.](#)

Katelyn Bratz read the motion for the group. Chad Sampson commented that he liked the motion and then seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Katelyn then asked how will we get this new restriction out to the public. Jim Pindel said that it should be added to the website page titled

how to apply for a project, which should read how to apply for project funding. Katelyn then asked if it should appear on the project acceptance criteria document. After some discussion Jim agreed that this was the best place to list these criteria, since this is the document that we go through when deciding to fund a project or not. Jim said he would add it as a footnote and change item #3 from “does the proposed project assist in a local decision-making or formation of a strategy to protect the Fox River ecosystem.” To “Is the proposed project listed on the SEWRPC survey as an imminent threat or a warning categories, or should it be.”

- b) **Schultz Shoreline Protection Project Presentation.** Chad Sampson said that Jon Grove did the presentation for this project at our last meeting. The project amounts to 245’ of shoreline restoration with other portions of the shoreline either already rock ripped or not in need of restoration. Chad said that when he talked to Don Schultz about the restriction we voted to implement earlier in this meeting, he asked if he could do the project in two phases thus getting the \$9000 contribution from the commission twice. Chad said that he would be looking to do phase 1 this year and phase 2 next year. Chad said the entire project will cost between \$40,000 and \$50,000, so Chad told Don Schultz that he will look for other funding sources. Chad asked if we reviewed the Project Acceptance Criteria for this project at our last meeting. We did not do it at the last meeting so we went through the criteria and it passed with a score of 46 out of a possible 55 points which is greater than the required 28 points. The project also met the criteria of points 1 and 8. Therefore the project passed the criteria. Katelyn Bratz then suggested that we keep track of this and other projects that meet our criteria but don’t vote on funding them until we have the money. After considerable discussion it was decided to add a listing of projects that have made presentations and passed the project acceptance criteria at the end of the grant funds page of the treasurer’s report. Then when we have money we can vote to fund them and prioritize them knowing how many projects at what cost and knowing how much money we have available.
- c) **Request for funding of “Wisconsin Saltwise Virtual Training” from non-grant funds** Jayne Jenks/Alan Barrows. Alan Barrows said that this is a two day workshop with the first day being August 10<sup>th</sup> which concerns road salts and the second session would be on August 24<sup>th</sup> concentrating on parking lots and sidewalks. Alan said that Jayne Jenks is looking for \$4000 from our non-grant funds to support these workshops. Alan added that they would not be looking for funds until August when the expenditures occur. Alan said that Jayne put together a rather detailed description of the workshops which Jim Pindel forwarded to all the commissioners right after our last meeting. Jim Pindel added that in Jayne’s document she points out that chlorides are listed as an emerging item of concern in our current implementation plan. Another point in Jayne’s letter is that a 10 cubic yard truckload of salts is capable of contaminating 8,000,000 gallons of water. Also Jayne pointed out that 99%

of the attendees at the previous workshops listed the workshop as “very valuable”. Katelyn Bratz asked how Jayne will advertise the workshops to make sure they get proper exposure. Alan Barrows said that the workshops would be advertised through the partner’s webpage in Waukesha, Walworth and Kenosha counties and in the Racine County through the partners at ‘roadpikewin’. Jim Pindel asked if people can sign up for the workshop now and Alan said that they will make it available as soon as they get all the required funding. Jim Pindel motioned that we approve \$4000 from non-grant funds to support these workshops and the motion was seconded by Chad Sampson. The motion carried unanimously.

2021 – 2030 SEWFRC Implementation Plan: Alan Barrows Jim Pindel pointed out that at our last meeting he said that we could use the executive summary from the SEWRPC survey report as the new base of the implementation plan because it pretty much spells out the direction we are moving in with regard to soil management and agricultural concerns. Jim said we need to do some work to clean up the existing plan to include the new member municipalities and county and Alan Barrows mentioned that he would be willing to help out with adding in the new forms like the cost share agreement and project acceptance criteria to the plan. Jim also pointed out that he sent a request to the Executive Director of SEWRPC asking that he allow Tom Slawski to work on the new implementation plan. Tom said that he was told he can work on it. Katelyn Bratz said that we should review the forms we are going to include in the updated implementation plan at our next meeting to make sure they are complete and current.

### Reports and Updates

- a) Report on activities of Fox Waterway Agency (FWA) of Illinois – No one from FWA was present and so no report was made.
- b) Report on activities of the work being done to obtain Emergency Funding from the State of Wisconsin to obtain federal funding utilizing Foth and RES; Jim Pindel said that he forwarded an unapproved excerpt from our last meeting minutes to Chuck Wichgers and Tom Ludwig and that they had no problem with our waiting until they obtain the \$200,000 allocation from the state. Andy Buehler said that he had been contacted by the staff of Rep. Kerkman who was working on the language for the request for \$400,000 to address the imminent threat items in the SEWRPC survey. Andy said it will be submitted next week to the legislature for approval.
- c) Possible diversion of City of Waukesha water treatment plant discharge away from the Fox River: No one had any information to share.
- d) Report on the future of the Echo Lake Dam in Burlington: Donny Hefty said that they are out of compliance with the WDNR requirements for this dam. There are two plans in process, one is to eliminate the dam and dredge the lake and the second is to build an entirely new compliant dam. On April 29<sup>th</sup> they had an

engineering firm come in a assess the situation and they said that they would have to dredge 115,000 cubic yards of sediment. It was estimated that in that material there is 502,000 lbs. of legacy phosphorus. Donny said that the removal of the phosphorus would really help their adaptive management plan because they only discharge about 4000 lbs. per year. Right now they are working on where to dispose of the dredged material and the estimated cost of the dredging is about \$2,500,000. Donny pointed out that the White River comes into Echo Lake on its northwest corner and used to follow the shoreline around the lake over to the spillway. Due to the heavy flooding of the last few years this channel has been block and now the flow runs directly to the spillway. Donny said that this is why they are having problems with stagnant water, odor and algae blooms. Donny said that no matter which way the city goes to fix the problem there will have to be some dredging done. Also he mentioned that a new dam structure has to withstand a 500 year flood event.

- e) SEWFRC Website: Al Sikora or Alan Barrows. Alan said that he noticed that the website had been updated to list Katelyn Bratz as the chair. Alan added that if anyone who has finished up a project they should forward before and after pictures to him.

**Correspondence** –

- a. 5/03/21 Email from Jim Pindel to Mark your Calendars for today’s meeting.
- b. 5/03/21 Forward of an email link provided by Tom Slawski to all the presentations from the 2021 Virtual Summit.
- c. 5/03/21 Forward of an email from Jayne Jenks with attached “Training Project description.”

**Miscellaneous Issues-**

There were no miscellaneous issues.

It was motioned by Fred Koeller and seconded by Chad Sampson that the meeting be closed.

**Meeting Closed** at 2:04 PM

**THE NEXT OFFICIAL MEETING WILL BE Friday  
July 30, 2021 at 1:00 PM. Meeting Location: Unknown**

We will determine before 7/30/21 if we will have an in person meeting or another virtual meeting.

**After the meeting Jim Pindel asked the commission to change the date to Thursday 7/29/21.**



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## Southeastern Wisconsin Fox River Commission Meeting Minutes

Friday July 30, 2021 - 1:00 PM

- Katelyn Bratz called the meeting to order, led the pledge of allegiance, took roll call and verified quorum.
- The Audio Recorder was running.
- Approval of minutes from previous meeting held June 4, 2021.
  - a. Donny Hefty- motion to pass minutes as presented
  - b. Larry Long- seconded the motion
  - c. motion passes
- Treasurer's Reports for June 2021,
  - d. Fred Koehler- Motion to pass the report as presented
  - e. Donny Hefty-Seconded the motion
  - f. motion passes

### **Old Business**

- Fox River 2022 Summit – Tom Slawski.
  - reminder that it will be on St. Patrick's Day and looking for topics and speakers.
- SEWRPC Survey from Waterford dam to Illinois border – Tom Slawski
  - continuing to work on the draft of pollutant load assessment
- John Kojis Farm Field gulley repair project – Chad Sampson
  - delayed due to neighboring project, contractor will work on both jointly.
  - Project will hopefully begin the following week.
- Report on Fox River Park Project – Alan Barrows
  - working through design components for the overlook deck. Working on additional grant funding and working with the Village of Mukwonago.
  - Goal of a 2022 Project
- Small-Scale Dewatering Test Engineering - WWMD
  - Closing out the cost for this project prior to Oct 1st.
  - Will not be using the bulk of the money requested.
- Small-Scale Dewatering Test –WWMD
  - altered the project, working on a new plan, 50,000 cubic yard per year project.
  - 2022 project start
  - Did not spend any of the money from this project. \$50,000 from SEWFRC was not utilized.
- Zanella Shoreline Restoration project – Chad Sampson



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- has not started due to threatened and endangered species restrictions. Can start after August. 1st.
- Hopefully complete by the next meeting
- Reidy Shoreline Restoration Project – Chad Sampson
  - conversations with the owners, original estimate came in higher than wanted.
  - Owners are searching for own contractors.
  - Difficult to access, steep, trees, contractors suggested winter access.
  - Bids are around 14,000-15,000.
  - Also has August 1 start time, due to threatened and endangered species

## **2. New Business**

- Review and decide to accept or further modify the Proposed Modifications to the Project Acceptance Criteria for Shoreline Restoration Projects – All
  - Andy Buehler made a motion to accept the changes
  - Larry Long made the second
  - Motion Passes
  - Updated copies of the paperwork will need to be added to the website and the updated Implementation Plan.
- Report on activities of the work being done to obtain Emergency funding from the State of Wisconsin and to obtain Federal Funding utilizing the expertise of Foth and RES.
  - Tom Slawski shared that a copy of contract was sent out earlier in the week for everyone to review
  - We have received \$200,000 from the biennial budget. Which we will pay to Foth and RES to utilize this money to coordinate and apply for grants to expand our financial resources.
  - Andy Buehler is concerned with the scope of services, focused too much on preparing and getting to grants, vs. actual acquisition of grants.
  - Andy Buehler is also concerned with the scope of services, concerned it was not inline with the financial cost. Can we pair it down to the scope of services that we actually need?
  - Tom Slawski explained from his conversations with Chuck Wichgers that this money would leverage more money. This is a bit of an experiment to see how far we can stretch this money.
  - Tom Slawski reviewed the proposed payment due on the contract and outlined the following:
    - We already have MR199, our Implementation Plan
    - Coordinating the stakeholders, we are the stakeholders
    - We do not need a glossy format, we want the grant applications.
    - We want joint project funding between Illinois and Wisconsin.



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- We are already partnering with the following: the farm group, wastewater treatment facilities, WWMD, etc.
- Create a list of 4-10 unique collaborative projects that we wish to fund through the grant process.
- We can email them the Implementation Plan and the structure of the commission.
- Donny Hefty recognized that there is a lot of precursor work before grant application.
- Grant Horn echoed the concerns of the others on the commission and concern for the minimal amount of grant application focus.
- Fred Koeller has worked with grant writers in the past. He stated, you line up what the scope is and where does this culminate? You score the grants on likelihood of success vs. money available. You prioritize where you will allocate your effort.
  - He inquired about FOTH and RES's success rate for grant application.
- Alan Barrows voiced concern about what the grant deliverables were and supports stripping out the items that we do not need.
- Andy Buehler asked, are they clear on our goals, or is the paperwork given to us broad scope suggestion?
- Grant Horn suggests that we as the stakeholder meet directly with the grant writers, for a closer relationship and stronger chance of success.
- Greg Horath, WWMD shared, when we met with FOTH they have an entire department to learn and write the grants. With that in mind we should have more quantifiable information on what we can acquire.
- Wayne Castle asked, Is there value in FOTH and RES giving us more information on their proposal?
- Wayne Jensen asked, who is our negotiating person working with them? What are our proposed projects? We have the need for our documented projects.
  - Katelyn Bratz shared that Jim Pindel had offered to be the point person.
- Tom Slawski suggested we revise the proposal to include more grant applications, including the more complex and joint grant applications, which could open access to larger sums of money.
- Tom Slawski also suggested that all the money be pooled into element 4.
- Katelyn Bratz reviewed the suggestions thus far to give a tangible moving forward point. Suggested that we schedule a meeting to provide deliverables, but redirect most of the funds to element 4.
- Fred Koeller emphasized that we give them the deliverables, but also recognize they may have a small amount to do to modify and direct to specific grants.
- Grant Horn reinforced that they may have small tweaks to make to target specific grants.



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- Greg Horath wanted us to be aware that there is no state funding for dredging. Can lobby the governor, or someone else in Congress, but grants are available and we should not be misled.
- Rachel Sabre was concerned that if we collaborate with Illinois, and grant money is spent in Illinois, will that be detrimental to future funding?
- Tom Slawksi brought the idea of land purchase and collaboration with Land Trusts, is this a potential future avenue? Stewardship Funds?
- Alan Barrows asked about SEWPRC's survey, is there a preliminary draft to move discussions with the project forward.
- Katelyn Bratz made the summary suggestion that moving forward we let FOTH and Res know that we have concerns about the allocation of funding in the proposed contract. The commission believes that many of the items they have allocated money for, we have already obtained. The commission will share with FOTH and Res our Implementation Plan and other documents to help them better understand our organization and the structure, goals, stakeholders, and proposed projects we have already acquired. From there we will have another meeting to discuss how this changes their proposed contract.
  - Wayne Jensen made a motion to approve the action
  - Donny Hefty seconded the motion
  - Motion Passes
- Katelyn Bratz asked about establishing an email address for the SEWFRC which can be accessed by some or all of us? It was suggested that we reach out to Al Sikora.
  - Alan Barrows mad a motion to approved the action
  - Larry Long seconded the motion
  - Motion Passes
- Wayne Jensen asked if we should purchase a mass storage device to transfer and back up our files and data?
  - What is the legal requirement for keeping the recordings?
  - Hard drive storage vs Cloud storage
  - Decided to acquire a hard drive for storage at this time and look into future online storage
    - Alan Barrows made motion to approve the action.
    - Andy Buehler seconded the motion.
    - Motion Passes
- Schultz Shoreline Protection Project – Chad Sampson
  - We had approved the criteria at the previous meeting. We will add this to the waitlist to be reviewed when funding allows.
- 2021 – 2030 SEWFRC Implementation Plan – Tom Slawski & Alan Barrows
  - No Update.

### **3. Reports & Updates**



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- Report on activities of Fox Waterway Agency of Illinois – FWA or Tom Slawski
  - No Report
  - Should talk with them when we proceed with the funding.
- Possible diversion of City of Waukesha water treatment plant discharge away from the Fox River – WDNR
  - Final Approval has gone through. City has started construction.
- Report on future of the Echo Lake Dam in Burlington.
  - No Update
- SEWFRC Website
  - Alan Barrows gave a reminder to submit a description of the project and the before and after photos, along with budget info.
- TMDL- Began monitoring in 2019. EPA contracts have been monitoring through Spring of 2022 for 2 years of water quality data at 13 sites. Covid has limited the outreach.
- Wayne Jensen asked to create a plan and set the date for the public hearing on the budget.
  - Set Public Hearing for October 22nd, in person, 1 pm, Burlington
- Fox River Mussel Monitoring- Kenosha County. Historically 17 species, they found 8 species. Tom Slawski will share future monitoring opportunities.

#### **4. Correspondence**

- 7/13/21 Email from Jim Pindel reporting on discussions with Rep. Wichgers regarding receiving a \$200,000 grant to get Foth and RES to work on getting federal grants for us.
- 7/23/21 Email from Tom Slawski notifying all of us about today's in-person meeting, with appropriate attachments.
- Scott Ochs- Inquiring on a shoreline restoration. Katelyn Bratz Redirected him to Chad Sampson's office.
- Crystal Mertins interested in expanding the current dredging project in Waterford north. Katelyn Bratz relayed that the concerned area was outside of the WWMD's permit. Katelyn directed Crystal to talk with Greg Horath for further information.
- Katelyn Bratz shared an email from Monica Wahlberg, of FOTH, inquiring about our available funds for dredging projects.

#### **5. Miscellaneous Issues**

- Watershed Protection Agency, Thursday, September 9th- Case Eagle Park, will be having demonstrations on runoff and erosion issues. They want to invite all municipalities within Racine County. Have invited 50 elected officials to come see their demonstrations.
- WWMS shared, dredging will move forward on Impoundment, financial support from almost 400 owners. Would like to apply for additional grant funding. Will be applying in 2022.



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- Alan Barrows introduced Marisa Castello; she will be working on conservation projects, etc within the Waukesha Office.
- Rachel Sabre shared of a meeting with stakeholders of USGS, decided that the Illinois River Basin, will have a Next Generation Water observing system installed. Money will be used to add technology to the monitoring of the river.
- Next Meeting will be August 27th, in person, with potential Zoom Sessions to move forward the grant writing process.

**6. Close Meeting.**

- Larry Long motioned to adjourn the meeting
- Andy Buehler seconded the motion.
- Motion Passes



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## Southeastern Wisconsin Fox River Meeting Minutes

Friday August 27, 2021 - 1:00 PM

1. Call meeting to order 1:11 pm, pledge of allegiance, roll call and quorum verified.
2. Approval of minutes from previous meeting held July 30, 2021.
  - a. Fred Koeller made a motion to approved the minutes
  - b. Russ Egan seconded the motion
    - i. Jim Pindel abstained
    - ii. motion passes
3. Treasurer's Reports for July 2021
  - a. Alan Barrows-Waukesha County Aquatic Invasive species- \$3,000 is listed
    - i. That is for the current 3 year agreement
    - ii. Need an invoice for 2021
    - iii. Runs through 2022
  - b. Alan Barrows made a motion to approve the treasurers report
  - c. Fred Koeller seconded the motion
    - i. Motion Passes

### Old Business

- d. Fox River 2022 Summit – Tom Slawski.
  - i. UW-Extension could potentially support with organization and topics
  - ii. Foth and Res could make a presentation- Suggested by Jim Pindel
- e. SEWRPC Survey from Waterford dam to Illinois border – Tom Slawski
  - i. no update
- f. John Kojis Farm Field gulley repair project –Jon Grove
  - i. Began work today
- g. Report on Fox River Park Project – Alan Barrows
  - i. Administrative perspective, when over \$100,000 must go through Capital Budget process. In the budget for 2022. Deck for fishing cost is much higher than proposed. Current estimate is \$300,000. Working on the fiscal aspect of the project.
  - ii. River Commission contribution remains unchanged.
  - iii. Continuing to look for additional funding sources.
- h. Small-Scale Dewatering Test Engineering - WWMD



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- i. Jim Pindel clarified- Engineering is for GRAEF's engineering Test is the dredging and spreading project.
  - ii. Grant Horn has turned in the paperwork for the Engineering Project
  - iii. Project did come in under budget, money may not be transferred to a new project, can only be used for the approved project.
- Grant Horn also shared about an upcoming project.
- iv. Moving this to 2022 due to logistics and dredging restrictions
  - v. working to gather commitments from riparian owners and federal and regional grants
  - vi. Reached out to Foth as well for further resources.

- i. Small-Scale Dewatering Test –WWMD
- j. Zanella Shoreline Restoration project – Jon Grove
  - i. Started on Wednesday
- k. Reidy Shoreline Restoration Project – Jon Grove
  - i. No Updates- Land owner is still working to solicit other bids or modifications to the project.

#### **4. New Business**

- a. Review and decide to accept or further modify the Proposed Modifications to the Project Acceptance Criteria for Shoreline Restoration Projects
  - a. Approved at a previous meeting
  - b. Can remove from Agenda
- b. Report on activities of the work being done to obtain Emergency funding from the State of Wisconsin and to obtain Federal Funding utilizing the expertise of Foth and RES. – Whoever attended the meeting on 8/16/21
  - \* Vote on signing the revised contract by Foth & RES as discussed at the 8/16/21 meeting.
    - a. Andy Beuhler- provided good information and a stronger understanding of the scope of the project. Feels comfortable with the wording of the projects
    - b. Jim Pindel- the money is coming from an ENUM, which means we need identifiable deliverables for the financial process
    - c. Alan Barrows- Foth and Res will be working on the various projects simultaneously, the categories are mainly caps for the various criteria. They provided more clarification for the milestones.
    - d. How do we understand what they are accomplishing as we go through the process?
    - e. Tom Slawksi- It should be a very interactive process



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- i. Element 3- expanded to include an interactive story map. We need a better way to convey information, not necessarily a report. Something more usable than the report, but this is budget dependent. Want to make sure that we are not paying for something that we will never use.
        - f. Focus at the moment is grant completion.
        - g. Alan Barrows- mapping and data elements for sites and prioritization, we would own the information. We can use the overlays to refine and better utilize the information.
        - h. Alan Barrows- 5B in their scope of work. The administration of the grant funds and dollars, who is administering the grants that could come out of the project. Some grants are administrative heavy and we don't have an administrator. Administrative costs need to be identified in advance, so if it can be allocated from the potential grants. Making sure any hidden costs are identified in advance.
        - i. Motion
          - i. Jim Pindel made a motion to approve the contract.
          - ii. Lee Manthey seconded the motion
            - Discussion it is contingent on that acquisition of the \$200,000.
          - iii. Motion Passes
- c. Establish an email address for the SEWFRC which can be accessed by some or all of us?
  - a. No Update
- d. Should we purchase a mass storage device to transfer and back up our files and data?
  - a. Costco had 1 TB storage device on sale.
  - b. Has been purchased
- e. Schultz Shoreline Protection Project – Jon Grove
  - a. no update
- f. 2021 – 2030 SEWFRC Implementation Plan – Tom Slawski & Alan Barrows
  - modifies existing Plan with added addendums?
  - Change fiscal year to Calendar year?
    - Others?
    - a. No Update
- 5. Reports & Updates**
- a. Report on activities of Fox Waterway Agency of Illinois – FWA or Tom Slawski
    - i. No Update
  - b. Report on future of the Echo Lake Dam in Burlington –



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- i. Tom Slawski- forwarded the article. Cannot solve the 500 year flood warning. Working for other alternatives.
  1. Fred Koeller- No one has had a dam approved that did not meet the 500 year flood stage.
- c. Report on Fox River Watershed TMDL progress –
  - i. Alan Barrows- Monitoring work has already been done. TMDL is in the timeframe for closer to 2023. A lot of work to get all the layers of work to integrate together.
- d. SEWFRC Website – Al Sikora or Alan Barrows
  - i. Jim Pindel- if we need to meet the open meetings law. Agenda needs to be posted 2 weeks in advance.
  - ii. copy Al Sikora on minutes, relay message when the minutes have been approved for posting.
- e. Fox Water Trail
  - i. trying to resurrect going for federal waterway designation and is the ultimate goal
  - ii. initiated with that goal in mind
- f. Request of letter of support-Tom Slawski
  - i. from Jacob Breckler- staff engineer at Kapur
  - ii. We have been working on an application for the WDNR Surface Water Grant (Surface Water Restoration specifically), for a project to remove a concrete seawall lining the Fox River in the City of Burlington directly upstream of the confluence with the White and Fox River. The project area is just to the West of Riverside Park, on Congress St. The current wall is in poor condition, and I have attached pictures to show the existing state. The goal is to remove the existing wall, remove impervious surfaces along the wall, continue the curb and gutter from each end of the impervious surface removed to reduce direct runoff from the roadway, and replace it with either a naturalized or armored shoreline (more than likely an armored shoreline to match in-kind with Riverside Park). Instead, runoff through this stretch will drain to inlets along Congress St, and outflow through storm pipes that currently extend out of the seawall. These pipes will be repaired and adjusted so that they match into the proposed natural area. Additionally, we'll be replanting natural seeding within the critical area between the roadway (approx. 15-feet from the shoreline on the shortest edge of the seawall).
    - iii. Motion to write letter
      1. Tom Slawski made the motion to write a letter of support
      2. Fred Koeller seconded the motion
      3. Motion Passes
      4. Tom will send out a draft of the letter once completed.



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## **6. Correspondence**

- a. 8/4/21 Email from Tom Slawski reporting on discussions and actions by the SEWFRC board from the last meeting related to the proposal provided by Foth and RES concerning the \$200,000 grant obtained by Rep. Wichgers.
- b. 8/9/21 Email from Mark O'Leary, RES, with an invitation for a virtual meeting on 8/16 to discuss the \$200,000 grant proposal narrative.
- c. 8/19/21 Tom Slawski forwarded Chad Sampson announcement for the Watershed Protection Committee Field Day on Sept 9, 2021.
- d. 8/23 Treasurer's Report
- e. 8/24 City of Burlington Concrete Removal Project
- f. 8/27 Foth Revised Scope Email
- g. 8/26 Echo Lake Dam Newspaper Article
- h. 8/26 Doug Koeller stepping to alternate
- i. 8/22 Budget Meeting

## **7. Miscellaneous Issues –**

- a. Fred Koeller- The signage on the Waterford Walkway has been well received. Waterway signage is encouraged.
- b. Budget Proposal has been submitted to the papers. We have received 1 proof.
  - i. Kenosha News, Journal Times, Waukesha Freeman
  - ii. Due to be published Oct 1st.
- c. Next Meeting is scheduled for October 22nd, 1 pm.

## **8. Close Meeting.**

- a. Fred Koeller made the motion to adjourn the meeting
- b. Alan Barrows seconded the motion
- c. Motion Passes



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## Southeastern Wisconsin Fox River Commission Meeting Minutes

Friday, October 22, 2021- 1:00 PM

### Public Hearing-

Katelyn Bratz called the public hearing to order at 1:02 pm.

Only order of business is the review of the Southeastern Wisconsin Fox River Commission Proposed Budget for 2021-2022.

This is the fifth budget based on the July 1- June 30th Fiscal year.

For the record the notice of Public Hearing and the Proposed Budget was published in the 3 newspapers, Waukesha Freeman, Racine Journal times, and Kenosha News.

Jim Pindel read the proposed budget for the record.

Alan Barrows asked about the balance carried over on non grant funds, that label was always used on interest earned on previous funds. Jim Pindel said it is the carry over from a previous spreadsheet with an explanation. Alan is questioning the title, not the financial amount. Jim agreed to change the label on future budgets to total balance carried over, not non grant funds. This change will not occur on this budget, but will for future budgets. Alan clarified that it is interest from previous grants, years ago.

Katelyn Bratz asked, "Do any non-commission members have any questions?"

Katelyn Bratz asked a second time, if anyone wanted to speak in favor or against the proposed budget.

Katelyn Bratz asked a third time if anyone wanted to speak in favor or against the proposed budget.

Greg Horeth asked, in the budget has it ever been considered to have a contingency amount, in case something occurs, to have some level of resource? Jim Pindel stated



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we do not have a contingency fund, we have our funds which we have to demonstrate how we spend.

Fred Koeller replied, we have far more projects than funds and a limited window in which to spend the money.

Alan Barrows stated, we do not want it to appear that we are not spending the money. We want to get the funds on the ground, invested in the community. We use the scoring criteria to ensure that we are applying the funds to the highest priority projects.

Greg Horeth clarified a project can be brought to the FRC anytime during the year.

Fred Koeller motioned to close the public hearing.

Russ Egan seconded to close the public hearing.

Motion passes

Meeting closed at 1:16 pm

<b>Commissioners and (alternates)</b>		
<b>Representing</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Attended (yes/no, by phone)</b>
Kenosha County	Andy Buehler	No
Racine County	Chad Sampson (Jon Grove)	Yes
Waukesha County	Alan Barrows (Leif Hauge)	Yes
City of Waukesha	Robin Grams (Doug Koehler)	Yes
Town of Mukwonago	Katelyn Bratz (Barb Holtz)	Yes
Town of Vernon	Lee Manthey	No
Town of Waterford	Jim Pindel (Shelley Tessmer)	Yes
Town of Waukesha	Ken Miller	No
Village of Big Bend	Larry Long	Yes
Village of Mukwonago	Wayne Castle	Yes
Village of Waterford	Fred Koeller (Al Sikora)	Yes
Village of Rochester	Wayne Jensen	Yes
Town of Burlington	Russ Egan	Yes
City of Burlington	Donny Hefty	No
Town of Wheatland	Andrew Lois	No
Village of Salem Lakes	Bill Hopkins	No
SEWRPC	Tom Slawski (non-voting)	No



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WDNR	Sara DeBruijn (non-voting)	No
WDNR	Rachel Sabre (non-voting)	No

<b>Guests</b>	
<b>Representing</b>	<b>Name</b>
WWMD	Greg Horeth
WWMD	Grant Horn

### Southeastern Wisconsin Fox River Commission Meeting

1. Katelyn Bratz called the meeting to order at 1:16 pm
  - a. Led the pledge of allegiance
  - b. Roll call was held
  - c. Quorum verified
2. The Audio Recording is running.
3. Katelyn Bratz asked for the approval of minutes from the previous meeting held August 27, 2021.
  - a. Jim Pindel motioned to approve the meeting minutes.
  - b. Fred Koeller seconded the motion.
  - c. Larry Long abstained as he was absent at previous meeting
  - d. Motion passes
4. Wayne Jensen shared the Treasurer’s Reports for August 27, 2021.
  - a. Russ Egan made a motion to accept the treasurer’s report.
  - b. Alan Barrows seconded the motion.
    - i. motion passes
  - c. Jim Pindel asked to revisit the ENUM part of the treasurer's report
    - i. WWMD small scale dredging project cancelled for 52,000
    - ii. We now have \$17,000 available.
    - iii. Schultz shoreline protection project, approved, but waiting for grant funds to be available.

### Old Business

- d. Fox River 2022 Summit – No update
- e. SEWRPC Survey from Waterford dam to Illinois border – No update
- f. John Kojis Farm Field gully repair project – Chad Sampson
  - i. project is complete
  - ii. grass is growing, looks goods
  - iii. Chad will provide photos



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- iv. needs a paid in full signature from the contractor to submit the paperwork
- v. Requested \$20,000 from commission, came in under budget, only used \$5,000 from our funds.
  
- g. Report on Fox River Park Project – Alan Barrows
  - i. In the county budget as a capital project due to over \$100,000 cost
  - ii. Goes in front of the county board soon.
  - iii. 2022 construction project
- h. Small-Scale Dewatering Test Engineering - WWMD -
- i. Small-Scale Dewatering Test –WWMD
  - i. Grant Horn shared paperwork has been submitted
  - ii. came in under budget. Will remain on budget until we close with the DNR.
- j. Zanella Shoreline Restoration project – Chad Sampson
  - i. Project completed
  - ii. 200 feet of shoreline restored
  - iii. It is the highlight of their neighborhood, many are asking them how it occurred.
  - iv. Chad will provide photos
- k. Reidy Shoreline Restoration Project – Chad Sampson
  - i. Chad is in contact with the owner
  - ii. Access to the shoreline is the issue, cannot access from the road. Causing the bids to be quite high.
  - iii. Has 4-5 bids, bids are between \$13,000-\$20,000. Winter is also an option for the project.
  - iv. No permits have been acquired.

## **5. New Business**

- a. Report on activities of the work being done by Foth and RES.
  - a. Chad Sampson and Jim Pindel had a meeting.
  - b. Will ask for a forewarning of when we will have the meetings to allow the county representatives to attend.
  - c. Will be using a story map instead of a glossy product.
  - d. Foth and Res have asked how we will acquire the money? Jim Pindel reached out to Chuck Wichgers. An aid has redirected us to a DNR contact to work through the finance issues.
  - e. Katelyn Bratz clarified that Foth and Res is moving forward on their work.
  - f. Chad Sampson shared the last minute notice and Foth and Res would like info on as many of our past projects as possible.



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- g. Chad Sampson encouraged them to work with the county reps to understand the projects, and he shared the lengthy list of Racine County projects.
  - h. Chad also expressed interest in them attending the meetings to give a stronger report on their progress.
  - i. Grant Horn asked for a clarification on what resulted from the impromptu meeting.
    - i. Jim and Chad reported that they are looking for resources on our projects and confirming that we want one format for the end project.
    - ii. Tom Slawski also shared an understanding of the information we have already attained at this meeting.
    - iii. Greg Horeth asked to have Foth and RES given the FRC road maps, or set dates for us to hold them accountable for. We might have to push a timeline.
  - j. Jim Pindel clarified we have set up deliverables, which they are working on all at once.
  - k. Alan Barrows stated he did not receive the request from Foth and Res. Alan will follow up on his access.
  - l. Alan met with Tom Slawski earlier and Tom is working on delivering the deliverables.
  - m. Jim Pindel will contact them to have a representative at the meetings, to answer what they are working on, and what they are moving forward into.
  - n. Fred Koeller asked if it would be helpful for the Village of Waterford to reach out to Chuck Wichgers and emphasize our need. Commission confirmed for Fred to reach out.
- b.** Katelyn Bratz shared we have established an email address for the SEWFRC [info@SEWFRC.org](mailto:info@SEWFRC.org)
- a. The new email is up and running as the contact on the website.
  - b. Currently Katelyn Bratz is checking the email and responding to them.
- c.** Schultz Shoreline Protection Project – Chad Sampson
- a. Vote on accepting the project for grant funding.
  - b. Presented the project awhile ago, it was approved, but funding was not available. If we can offer 9,000 dollars, he can move forward with the project. The project would not be able to start until after Aug 1st of next year.
  - c. Jim Pindel clarified that we have \$17,500 available.
  - d. Chad Sampson made a motion to fund the project for \$9,000.
  - e. Alan Barrows seconded the motion.
  - f. The motion passes.
- d.** 2021 – 2030 SEWFRC Implementation Plan – Tom Slawski & Alan Barrows



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- a. Alan Barrows shared that there is no update.
- b. Alan did remind us that we reached out to SEWRPC to help with it. Jim Pindel sent in a request. Tom Slawski was authorized to work on it.
- c. Once we begin, the agenda item will have content for feedback from the commission.

## **6. Reports & Updates**

- a. Report on activities of Fox Waterway Agency of Illinois – FWA or Tom Slawski- No Update
- b. Diversion of City of Waukesha water treatment plant discharge away from the Fox River –
  - i. Alan Barrows stated the county had issued permits for the return flow pipeline.
  - ii. Greg Horeth asked, is there a website about the updates? WWMD is getting a lot of questions about it.
    - Waukesha Water Utility and Public Works might be the best resource.
    - Should also be an environmental impact statement.
    - City of Waukesha has a resource on their website.
    - There are hydrogeologist reports that could give further information on impacts on groundwater levels.
- c. Report on future of the Echo Lake Dam in Burlington
  - i. There was information in the paper, but no update.
- d. Report on Fox River Watershed TMDL progress
  - i. Alan Barrows reported the DNR is still aiming for 2024. The inventory work is done and the planning process is beginning.
- e. Fox River Watershed Mitigation Plan-
  - i. Katelyn Bratz shared an excerpt from an email from Gail Goodchild explaining the mission and goals of the work.
- f. Tom Slawski SEWFRC Website – Al Sikora or Alan Barrows
  - i. Alan Barrows shared our scoring criteria sheet has not been updated and we can always use new pictures and descriptions of projects.

## **7. Correspondence**

- a. September 12- Katelyn Bratz forwarded an email from Gail Goodchild inviting the commission members to the kickoff meeting of the Fox River Watershed Mitigation Plan.

**Miscellaneous Issues –**



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- a. Robin Grams shared there will be a new high end residential project in Waukesha, there may be gardens, which could potentially have run off. There will be lots of green space along the river.
- b. Watershed Protection Committee of Racine County- Chad Sampson reported their Field Day was held Sept 9th. Held at Tractor Farm tour, had demonstrations, soil pit, and plant identification/run off. 84 people in attendance. Submitted application to Dept of Agriculture and they are up to 20 members
  - i. Winter Workshop will be on the second Friday in February.  
Gabe Brown, rancher will be the speaker. Flyer coming soon.
- c. Next meeting will be December 3rd, 1 pm at Burlington Public Works.

**8. Close Meeting.**

- a. Larry Long motioned to adjourn the meeting.
- b. Chad Sampson seconded the motion.
- c. Motion passes
- d. Meeting adjourned at 2 pm.