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Southeastern Wisconsin Fox River Commission Meeting Minutes

Friday, January 20, 2023- 1:00 PM

Town of Vernon Fire Station #1, W233 S7475 Woodland Lane, Big Bend, WI 53103

Commissioners and (alternates)		
Representing	Name	Attended (yes/no, by phone)
Kenosha County	Andy Buehler Mark Jenks (non-voting)	X
Racine County	Chad Sampson (Jon Grove)	X
Waukesha County	Alan Barrows (Leif Hauge)	X
City of Waukesha	Robins Grams (Doug Koehler)	X
Town of Mukwonago	Katelyn Bratz (Barb Holtz)	X
Town of Vernon	Lee Manthey	X
Town of Waterford	Jim Pindel (Shelley Tessmer)	X
Town of Waukesha	Ken Miller	
Village of Big Bend	Kayla Rush	X
Village of Mukwonago	Wayne Castle	X
Village of Waterford	Fred Koeller (Al Sikora)	
Village of Rochester	Wayne Jensen	X
Town of Burlington	Russ Egan	X
City of Burlington	Donny Hefty	X
Town of Wheatland		
Village of Salem Lakes	Bill Hopkins	
SEWRPC	Tom Slawski (non-voting)	X
WDNR	Sara DeBruijn (non-voting)	
WDNR	Rachel Sabre (non-voting)	X

Guests	
Representing	Name
Greg Horeth	WWMD

Ry Thompson	RES
Dave Arnolt	Ruekert & Mielke
Ian M Yarmin	Ruekert & Mielke
Mark Jenks	Kenosha County
Tom Ludwig	FOTH
Ben Haas	Racine County
Roley Behm	Racine County

Southeastern Wisconsin Fox River Commission Meeting

1. Katelyn Bratz called the meeting to order at 1 pm.
2. Pledge of allegiance
3. Roll call and verify quorum
4. Confirm the audio recorder is running
5. Approval of minutes from the previous meetings held October 28, and December 9, 2022.
 - a. The October 28th meeting minutes were approved with a motion from Russ Egan.
 - b. The motion was seconded by Donny Hefty.
 - c. Motion Passes.
 - d. The December 9th meeting minutes were approved with a motion from Russ Egan and seconded by Chad Sampson.
 - e. Motion Passes.
6. Review the Treasurer's Report.
 - a. Russ Egan made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report.
 - b. Jim Pindel seconded the motion.
 - c. Motion passed

Old Business

7. Fox River 2023 Summit – Tom Slawski
 - a. Program is coming together. They will be focusing on soil health.
 - b. We are coordinating with our friends in Illinois.
 - c. Rachel Sabre or a colleague will be talking about the TMDL.
 - d. Tom Slawski will be sending a link with more information.

- e. Tom Slawski requests a motion to approve funding for the upcoming Summit.
 - i. Jim Pindel made a motion, to fund the upcoming Fox River Summit, funds not to exceed \$5500.
 - ii. Russ Egan seconded the motion.
 - iii. Motion passed.
- f. The event will be March 16th, in Burlington at Veteran's Terrace.
 - i. It will be an all-day event.
 - ii. Contact Tom Slawski if you would like to be on the information list.
- 8. Report on Fox River Park Project – Alan Barrows
 - a. First phase is the riverbank restoration. Phase one was completed before the end of the year. They were able to soften the slope to more than 3 to 1.
 - b. They will be submitting to the commission for funding. Alan Barrows will be submitting the paper work soon.
- 9. WWMD Project-Greg Horeth
 - a. Continue to work on the off loading location. Looks very positive at this time.
- 10. Solberg Slope Stabilization- Chad Sampson
 - a. Approved for funding, construction for summer 2023.
- 11. Ogden Slope and Shoreline Stabilization- Chad Sampson
 - a. Approved for funding, construction for summer 2023.

New Business

- 12. Report on activities of the work being done by Foth and RES
 - a. RCPP Grant
 - i. Ry Thompson and Erin Delawalla are looking into a second RCPP grant. Provided recommendations to go with the more traditional RCPP program in the future. The NRCS does more of the work that that applicant would need to do.
 - ii. Meet with the county reps for feedback.
 - 1. Ongoing conversation, where does the match come from? Where does the funding come from?
 - 2. Could provide double the money from the RCPP
 - a. Perhaps some of the current DNR funds could meet as the match. If any of it could be allocated to the farmland research and such.
 - 3. Andy Buehler stated the match is the key component.

Without the match nothing can move ahead.

4. How much do we need for the match asked Jim Pindel.
 - a. Ry Thompson replied the match is 1 to 1.
5. Our funds could be used since they were state vs. federal funds.
6. Jim Pindel shared that municipalities have never been forthcoming with funding. The law was set up that they were supposed to fund us.
7. With the new biennial budget, we could request another appropriation from the state. We can talk with Chuck Wichgers for support. Tom Ludwig of FOTH, suggested.
8. Ry Thompson- Previously they opened the RCPP grant up in November. It was due November 4 of last year. There is not a dedicated next window. You can apply at any time, and they will consider your application in the next window. Need a different entity for application, SEWFRC was not considered an appropriate structure, as we are unable to supervise or manage a project without staffing.
9. Minimize down to the jurisdictional boundaries.
10. After SEWFRC comes to more of a consensus, they can move forward with NRCS.
11. Alan Barrows- intensive grant program. Limits our fund to projects that are only RCPP eligible. Projects on the main stem would not be eligible.
12. Could county funds be considered a match. How could we connect closer with the counties?
13. Tom Slawski- how long is the grant period? Ry Thompson replied- 5 year grant. Possibly 50K each year put forth as a match.
 - a. Tom Slawski asked, can a land trust be the applicant. Ry Thompson replied- I believe so.
 - b. Ry Thompson asked, can we get a list of land trust contacts to pursue as an applicant?
14. Andy Buehler- We really need to focus on the funding.
 - a. The municipalities would be paying in, but they might not have any projects. Need an entity with a larger scope. Either we put in a portion for the match or do another request of funds.
15. Chad Sampson- Counties can perhaps help meet the match requirements. Racine County Protection Agency, they could be a match. Water surface grants could be a match.
 - a. We don't have a hired person to administer the grant.
16. Tom Slawski- the Wind Lake drainage canal could be a potential small project match.

17. Andy Buehler made a motion that we reach out using FOTH to pursue funding for a match for RCPP by reaching out to representatives
 18. Jim Pindel seconded the motion
 - a. Motion passes
 19. Tom Slawksi- other bodies could be included and we enter in the joint projects. They are not voting members, but we with can partner
 20. Alan Barrows- in our appendix c- there is an example a partner agreement between SEWFRC and Waukesha County as a model of a partnership.
- b. NAWCA grant
 - i. Will invite to next meeting for discussion of partnership
 - ii. Ry Thompson- phase 3 of a 5 phase program
 1. Active in Mukwonago and Vernon
 - c. DNR Waterfowl Stamp Grant is open. Potential project in Fox Bend.
 - i. Visited the site, proposed as a grant, habitat enhancement. Due on February 10th.
 - ii. Enhancement in the floodplain of the Fox. Two fields no longer leashed by Waukesha county. They flood each spring, adjacent to the Fox.
 - iii. No match required, but recommended.
 - iv. Waukesha county has an in-kind match that they could provide.
 - v. Alan Barrows would encourage it.
 - vi. Andy Buehler made a motion to pursue a DNR Waterfowl Stamp grant for habitat enhancement.
 1. Alan Barrows seconded the motion.
 2. Motion was approved.
 - vii. Would be advantageous for the county to be the applicant as SEWFRC could not manage a project and you have to be an eligible applicant per Rachel Sabre.
 - viii. Tom Slawski will write a letter of support from the FRC for the application.
 - d. Federal Highway Administration (FHA) Protect Program Grant
 - i. Should be a DOT state road involved. Hwy 50 has chronic flooding. It could be a good candidate for the grant. Perhaps a more ecological solution could be supported. Could Fund 35 % (Local)
 - e. US ARMY Corp 206-519 grants.
 - i. Ecosystem restoration program. Written into law for the Illinois basin. There have not been any projects in the headwaters, here. Will be following up on what this could look like. 519 is specific to Illinois but 206 is federal. It is a cost share program. The 5 mile stretch on 50 could be a good applicant here as well. Could fund 65 % (federal). Army Corps is interested and have provided a fact sheet. There will be an onsite field trip in Feb. They

- would start with a feasibility study. Would require congressional appropriation.
 - ii. Would allow for many significant restorations on the river system.
 - iii. A sponsor would be needed.
 - iv. Kenosha is very interested in the project. There is millions of dollars of work that need to take place there. Foth and Res need to know if the commission is going to have any involvement.
 - v. We would prepare as part of the SEWFRC project and prepare the fact sheet for WISDot. Which would then go to the deputy secretary of transportation for the funds.
 - vi. Is the commission allowing the fact sheet to be put together?
 - vii. Jim Pindel asked would there be a charge?
 - 1. Tom Ludwig answered, It would fall under scope of the current project.
 - viii. Tom Slawski- remind that when we last sat with Wichgers was to lever the \$200,000 to bring more money into the watershed. It fits to bring restoration into the watershed. Maybe even change the course of the river to allow it to perform better. Opportunity to fix and impact 100's of residents in Wisconsin alone.
 - ix. Wayne Jensen- We have 7.5 million projects in the Kenosha region.
 - x. Motion to pursue both simultaneously.
 - 1. Jim Pindel made a motion for FOTH to generate a fact sheet for the 519 grant.
 - 2. Russ Egan seconded the motion.
 - 3. Motion approved.
 - xi. Tom Ludwig will circulate an outline on what they are trying to do, for us to circulate to representatives.
 - xii. Ry Thompson mentioned it is worth remembering that federal would be critical if we get to appropriation.
- f. Story Map Outline
- i. Ry Thompson- Presented in December
 - ii. Met with the geospatial group at SEWPRC. It is unlikely that they will host our story map. There is not internal access. We would like it to be hosted by someone who can and will host it for the long time. We could get a license. RES will develop and host to start. There will need to be a transition eventually. When you move it, it does break a lot of links.
 - iii. Any photos footage, videos, drone footage. They have a start. Could there be a subcommittee that would work on that moving forward.
 - iv. Tom Slawski- could a county host our map?
 - 1. Alan Barrows- the licensing is challenging when outside gov't entities. It is possibly favorable for SEWFRC to

purchase the license. The story map shows a great representation of the last 30 years of projects.

- v. Up to us on how specific or broad we would like it to be.
 - 1. Alan Barrows made a motion for RES to purchase a license on our behalf and set up the story board.
 - 2. Andy Buehler seconded the motion.
 - 3. Motion Passes
- g. Long Term Finance Framework outline
 - i. Ry Thompson presented at the December meeting. Was sent out to the commission.
 - ii. That is their draft, would like any input from commission.
 - iii. Alan Barrows- Page 4
 - 1. To achieve SEWFRC's vision, large-scale restoration efforts are needed across the watershed, both within and beyond SEWFRC's Service Area. This includes the implementation of conservation practices on agricultural lands, restoration and stabilization of streambanks, restoration of wetlands, infrastructure protection, and habitat restoration.
 - 2. Include stormwater management into the overall list. Can build that out more.
 - 3. The DNR run off management is listed as one of the grant categories.
 - 4. Alan Barrows can do a markup and send it to RES.
 - 5. Ry Thompson any other projects that we can use to build up.
 - 6. Section 2- bulleted points
 - a. The points matched up.
 - b. The second to last bullet point, where does that match up?
 - c. Need more information on administration.
 - 7. Page 17- table with prioritized grants, SWRM- also used in the county, can we spell that out, since there is another grant of the same name.
 - 8. Add a column to the table, is administration an option to the grant.
 - 9. Other grants that are discussed in the framework are not in the table. Would like to see every grant listed into the table. Would like the table to be comprehensive and prioritize.
 - 10. Page 5 purpose and scope, tracking system for funding windows, what is the timeline in applying for a particular grant. Clarification on what the tracking system would look like.
 - 11. Additional comments if needed within the next few

weeks.

13. 2021 – 2030 SEWFRC Implementation Plan – Tom Slawski & Alan Barrows
 - a. No Update
14. Review and discussion of all projects on the Enum- 24 Waitlist
 - a. Wayne Jensen met with Sara DeBruijin of the WDNR
 - b. Enum-20 is completed
 - c. Enum-21
 - i. \$100,000 advance has been spent and approved.
 - ii. 64,000 of reserve has been spent
 - iii. 164,657.35 paid out.
 - iv. 4,692.29- balance remaining
 - d. Enum 22-
 - i. Can divide a project between 21 and 22
 - ii. Approved 181,200.36
 - e. Enum 24
 - i. 77,060.36 transferred from Enum 22.
 - ii. Enum 24 balance 117,439.64
 - f. Enum 23- Foth and RES allocation.
 - i. Paid 160,000
 - ii. 40,000 still in reserve
 - g. Andy Buehler is the carryover Enum 22?
 - i. Part of the Waukesha HOA will go to Enum 21per Wayne Jensen
 - h. Jim Pindel- he always had to put in a request for extensions.
 - i. Current extension is to June 30th.
15. North River Bay Road Shoreline Restoration- Chad Sampson
 - a. 392 feet of shoreline erosion, sloped, rip rap and native plantings.
 - b. 4 property owners
 - c. No protection
 - d. Lawn grasses around piers and entrances
 - e. Cost share of 9,000 per owner. Total cost share would be 36,000.
 - f. Alan Barrows- is there current?
 - i. This is a canal to allow the residents to have access to the water.
 - g. 70% above the rock will need to be maintained as native grasses.
16. Willow Court Shoreline Repair- Chad Sampson
 - a. 2 landowners
 - b. Run off overland and runoff
 - c. 203 feet of shoreline place riprap
 - d. 9,000 and 5,400
17. John Margis Jr. Wildlife Area Restoration- Chad Sampson
 - a. Want to control the erosion as well as make more attractive for use.
 - b. Goal is to reduce erosion on the county property.
 - c. 115 feet with rock rip rap and shoreline enhancements
 - d. First area that people will see
 - e. Native plants on most of the shore

- f. \$25,000 request
 - g. Enhance trail, shore of the bank, make the path wide enough for vehicle access.
 - h. Can we quantify the level of phosphorous loading. It is a part of the Burlington region.
18. Village of Mukwonago's Adaptive Management Program- Wayne Castle
- a. Village is taking adaptive management as their route for discharge limits.
 - b. Ruekert and Mielke
 - i. Point of compliance 1000 feet downstream from Hwy ES
 - ii. Stabilization of the drainage ditch just north of the wastewater plant.
 - iii. Exposed banks can see high flow during storms. Deposited directly into the Mukwonago River.
 - iv. Invasive buckthorn species has removed all small vegetation.
 - v. Goal is to reinforce 800 linear feet of the bank and clear the buckthorn.
 - vi. Reduce 40 lbs of phosphorous.
 - vii. This is a project that Dean Faulkner identified many years ago.
 - 1. It is a complex project.
 - c. Adaptive Management plan has been approved by the DNR
 - d. They are looking to grow and complete projects. Challenging to find projects that support the plan.
19. Waukesha Diversion Project- Greg Horeth
- a. Essential that we keep this topic on the forefront of activity for reasons of planning and preparation.
 - b. Many people opposed the project, we are concerned with the amount of water. No one can tell us what is going to happen with the diversion.
 - c. We have to try to prepare for what happens if we lose several inches of the watershed.
 - d. In September of this year, they are scheduled to start pumping water from Milwaukee. It might be summer of 24 before we see changes.
 - e. If any dam instructions need to be changed it could take 2 years to get approval for those changes.

Reports and Updates

20. SEWRPC Survey from Waterford Dam to Illinois border-Tom Slawski
- a. No Update---
21. Report on activities of Fox Waterway Agency of Illinois – FWA or Tom Slawski
- a. They are speaking at the Fox River Summit.
22. Report on future of the Echo Lake Dam in Burlington-Donny Hefty
- a. The referendum was an advisory referendum.

- i. They voted to modify the dam
 - ii. It was approved by the common council
 - iii. In the design phase.
 - iv. The Burlington website has a virtual look of it.
 - b. Russ Egan-
 - i. The public was very divided.
 - c. Dredging project will be occurring with the decision.
- 23. Report on Fox River Watershed TMDL progress – Rachel Sabre
 - a. Kick off meeting Feb 15th, 1 pm. Virtual event.
 - b. If anyone has data on the Fox River they would love if you could share it.
 - c. How long to approve the TMDL- Usually it is 2 + year process
 - d. Once they determine what the waterway can handle, they then decide how much each area is able to contribute to the waterway.
 - e. They have a large list of partners, if you have anyone that they may have missed, let Rachel Sabre know.
- 24. Report on the Fox Watershed Mitigation Plan- Tom Slawski
 - a. No Update- summarizing all the information.
- 25. Watershed Protection Committee of Racine County- Chad Sampson
 - a. Winter Workshop
 - i. February 10, 2023
 - ii. 9:00 am-3:00 pm
 - iii. At the Cotton Exchange in Waterford.
 - iv. Guest Speaker David Brandt
 - 1. Cover Crops for Soil Health & reducing Inputs to Increase Profitability
- 26. SEWFRC Website – Al Sikora or Alan Barrows
 - a. No Update

Correspondence

1. 1/11/2023, Tom Slawski, email-FW: RES/ - Draft Long-term Capital and Financial plan framework document
2. 1/4/2023, Wayne Castle, email-request to add Village of Mukwonago's adaptive management program update to next meeting agenda
3. 12/29/2022, Chad Sampson, email-request to add North River Bay Road Shoreline Restoration project to next meeting agenda
4. 12/28/2022, Chad Sampson, email-request to add Willow Court Shoreline Repair project to next meeting agenda
5. 12/9/2022, Tom Slawski, email- FW: SEWFRC Meeting Confirmation and Long-Term Finance Framework, with attached DRAFT report.

6. 12/7/2022, Greg Horeth, email-request to add Waukesha Diversion Project to next meeting agenda

Miscellaneous Issues

7. Next Meeting and Location

- a. Next meeting was scheduled for March 10th , 1 pm, DPW Community room located at 2200 S. Pine St, Burlington, WI 53105
- b. Wayne Jensen made a motioned to adjourn the meeting.
- c. Andy Buehler seconded the motion.
- d. Motion was approved.

8. Close Meeting

* If you have any question about the Agenda, please call Secretary Tom Slawski at tslawski@sewrpc.org or (262) 953-3263.



Visit us at WWW.SEWFRC.ORG

Southeastern Wisconsin Fox River Commission Meeting Minutes

Friday, March 10, 2023- 1:00 PM

Virtual -Microsoft Teams meeting

Commissioners and (alternates)		
Representing	Name	Attended (yes/no, by phone)
Kenosha County	Andy Buehler Mark Jenks (non-voting)	X
Racine County	Chad Sampson (Jon Grove)	X
Waukesha County	Alan Barrows (Leif Hauge)	X
City of Waukesha	Robins Grams (Doug Koehler)	X
Town of Mukwonago	Katelyn Bratz (Barb Holtz)	X
Town of Vernon	Lee Manthey	X
Town of Waterford	Jim Pindel (Shelley Tessmer)	X
Town of Waukesha	Ken Miller	
Village of Big Bend	Kayla Mastalir	X
Village of Mukwonago	Wayne Castle	X
Village of Waterford	Fred Koeller (Al Sikora)	X
Village of Rochester	Wayne Jensen	X
Town of Burlington	Russ Egan	X
City of Burlington	Donny Hefty	
Town of Wheatland		
Village of Salem Lakes	Bill Hopkins	X
SEWRPC	Tom Slawski (non-voting)	X
WDNR	Sara DeBruijn (non-voting)	
WDNR	Rachel Sabre (non-voting)	X

Guests	
Representing	Name
Greg Horeth	WWMD
Grant Horn	WWMD

Ry Thompson	RES
Tom Ludwig	FOTH
Brian Glenzinski	Ducks Unlimited

Southeastern Wisconsin Fox River Commission Meeting

1. Alan Barrows called the meeting to order at 1 pm.
2. Pledge of allegiance
3. Roll call and verify quorum
4. Confirm the audio recorder is running
5. Approval of minutes from the previous meetings held January 20th 2023.
 - a. Motion from Jim Pindel to approve minutes.
 - b. The motion was seconded by Chad Sampson.
 - c. Motion Passes. (Bill Hopkins, Barb Holz, Fred Koehler, abstained)
6. Review the Treasurer's Report.
 - a. Bill Hopkings made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report.
 - b. Fred Koehler seconded the motion.
 - c. Motion passed

Old Business

7. Fox River 2023 Summit – Tom Slawski
 - a. The Fox River Summit is next week, so please register asap.
 - b. So far we have over 100 attendees registered and hope to reach at least 125.
8. Report on Fox River Park Project – Alan Barrows
 - a. First phase is the riverbank restoration. Phase one was completed before the end of the year and working through grant reimbursement requests. Completed a drone flight of the project area and will share that video at a future meeting.
 - b. Original project lead Jason Wilke has been replaced by Lynda Fink. Phase 2 deck and canoe kayak launch will be led by Lynda.
 - c. They will be submitting to the commission for funding and Lynda will discuss this at the next Commission meeting.
9. WWMD Project- Grant Horn

- a. Received a bid for the dredging project and expect a second bid soon.
 - b. Continue to work on the off-loading location for disposal of dredge material. Hope to dredge 50,000 cubic yards in 2023 and more in 2024.
 - c. Hoping to have approval to move forward with project by the next meeting.
10. Solberg Slope Stabilization- Chad Sampson
- a. Approved for funding, construction for summer 2023.
11. Ogden Slope and Shoreline Stabilization- Chad Sampson
- a. Approved for funding, construction for summer 2023.
12. SEWRPC Survey from Waterford Dam to Illinois border-Tom Slawski
- a. No update.

New Business

13. Report on activities of the work being done by Foth and RES
- a. RCPP Grant
 - i. RCPP Grant-it is not likely we will be ready for second submittal for a RCPP grant submittal in 2023. Not enough interest and none of the issues brought up in the last meeting have been resolved.
 - ii. Chad noted that new USDA funds particularly EQIP funds will be an easier application than RCPP grants funding, because they have added about \$2.7 Million that is available for projects.
 - iii. Grant Horn and Greg Horeth made comments that they would be interested in continuing to pursue a RCPP grant application in 2023, particularly related to dredging in the Waterford Impoundment. However, RES described that is not a good match for RCPP, but they all agreed to discuss this possibility outside this meeting in the near future.
 - b. NAWCA grant
 - i. Brian Glenzinski, Biologist-Ducks Unlimited, guest, presented an update on the wetland work being conducted as part of the NAWCA grant that is currently awarded.
 - ii. Brian worked in WDNR for 15 years before moving to DU, so is very familiar with the Fox River.
 - iii. The Mukwonago Fox River Focus Area NAWCA grant is working on Phase 3 right now. This grant project includes the entirety of the Commission boundaries and beyond, including all of Walworth County , most of Waukesha County and western half of both Racine and Kenosha Counties. They did receive confirmation that will receive a million dollars from the federal government and will begin implementation of projects as soon as it is obtained.
 - iv. Most projects are land acquisition focused for protection. Such land acquisitions can use state monies such as Knowles/Nelson funds or County funds as match to stretch grant dollars.

However, lands acquired via NAWCA agreements are pretty restrictive. For example, deed restrictions limit any use except for wildlife habitat only (e.g., no structures, no improved trails, no hunting).

- v. There is a separate grant component that allows wetland enhancement on state lands. Vernon Marsh State Wildlife Area lands are great candidate here for future project and may be good opportunity for collaborative partnership/funding with the Commission in the future.
 - vi. There is a separate private lands (i.e., non-state owned lands) grant component, which allows DU to work with municipalities (cities, town, villages) and counties to do wetland restoration enhancement of wetlands and associated uplands.
 - vii. Jim Pindel noted that our implementation plan allows us to purchase properties to project wildlife and water quality. Hence, one of the first projects the Commission ever did was to purchase a Tamarack Swamp just north of Elm Island and donated it to the WDNR a few years later. So, we should remember that this something we need to continue to do within our jurisdictional area.
 - viii. Brian would like us to let him know if there are any land trusts interested in projects to please let him know. Several local land trusts are already partnering with the NAWCA grant, but just wanted to let us know just in case there are others.
 - ix. What makes a good candidate site? Active cropland is the highest priority and we can do wetland enhancement work too, but number one goal is restoration and number one habitat type is emergent marsh restoration followed by forested wetland restoration.
 - x. The NAWCA dollars are funneled through the USFW Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program.
 - xi. Would a high quality fen sites be suitable for restoration? Yes, that could be a good candidate, but it would be an enhancement or it could be an easement acquisitions if the land owner was interested in that option.
 - xii. Is farmed wetland on private property a good suitable candidate for restoration?
 - xiii. Note Ry indicated that it would be good idea to highlight DU as part of the Commission story map to showcase activities going on throughout the watershed and greater diversity of projects and partners.
- c. DNR Waterfowl Stamp Grant
- i. RES completed a Waterfowl Stamp Grant for a wetland scrap and habitat restoration for waterfowl for the Fox Bend Park with Waukesha County (Alan Barrows and Julia Robson, County Conservation Biologist) and it was submitted to WDNR for a total of just over \$150,000.

- d. US ARMY Corp 206-519 grants/ Federal Highway Administration (FHA) PROTECT Program Grant
 - i. FOTH/RES moving forward in pursuing each of these grants since approval at the last meeting. Onsite Fox River meeting was conducted to visit multiple high priority sites from Hwy 50 to Wilmot Road in Kenosha County on Monday with USACE, WDNR, SEWRPC, Kenosha County, FOTH, and RES staff on March 6, 2023.
 - ii. Next step is to develop a letter of intent with Kenosha County and that is being completed. This is a long-term process but if the project is funded under Section 206 it is a \$10 Million dollar federal share grant if Section 519 it's a 20 Million dollar federal share, and if special authorization/ appropriation via Congress approval it could be even higher federal dollar matching funds.
 - iii. Once letter of intent is submitted with Kenosha County as the sponsor FOTH will use that to begin working with WisDOT on requesting the PROTECT funds as part of the local match. Will report back more at the next meeting.
 - iv. USACE matching funds rules are more lenient than the RCPP matching funds in that they allow previously purchased lands as matching funds, no matter how long ago such lands were purchased.
 - v. It was noted that there continues to be active and severe erosion among those sites already identified in the Fox River Erosion Study survey.
- e. Story Map Outline
 - i. RES will be proceeding with building and hosting it on their website.
 - ii. Overall, it will start with an overview of the Commission and its vision, mission, goals; what it's hoping to achieve for the Fox River; and, list of projects accomplished so far, and highlight select projects for future. Hope to do demo at the next meeting.
 - iii. RES requested information on projects to feature.
- f. Long Term Finance Framework outline
 - i. Ry Thompson noted that document finalized and shared with the commission.

14. 2021 – 2030 SEWFRC Implementation Plan – Tom Slawski & Alan Barrows

- a. No Update

15. Review and discussion of all projects on the Enum- 24 Waitlist

- a. Wayne Jensen had submitted all projects we paid for to Sara DeBruijn at the WDNR and has requested what the status is on all those reports. Not received a response to date.
- b. Based on our records we are roughly \$77,060.36 dollars committed on ENUM 22 projects that would be moved to the ENUM 24 account. The

Total Enum 24 balance is \$117,439.64

- c. Enum-21 and 22 are due to be spent by June 30th 2023, and we think that we have enough projects underway to meet that requirement deadline.
 - d. Wayne will continue to wait to here from WDNR about these items and will report back as soon as he gets more information.
 - e. Jim Pindel noted that has not seen any checks from WDNR on the money that they owe the Commission. By law and as part of the state budget, the WDNR are required to provide the next \$200,000 owed to the Commission by July 2023.
16. North River Bay Road Shoreline Restoration- Chad Sampson
- a. This is not being constructed until August, so Chad agreed to wait until the next in-person Commission meeting to score and vote on these 3 projects.
 - b. Motion by Fred Koehler to table the three agenda items (15, 16, and 17) to vote on them at the next meeting.
 - c. Seconded by Jim Pindel and recommended that the score sheet be completed and provided in advance of the meeting to save time. Chad agreed to have the scored sheets done before the meeting.
 - d. Motion passed.
17. Willow Court Shoreline Repair- Chad Sampson
18. John Margis Jr. Wildlife Area Restoration- Chad Sampson
19. Village of Mukwonago's Adaptive Management Program- Wayne Castle
- a. Nothing to report at this time and recommended that this be removed from the agenda. Wayne will provide updates whenever there is something to report in the future.
20. Waukesha Diversion Project- Greg Horeth
- a. Nothing to report.

Reports and Updates

21. SEWRPC Survey from Waterford Dam to Illinois border-Tom Slawski
- a. No Update---
22. Report on activities of Fox Waterway Agency of Illinois – FWA or Tom Slawski
- a. They are speaking at the Fox River Summit.
23. Report on future of the Echo Lake Dam in Burlington-Donny Hefty
- a. The referendum was an advisory referendum.
 - i. They voted to modify the dam
 - ii. It was approved by the common council
 - iii. In the design phase.
 - iv. The Burlington website has a virtual look of it.
 - b. Russ Egan-
 - i. The public was very divided.
 - c. Dredging project will be occurring with the decision.
24. Report on Fox River Watershed TMDL progress – Rachel Sabre

- a. Kick off meeting Feb 15th, had a little over 100 attendees at that virtual event and feedback was positive.
 - b. Next steps is modelling and that has begun.
 - c. Chad noted that he is working on the 24 pages questionnaire and is providing that to WDNR in separate chunks as he and his staff get them completed.
 - d. Both Chad and Alan found discrepancies in current land use versus what was indicated and they are both providing updated comments back to WDNR staff. Alan suggested that the
 - e. 2015 wetland
25. Report on the Fox Watershed Mitigation Plan- Tom Slawski
- a. There is an upcoming Fox River Watershed Hazard Mitigation Planning Meeting to discuss/review chapters 1-3 of the draft plan on Monday March 13th from 1-3pm, virtual meeting. The draft plan is scheduled to be completed by fall 2023.
26. Watershed Protection Committee of Racine County- Chad Sampson
- a. Winter Workshop
 - i. February 10, 2023, workshop had 114 people in attendance. Guest Speaker David Brandt 60-65 farmers 55-60 interested public citizens.
 - ii. Next field event in September at Case Eagle Park
 - iii. Always looking for sponsor monies.
27. SEWFRC Website – Al Sikora or Alan Barrows
- a. No Update

Correspondence

- 1. 3/10/2023, Tom Slawski, email- FW: SEWFRC Deliverable - Long Term Capital and Financial Plan Framework, with attached report, was sent to Commissioners.

Miscellaneous Issues

- 2. Next Meeting and Location
 - a. Next meeting was scheduled for April 14th , 1 pm, DPW Community room located at 2200 S. Pine St, Burlington, WI 53105
 - b. Fred Koehler made a motioned to adjourn the meeting.
 - c. Jim Pindel seconded the motion.
 - d. Motion was approved.

3. Close Meeting

* If you have any question about the Agenda, please call Secretary Tom Slawski at tslawski@sewrpc.org or (262) 953-3263.



Visit us at WWW.SEWFRC.ORG

Southeastern Wisconsin Fox River Commission Meeting Minutes

Friday, April 14, 2023- 1:00 PM

Meeting Location: DPW Community room located at 2200 S. Pine St, Burlington, WI 53105

Commissioners and (alternates) Quorum= 9		
Representing	Name	Attended (yes/no, by phone)
Kenosha County	Andy Buehler Mark Jenks (non-voting)	(Mark Jenks-virtual)
Racine County	Chad Sampson (Jon Grove)	X
Waukesha County	Alan Barrows (Leif Hauge)	X-Virtual
City of Waukesha	Robins Grams (Doug Koehler)	X-Virtual
Town of Mukwonago	Katelyn Bratz (Barb Holtz)	X
Town of Vernon	Lee Manthey	X
Town of Waterford	Jim Pindel (Shelley Tessmer)	X
Town of Waukesha	Ken Miller	
Village of Big Bend	Kayla Rush	
Village of Mukwonago	Wayne Castle	X
Village of Waterford	Fred Koeller (Al Sikora)	
Village of Rochester	Wayne Jensen	X
Town of Burlington	Russ Egan	X
City of Burlington	Donny Hefty	X
Town of Wheatland		
Village of Salem Lakes	Bill Hopkins	X
SEWRPC	Tom Slawski (non-voting)	X
WDNR	Sara DeBruijn (non-voting)	
WDNR	Rachel Sabre (non-voting)	X

Guests	
Representing	Name
Tyler Schwartz	RES
Tom Ludwig	Foth
Linda Fink	Waukesha County Parks and Land Use

Southeastern Wisconsin Fox River Commission Meeting

1. Katelyn Bratz called the meeting to order at 1:01 pm.
2. Pledge of allegiance
3. Roll call and verify quorum
4. Confirm the audio recorder is running
5. Approval of minutes from the previous meeting
 - a. Russ Egan made a motion to approved the previous meeting minutes.
 - b. Donny Egan seconded the motion.
 - c. Motion passed.
6. Review the Treasurer's Report.
 - a. Bill Hopkins made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report
 - b. Jim Pindel seconded the motion
 - c. Motion passed.
 - d. Wayne Jensen shared Sara DeBrujin approved approximately \$69,000 from the reserve ENUM.
 - e. Small balance in ENUM-21 to be resolve where we are spending.
 - f. WWMD has submitted their application for \$50,000. Which is coming out of ENUM-22.

Old Business

7. Fox River 2023 Summit – Tom Slawski
 - a. No new report
 - b. Robin Grams where do we get the checks for reimbursement
 - i. Wayne Jensen will coordinate with Robin Grams at the next meeting.
8. Report on Fox River Park Project – Alan Barrows
 - a. Phase one is complete last Nov/Dec. 305 feet turned into 340 feet
 - b. Additional funding request-Lynda Fink, Senior Landscape Architect,

Department of Parks and Land Use

- i. Phase two will be the handicap accessible canoe/kayak launch, pathway and fishing pier.
 - ii. Total request for \$58,882.00 90% of \$52,993.80
 - iii. Was there a signed contract for the original engineering work.
 1. There is no signed contract for the contracted work. These are estimates for cost.
 2. Plans were scaled back from original plans.
 3. Sent out an RFP for the detailed design.
 4. Hoping to send bids out in Dec.
 5. Aim for Spring 2024 construction.
 6. Have looked for various funds, DATCP and Waukesha County and DNR.
 7. Tom Slawski, is the launch floating with hydraulics? There is an example at Foxbrook park. Yes. You do not have to access from the shoreline which prevents degradation of the shoreline.
 8. Provides a good access point for the fox river where there is not previous.
 9. We gave \$82,000 previously.
 10. Jim Pindel- we would be paying all the overages?
 - a. No, there is other elements that were not included in our proposal that they are working with other funding sources.
 11. What happens if other grants come back for more than our proposed amount?
 - a. Then they would not use all our funds.
 12. What happens if the bids come in higher?
 - a. We do have a few alternatives available for internal staff to complete tasks to off set the overages.
 13. Tom Slawski- this an existing project so we will vote at the next meeting.
 - a. Alan Barrows confirmed that we could score it for the following meeting. Which works with their timeline.
 - b. It is a capital project from the county. We cannot spend money until the money is obtained. Which is why phase one was able to be completed.
 - c. Alan Barrows confirmed he can fill out the scoring sheet prior to the next meeting.
9. WWMD Project-Greg Horeth
- a. No further update
 - b. Wayne Jensen made a motion to approve payment of \$50,000 for engineering expenses.
 - i. Jim Pindel seconded the motion.

- ii. Motion passes.
- 10. Solberg Slope Stabilization- Chad Sampson
 - a. Hired Jason construction to complete the project.
 - b. It could be completed this spring.
- 11. Ogden Slope and Shoreline Stabilization- Chad Sampson
 - a. Send out for estimates and contractors.
 - i. Waiting on bid
 - ii. Planned for Aug/Sept Construction
- 12. SEWRPC Survey from Waterford Dam to Illinois border-Tom Slawski
 - a. Was able to calculate all the erosion sites.
 - b. DNR reached out about the erosion assessments
 - i. Want to incorporate it into the TMDL
 - ii. Also shared the priority parcels for Class I, II, and III
 - iii. While this is not important for the modeling it will be helpful for the implementation strategy.
 - c. If anyone uses Google Earth, we can put it on the website and coordinate how to share the footage.
 - d. Working through how best to share all the data.
 - e. There is a terabyte of footage that has to be waded through.
 - f. Greg Horeth- are you looking to create a progression of the conditions.
 - i. Tom Slawski- trying to let people know the information exists and share with interested parties.

New Business

- 13. Report on activities of the work being done by Foth and RES
 - a. Tyler Schwartz- GIS Analyst at RES. His role has been to bring together all the geospatial data and projects and connect them with grants.
 - b. Working on the deliverable story map. It is fairly complete.
 - c. Home slide is hopefully an impactful scene, from Tom Slawski's footage.
 - d. Can scroll down through the story map, or there is a menu to jump to specific information.
 - e. All maps are interactive.
 - f. Past projects to communicate our activity.
 - g. He will be adding a legend to communicate what types of projects we have been working on.

- h. He is still working are parts that are incomplete.
- i. Still working on the Water Quality and stormwater section.
- j. Tom Slawski- he has two sites that he can send for erosion priority work. He has also calculated a load reduction.
- k. Tom Slawski-Are there photos buried into the maps?
 - i. Are there new photos from recent projects that we want to showcase?
- l. Tyler Schwartz- could we accumulate drone footage of the a few regions of the river? This might give better context for the different sites.
- m. Tom Slawski- There are stormwater practices that we have paid for. Hopefully there is photos.
 - i. Jim Pindel- that was close to 15 years ago.
 - ii. Tyler Schwartz- adding more dots to the first map could help to communicate all our activity.
- n. We have several projects where we have improved access to the river. This is a new change since the change in funding.
- o. The link for the storymap has been shared with Tom Slawski and they would love more feedback from the commission. Tom Slawski will forward the link to the commissioners.
- p. What do we want to show for the opening video? There are videos that could communicate some of the issues that are along the river. Before and after photos for the different sites.
- q. Tom Slawski recommends drone footage of the Wind Lake Canal right now, as it showcases all the issues with the canal.
 - i. There is a lot of opportunity with the canal right now.
- r. Tom Slawski asked Chad Sampson, should the cover crop farmers be land mapped and championed in our project.
- s. You can reach out to Tyler Schwartz directly with any questions or comments.

- t. Foth- Tom Ludwig
 - i. They did receive acknowledgement of the great site meeting from last month at the Corp.
 - ii. The letter of intent that is needed from Kenosha County, a draft has been put together and they are working on the letter.
 - 1. Once final, they will go to WISDOT for the Protect Funding for the local share.

- 14. 2021 – 2030 SEWFRC Implementation Plan – Tom Slawski & Alan Barrows
 - a. No Update
- 15. Review and discussion of all projects on the Enum- 24 Waitlist
 - a. Wayne Jensen
 - i. We have \$117,000 funds left in the account. \$64,000 depending on the Fox River Park Project.
- 16. North River Bay Road Shoreline Restoration- Chad Sampson
 - a. Four consecutive shoreline owners
 - i. Removed \$1600.00 from request.
 - ii. \$ 34,400 for funds
 - iii. Bill Hopkins made a motion to approve for \$34,400.
 - iv. Wayne Castle seconded the motion.
 - 1. Motion Passes

Project Acceptance Criteria
(Modified 7/30/21)

	Award Category	Award Points	N River BAY RD	WILLOW COURT	MARGIS WILDLIFE
1	Does the proposed project meet the objectives of the FRC Implementation Plan	10	10	10	10
2	Does the proposed project meet the need for actions in a plan other than our Implementation Plan	5	5	5	5
3	Is the proposed project listed as an imminent threat or Warning in the SEWRPC survey report.	10	0	0	0
4	Does the proposed project protect critical riverine ecosystems or special concern, threatened or endangered species and/or habitat	8	8	8	8
5	Does the proposed project enhance the knowledge and understanding of the Fox River ecosystem	4	2	2	4
6	Does the proposed project make use of all the available funding sources, including the acquisition of non-FRC funds	4	0	0	4
7	Does the proposed project have a level of support from other affected management units or organizations	4	4	4	4
8	Does the proposed project have a good likelihood of successfully meeting the project objectives	8	8	8	8
9	The completeness and degree of detail of the Project Application	4	4	4	4
10	The first time applications of a project by the applicant	3	0	0	0
	Total	60	41	41	47

Proposed project must meet Categories 1 & 8

Proposed project must qualify by a minimum of 31 points

Note !:

For privately owned residential Shoreline Restorations, we can provide up to 90% cost share to a maximum limit of \$9,000.

Also there is an annual limit of \$50,000 for privately owned residential Shoreline Restoration Projects.

SEWFRC Project Eval Pts Form 073021.xlsx

Page 1

17. Willow Court Shoreline Repair- Chad Sampson

- a. Chad Sampson removed \$1500.00 from the original request
- b. Bill Hopkins made a motion to approved the project for the amended cost of \$ 15,600
- c. Wayne Castle seconded the motion.
- d. Motion passed.

18. John Margis Jr. Wildlife Area Restoration- Chad Sampson

- a. Four different aspects for this project.
 - i. Create a path for foot traffic.
 - ii. Use native plantings to deter traffic to the path.
 - iii. Shoreline protection on the bottom.
 - iv. Deterrent for animal burrows.
 - v. Plan to work on the worst part of the trail at the moment.
 - vi. Our funds would be used for materials.
 - vii. County will put in the work.
 - viii. Request for \$25,000.
 - ix. Greg Horeth- He heard 6-8 projects that were very similar. The DNR could fund similar projects. Recreational Boating Fund. RBF gave away 2.3 million in total for projects.
 - x. Bill Hopkins made a motion to approve for \$25,000.
 - xi. Wayne Castle seconded the motion.
 - xii. Motion passed.

19. Waukesha Diversion Project- Greg Horeth
 - a. Continue to have discussions within WWMD. They have reached out to Racine County, to the person responsible for the dam management for the county. How do we prepare for the pooling of water, if there is an impact to the Waterford basin. There is a lot of concern, the entire Southeastern Wisconsin Region could be impacted.
 - b. Chad Sampson- had a discussion with the DNR. The water table will also rise up because there will be less water drawn from the ground water model. This could be an impact with other issues.
 - c. Greg Horeth- There is a general lack of information on the topic. How do we get information shared if there are records kept on the changes in the water system?

Reports and Updates

20. Report on activities of Fox Waterway Agency of Illinois – FWA or Tom Slawski
 - a. No Update
21. Report on future of the Echo Lake Dam in Burlington-Donny Hefty
 - a. No Update
22. Report on Fox River Watershed TMDL progress – Rachel Sabre
 - a. No Update beyond previously shared information. They are inputting data and compiling information.
23. Report on the Fox Watershed Mitigation Plan- Tom Slawski
 - a. They have presented some chapters. They are working towards finishing the plan in the next few months. He will share the draft when done.
24. Watershed Protection Committee of Racine County- Chad Sampson
 - a. Meeting yesterday to discuss the Wind Lake Canal. No decisions, but lots of ideas.
25. SEWFRC Website – Al Sikora or Alan Barrows
 - a. No Update

Correspondence

1. 3/16/2023, info@sewfr.org, email- Fwd: Letter of support - WDNR UNPS planning grant, LOS request from Jonathan Schapekahn, P.E., Storm Water Project Manager, City of Waukesha, Department of Public Works – Engineering
2. 3/24/2023, email to Tom Slawski, April 14th SEWFRC Meeting agenda item request - Fox River Park Access Project- additional funding request
3. 3/27/2023, Wayne Jensen, emailed Sara N - DeBruijn sara.debruijn@wisconsin.gov concerning reports status.
4. 3/28/2023, email from Sara DeBruijn to Wayne, responding to reports status.
5. 3/30/2023, email from Katlyn Bratz to Jonathan Schapekahn, WDNR UNPS planning grant--providing letter of support.
6. 4/4/2023, email from Tom Slawski to Commissioners, FW: Upcoming Ag Training.

Miscellaneous Issues

7. How do we decide if there is an issue that needs to be addressed prior to the next meeting.
 - a. The officer can create a response and send it out to the commissioners.
 - b. If there is not disagreement the response/letter of support can be sent out.
 - c. If there is any disagreement, the issue must go before the commission at the next meeting before any decision is made.
 - d. Chad Sampson made a motion to approve the new structure.
 - e. Jim Pindel seconded the motion.
 - f. Motion Passes.
8. Letters of support
 - a. Should they be posted on the website?
 - b. We should post the letters of support in the affiliation section.
 - c. Katelyn will follow up with Al Sikora and get the current letter on the website.
9. May 20th- at the Fox River Park 10 am.
 - a. Salem Lakes 11th annual spring clean-up along the Fox River and associated water bodies.
10. Next Meeting and Location
 - a. May 19th – 1 pm
 - b. DPW Community room located at 2200 S. Pine St, Burlington, WI 53105
11. Close Meeting
 - a. Bill Hopkins made a motion to adjourn the meeting.
 - b. Chad Sampson seconded the motion.
 - c. 2:36 meeting adjourned.

* If you have any question about the Agenda, please call Secretary Tom Slawski at tslawski@sewrpc.org or (262) 953-3263.

South East Wisconsin Fox River Commission Meeting Minutes

Friday,, May 19, 2023 – 1:00 pm

Meeting location: DPW Community Room 2200 S Pine St, //Burlington, WI 53105

Members Present

Kenosha County	Mark Jenks (non-voting)
Racine County	Chad Sampson
Waukesha County	Alan Barrows
City of Waukesha	Robin Grams
Town of Waterford	Jim Pindel
Village of Mukwonago	Wayne Castle
Village of Waterford	Fred Koeller
Village of Rochester	Wayne Jensen
Town of Burlington	Russ Egan
City of Burlington	Donny Hefty

No Guests were present

SEWFRC Meeting

Alan Barrows called the meeting to order at 1:05

Pledge of allegiance

Roll call and verified quorum (9 members)

Confirm the recorder was running

Approval of previous meeting minutes

- a. Motion by Donny Hefty seconded by Russ Egan to approve the minutes
- b. Motion passed

Review of Treasurer's Report

- a. Motion by Jim Pindel seconded by Fred Koeller to approve the Treasurer's Report
- b. Motion was approved

Old Business

Fox River 2023 Summit

- a No Report Tom Slaski absent

Fox River Park Project

Additional funding request by Lynda Fink was presented by Alan Barrows

Evaluation of Project Acceptance Criteria was presented with an awards valuation of 47 out of 60 points, needed 31 points for approval

Request is for \$50,000.00.

Discussion concerning the available funding as there is not sufficient funds available in the ENUM 24 budget. There is still \$6000 available from Racine County that could be use for Racine Projects to provide sufficient funds, or the project could wait until the

ENUM 25 funding is approved by the State Budget.

Motion to approve the Fox River Park Project additional funding when funds are available was made by Donny Hefty and seconded by Fred Koeller

Motion was approved

WWMD Project – Grant Horn

Project has been paid and forms have been sent to State for approval

Remove from future agenda

Solberg Slope and Shoreline Stabilization -Chad Sampson

Project to be completed later this summer

Ogden Slope and Shoreline Stabilization -Chad Sampson

Project completed and contractor paid

Waiting for invoices and final proof of payment so that request of funding can be approved by State

Will use some Racine County funds for this project

North River Bay Road Shoreline Restoration – Chad Sampson

Completion later this summer

Willow Court Shoreline Repair – Chad Sampson

Completion later this summer

John Margis Jr Wildlife Area Restoration – Chad Simpson

Completion later this summer

SEWRPC Survey from Waterford Dam to Illinois State Line – Tom Slawski

No report

Discussion that the project should be submitted for payment

New Business

Foth and RES activities

No report

2021 – 2030 SEWFRC Implementation Plan – Tom Slaski and Alan Barrows

No Report

Review and discussion of projects on ENUM -24 list

With the approval of the Additional funding for the Fox River Park, are funds are pretty well allocated. Awaiting State Budget Approval of the next biennium budget for future funding

Waukesha Diversion Project – Greg Hoerth

No Report

Reports and Updates

Report on activities of Fox Waterway Agency of Illinois

No report

Echo Lake Dam – Donny Hefty

Process is in the design and engineering stage

Fox River Watershed TMDL – Racheal Sabre

No Report

Fox Watershed Mitigation Plan – Tom Slawski

No Report

Discussion on various Adaptive Management Plans

Racine County has increased farmer participation in the cover crop farm practices. Waukesha County is trying, but success is limited. Changing old

habits and proving long term benefits is not easy to convince land managers.
Watershed Protection Committee of Racine County – Chad Sampson
Summer Field Day 9/8/2023 at Case Eagle Park in Rochester
Kenosha County Regenerative Producers – Mark Jenks
Upcoming Field Day 6/8/2023
Kenosha land owners are primarily livestock orientated

Correspondence

Agenda correspondence was presented with no further discussion.

Miscellaneous Issues

Next meeting July 14, 2023 at DPW Burlington at 1:00
Motion to adjourn by Russ Egan seconded by Chad Sampson
Motion Approved
Adjourned at 1:55 PM

Minutes taken via recording and written by Wayne Jensen. Any questions please call Wayne at 262-534-6044



Visit us at WWW.SEWFRC.ORG

Southeastern Wisconsin Fox River Commission Meeting Minutes

Friday, July 28, 2023- 1:00 PM

Meeting Location: DPW Community room located at 2200 S. Pine St, Burlington, WI 53105

Southeastern Wisconsin Fox River Commission Meeting Minutes

Commissioners and (alternates) Quorum= 9		
Representing	Name	Attended (yes/no, by phone)
Kenosha County	Andy Buehler Mark Jenks (non-voting)	Yes- Online
Racine County	Chad Sampson (Jon Grove)	Yes
Waukesha County	Alan Barrows (Leif Hauge)	Yes- Online
City of Waukesha	Robins Grams (Doug Koehler)	Yes-Online
Town of Mukwonago	Katelyn Bratz (Barb Holtz)	Yes
Town of Vernon	Lee Manthey	Yes
Town of Waterford	Jim Pindel (Shelley Tessmer)	Yes
Town of Waukesha	Ken Miller	
Village of Big Bend	Kayla Rush	
Village of Mukwonago	Wayne Castle	
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	
Town of Wheatland		
Village of Salem Lakes	Bill Hopkins	Yes-Online
SEWRPC	Tom Slawski (non-voting)	Yes
WDNR	Sara DeBruijn (non-voting)	
WDNR	Rachel Sabre (non-voting)	Yes- Online

Guests	
Representing	Name
Foth	Tom Ludwig
RES	Ry Thompson
Fox Waterway Agency	Rob Rinkenberger
DNR WWMD	Kelsey Norten Greg Horeth

1. Katelyn Bratz called the meeting to order at 1:01.
2. Pledge of allegiance
3. Roll call and verify quorum.
4. Confirm the audio recorder is running.
5. Approval of minutes from the previous meetings held May 19, 2023
 - a. Russ Egan made a motion to approve the minutes.
 - b. Fred Koeller seconded the motion.
 - c. Motion Passed
6. Review the Treasurer's Report.
 - a. We have completed ENUM- 21 and 22.
 - b. Russ Egan made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report.
 - c. Jim Pindel seconded the motion.
 - d. Motion Passed

Old Business

7. Fox River 2023 Summit – Tom Slawski
 - a. Looking for speakers and topics
 - b. Will submit the reimbursement before the next meeting.
8. Report on Fox River Park Project – Alan Barrows
 - a. Wayne Jensen shared, Alan Barrows submitted partial payment which has been paid.
 - b. Balance \$36,951.44 remains.
 - c. \$50,000 was approved at the last meeting.
 - i. Both will be from ENUM-24.
9. WWMD Project-Greg Horeth
 - a. No update on the dredging update. Still working through the offloading locations.
10. Solberg Slope Stabilization- Chad Sampson
 - a. Trying to locate a company to use for vegetative bags.
 - b. Working with the owners to find someone to do the work.
 - c. Hoping for sometime this year, but that might be challenging.
11. Ogden Slope and Shoreline Stabilization- Chad Sampson

- a. The work has been completed.
 - b. All paperwork has been submitted to Treasurer, Wayne Jensen.
 - c. Wayne Jensen has submitted the paperwork to the WDNR.
12. North River Bay Road Shoreline Restoration- Chad Sampson
- a. Will occur in the next month or two.
13. Willow Court Shoreline Repair- Chad Sampson
- a. Will occur in the next month or two.
14. John Margis Jr. Wildlife Area Restoration- Chad Sampson
- a. The blacktop, which was not part of our funded part, was just finished.
 - b. Will truck rock and fill in so as not to ruin the new blacktop.
 - c. The foreman said mid to late August.
 - d. Chad Sampson or Jon Grove will oversee the project
 - e. 1-2 weeks to complete once the work begins.
 - f. Article in the Racine Journal Times mentioning the Southeast Wisconsin Fox River Commissions role and support of the project.
15. SEWRPC Survey from Waterford Dam to Illinois border-Tom Slawski
- a. Closed the billing for the project.
 - b. They are still working on the final report.
 - c. Hoping for completion this fall.

New Business

16. Vernon Wildlife Area DU Impoundment Restoration-Kelsey Norton, WDNR, Wildlife Biologist- Waukesha and Walworth County. Property manager for Vernon Marsh
- a. DU Impoundment T05N R18E S12
 - b. One of two wildlife refuges in Vernon Marsh.
 - c. The two impoundments are split by a dike system.
 - d. Joined with the Fox Water Trail which will encourage traffic on the waterway.
 - e. The dike system is degrading- muskrat damage, erosion causing slough, narrowing of the dike top, causing sedimentation concerns.
 - f. They have been trying to maintain and patch holes. Mow twice a year with tractors. Difficult to manage with equipment now. Holes over a foot deep. Very difficult to walk on, let alone work on.
 - g. For muskrat control- it is open for trapping. DNR does trap as well. The dikes were designed to narrow to begin with. If rebuilt correctly, it takes into account the impact of muskrats.

- h. Total dike system is 9,000 feet long.
- i. There are 3 water control structures. One that drains into the Fox River is in great shape. The remaining two are in need of updating.
- j. The plan is to restore the 9,000 feet of dike system, fill in low spots, reslope the sides, and replant.
- k. Replace the two water control structures then rip rap around the structures.
- l. Ducks Unlimited does the engineering work, they have completed a preliminary plan. Full plans would occur when moving forward.
- m. Estimate- \$102,000 for contractor to complete the work. \$75,600 for the DNR staff to complete the work.
- n. If the DNR completes the work.
 - i. Bought an excavator for the SE region. Goal is to become the expert in managing the work.
 - ii. Have the tools to maintain in house.
 - iii. Cost would cover, dozer rental, staff time, excavator/skid loader hours, material, and seed.
 - iv. Estimate of 4 weeks of work.
- o. Jim Pindel- 8-10 years ago- donated 30,000 for dike repair with DU
 - i. This project was the other side of the site. Which is able to be maintained and is not apart of the proposed project.
- p. If the dikes are not repaired, in a high water year, all the dikes could blow out and we could lose all the water into the Fox River.
- q. Lee Manthey asked, How will the Waukesha Water Diversion impact the area. The impact is unknown at this time.
- r. Fred Koeller shared, 500 year flood levels in 2008, the water level was so high you could not even see the dike system.. The dike has only had basic patching since.
- s. Chad Sampson asked about the muskrat problem as it will not go away. If we create them to be more sustainable for muskrats, then they can

stay on top of the maintenance and repair. They are able to maintain the other systems. Chad Sampson shared, in Racine County they will put wire inside of the dikes to prevent the muskrats from creating the holes to begin with.

- t. Jim Pindel- What is the cost? What are the other funding pools? Waterfowl Stamp dollars? Every two years we get the opportunity to request money from DNR Grant Applications. This project was not chosen this past year. Can reapply in two years. But that would delay the project further, when it needs to be completed.
 - u. There are no other funding options at the moment.
 - v. It is closed to the public during a portion of the year, during waterfowl nesting season. Which also makes funding challenging.
17. Report on activities of the work being done by Foth and RES
- a. Ry Thompson- RES work
 - i. Checked in with Waukesha County who prepared a Stamp Grant and were awarded partial funding. They are looking for additional funds. \$150,000.
 - ii. The Storymap is currently final unless there are more suggestions.
 - iii. They are putting together a final presentation of their work, late August they will be ready.
 - b. Tom Ludwig- FOTH work
 - i. PROTECT grant. Newer grant just released. Due August 18th. Kenosha County is sponsoring the grant. SEWFRC supporting it. Tom Slawski will be drafting support letter, for early next week.
 - ii. 90 % done with the application. Will have the grant done a week prior to the due date.
 - iii. Tom Slawski- it is listed in the Fox Watershed Mitigation Plan, which could be included.
18. 2021 – 2030 SEWFRC Implementation Plan – Tom Slawski & Alan Barrows
- a. No Update
19. Review and discussion of all projects on the Enum- 24 Waitlist
- a. \$ 5,222.07 remains available.

- b. No update on ENUM-25
 - i. Current state budget has not been approved.
- 20. Waukesha Diversion Project- Greg Horeth
 - a. Will be developing a report end of July. Would share information on how the situation could be mitigated if there is a drop off after the diversion begins.
 - b. They have reminded them of the report.
 - c. Will share with us so we are aware of what could be done.

Reports and Updates

- 21. Report on activities of Fox Waterway Agency of Illinois – Rob Rinckenberger
 - a. Have 3 big dredging projects working.
 - b. 2 mechanical crews working.
 - c. Projected to break record for soil sales.
 - d. 319 Watershed Grant. Identifying a lot of projects outside of the watershed to stop future sedimentation into the system. Goal to identify 50-60 projects.
- 22. Report on future of the Echo Lake Dam in Burlington-Donny Hefty
 - a. Jim Pindel- Evers vetoed funding for the dam from the state budget. They will have to locate the money.
- 23. Report on Fox River Watershed TMDL progress – Rachel Sabre
 - a. The modeler is drafting the parts of the reports. They just received reports from the monitoring and SWIMS data. Hope to have information out to public before mid-October.
 - b. Will start with the agricultural surveys soon.
 - c. Thank you for all the information from the counties.
 - d. Looking at the Waukesha Diversion and its potential impacts.
- 24. Report on the Fox Watershed Mitigation Plan- Tom Slawski
 - a. Wrapping up the predisaster mitigation plan. Wrapping up in the next month or so. Will share when complete.
- 25. Watershed Protection Committee of Racine County- Chad Sampson
 - a. Farm Group will host their summer field day. Friday, Sept 8th at Case Eagle Park. There are 3 stations. Reps from DNR, run off, and water quality. There are research plots and no till plots. Topics will cover, cover crops, soil health systems, and products that are available. There is the potential for a 4th station.
 - b. DATCAP came out two weeks ago, they will be filling out the application.
 - c. There are grass paths that are mowed through the park. You can see the difference between the plots. It is a 7-year process on the no till research. There is reduced run off and reduced erosion.
 - d. The long term goal to make a guide to the plots.
- 26. Kenosha County Regenerative Producers- Mark Jenks
 - a. The first field day was on June 8th. They had good turnout for first event.
 - b. Topics focused on rotational grazing.
 - c. They are working on 2024 grant application.

- d. Will be adding in cover crops for future goals.
 - e. Website is up and running.
 - f. The lead farmer and consultant did radio interviews, there will be a follow up with the Kenosha News.
 - g. They have a board and regular meetings scheduled.
27. SEWFRC Website – Al Sikora or Alan Barrows
- a. Tom Slawski- We can use the National Waterpark Logo. Would like to propose that we share that information with Al Sikora.
 - b. Another way to promote recreation and the quality of the waterway.

Correspondence

- Email 5/26/2023 from Tom Slawski (SEWRPC) to SEWFRC, to change meeting date of next meeting to 7/28/2023.
- Email 5/30/2023 from Tom Slawski (SEWRPC) to SEWFRC, providing updates by FOTH and RES.
- Email 5/31/2023 from Tom Slawski (SEWRPC) to SEWFRC announcing a mussel sampling opportunity on the White River.
- Email on 6/2/23 from Katelyn Bratz. Katelyn forwarded an email on The Waukesha County Park and Open Space Plan Update to the commissioners.
- Email 6/5/2023 Tom Slawski (SEWRPC) to SEWFRC on announcing Fabulous Fox! Water Trail Designated by Secretary of Interior into National Water Trails System.
- Email 6/20/2023 from Tom Slawski (SEWRPC) to SEWFRC Fabulous Fox! Water Trail National Water Trails System Logo Usage.
- Email 7/28/23 from Katelyn Bratz. Katelyn forwarded an email from KRPG on their July Meeting and upcoming meeting to the commissioners.
- Emails 7/10/2023 from Wayne Jensen to Sara DeBruijn, ENUM 22 and ENUM 24 funding questions.
- Emails 7/11/2023 from Wayne Jensen to Tom Slawski, Treasurers report.
- Email 7/12/2023 from Wayne Jensen to Sara DeBruijn, Fox River Parkway funding questions.
- Email from Kenosha County Regenerative Producers forwarded to commissioners updating on their recent activities.

Miscellaneous Issues

1. Jim Pindel shared an article with the commission on how Ducks Unlimited is leveraging RCPP to get funding for projects. They are using the funding for groundwater recharge systems. Could be used for the Vernon Marsh Project. Will forward the article to the commission.
2. Wayne Jensen shared, we do have to complete the Annual Report. Looking for projects from the County.

3. Jim Pindel asked when the Public hearing will occur? Wayne shared we are aiming for October.
 4. The next meeting is scheduled for September 15th , 1 pm at Burlington Public Works.
 5. Russ Egan made a motion to adjourn the meeting.
 6. Fred Koeller seconded the motion.
 7. The meeting was adjourned at 2:17 pm.
- * If you have any question about the Agenda, please call Secretary Tom Slawski at tslawski@sewrpc.org or (262) 953-3263.



Visit us at WWW.SEWFRC.ORG

Southeastern Wisconsin Fox River Commission Meeting Minutes

Friday, September 15, 2023- 1:00 PM

Meeting Location: DPW Community room located at 2200 S. Pine St, Burlington, WI 53105

Southeastern Wisconsin Fox River Commission Meeting Minutes

Commissioners and (alternates) Quorum= 9		
Representing	Name	Attended (yes/no, by phone)
Kenosha County	Andy Buehler Mark Jenks (non-voting)	Yes- Online
Racine County	Chad Sampson (Jon Grove)	Yes
Waukesha County	Alan Barrows (Leif Hauge)	Yes
City of Waukesha	Robins Grams (Doug Koehler)	Yes-Online
Town of Mukwonago	Katelyn Bratz (Barb Holtz)	
Town of Vernon	Lee Manthey	Yes
Town of Waterford	Jim Pindel (Shelley Tessmer)	
Town of Waukesha	Ken Miller	
Village of Big Bend	Kayla Rush	
Village of Mukwonago	Wayne Castle	Yes-Online
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	Yes
Town of Wheatland		
Village of Salem Lakes	Bill Hopkins	
SEWRPC	Tom Slawski (non-voting)	Yes
WDNR	Sara DeBruijn (non-voting)	
WDNR	Rachel Sabre (non-voting)	Yes- Online

Guests	
Representing	Name
RES	Ry Thompson
DNR	Kelsey Norten

1. Alan Barrows called the meeting to order at 1:02pm.
2. Pledge of allegiance
3. Roll call and verify quorum.
4. Confirm the audio recorder is running.
5. Approval of minutes from the previous meetings held May 19, 2023
 - a. Fred Koeller made a motion to approve the minutes.
 - b. Russ Egan seconded the motion.
 - c. Motion Passed
6. Review the Treasurer's Report.
 - a. ENUM- 21 and 22 were paid out, completed, and closed as verified by WDNR, and will no longer be shown on any projects in the future. ENUM-23 has \$40,000 remaining in the account for the mitigation plan, ENUM-24 has about \$5,000 left in the account. We have not heard any new information on ENUM-25 from WDNR yet as to when the funds will be available.
 - b. Russ Egan made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report.
 - c. Donny Hefty seconded the motion.
 - d. Motion Passed

Old Business

7. Fox River 2024 Summit – Tom Slawski
 - a. Looking for speakers and topics
 - b. Submitted for the reimbursement to close the 2023 Summit.
8. Report on Fox River Park Project – Alan Barrows
 - a. Phase 1 was completed last October, and native vegetation plantings along waterway are establishing.
 - b. Partial payment has been received.
 - c. Phase 2 is the handicap accessible kayak and canoe launch and fishing pier, plans at 60% currently and working with WDNR on permits, construction planned for early next summer 2024.
9. WWMD Project-Greg Horeth
 - a. No report
10. Solberg Slope Stabilization- Chad Sampson
 - a. Project is not likely going to be constructed this year.
 - b. Steep slopes are an issue, and plan to work on this project next spring 2024.

11. Ogden Slope and Shoreline Stabilization- Chad Sampson
 - a. The work, paperwork, and funding has been completed and this project will be removed from the agenda henceforth.
12. North River Bay Road Shoreline Restoration- Chad Sampson
 - a. Currently being constructed and expected to be done next week.
 - b. Homeowners are happy with the work.
 - c. Water levels remain very low, which helped in the installation of rock along the shoreline.
13. Willow Court Shoreline Repair- Chad Sampson
 - a. Cultural resources potential issues for Native American artifacts identified for this site. Took an extra week to clear the site, and nothing was found.
 - b. Hope it will still get constructed sometime this fall 2023, but not certain.
14. John Margis Jr. Wildlife Area Restoration- Chad Sampson
 - a. Project is completed to address erosion along bank and to the dam.
 - b. Invoice has been paid.
15. SEWRPC Survey from Waterford Dam to Illinois border-Tom Slawski
 - a. Closed the billing for the project.
 - b. They are still working on the final report.
 - c. Hoping for completion this November.

New Business

16. Vernon Wildlife Area DU Impoundment Restoration-Kelsey Norton, WDNR, Wildlife Biologist- Waukesha and Walworth County. Property manager for Vernon Marsh
 - a. Restore/rehabilitate about 2 miles of dikes and 2 water control structures as part of this project. She estimated that if a contractor would do the work in would cost about \$102,000 and if WDNR did the labor along with equipment rental it is estimated to cost about \$76,000 total budget.
 - b. We went through the project acceptance criteria and established that it does meet our funding criteria.
 - c. If we approve this project for funding, it would have to come from the ENUM-25 funds and be contingent upon receiving those funds sometime in the future.
 - d. Russ Egan made a motion to approve 90% of the total cost of the proposed \$76,000 (i.e., \$68,400) of the project, contingent upon getting the ENUM 25 funds.
 - e. Lee Manthey seconded the motion.
 - f. Motion Passed

g.

17. Report on activities of the work being done by Foth and RES

- a. Ry Thompson summarized that the successful submission of the PROTECT grant application by FOTH this past August 2023, was the final element needed to close this project scope of work.
- b. The Storymap is ready to post to the SEWFRC website.
- c. Submitted their final invoice for \$40,000 remaining to close this project from ENUM-23.
- d. Ry agreed to provide a summary report before the next meeting identifying that all elements were covered in the scope of work and related files to Tom and he will distribute to all the Commissioners.
- e. Alan suggested that SEWFRC should consider providing State Representative Chuck Wichgers an update on the overall success of this project in leveraging more potential funds to the Commission.
- f. Fred Koehler made a motion to table the decision to approve the final invoice for \$40,000 remaining to close this project from ENUM-23 until our next meeting in October.
- g. Donny Hefty seconded the motion.

h. Motion Passed

18. 2021 – 2030 SEWFRC Implementation Plan – Tom Slawski & Alan Barrows

a. No Update

19. Review and discussion of all projects on the Enum- 24 Waitlist

- a. \$ 5,222.07 remains available, and Chad summarized all the projects being completed.
- b. No update on ENUM-25

20. Waukesha Diversion Project- Greg Horeth

- a. The Waukesha Utility is moving the diversion back until October 2023.
- b. Root River outflow is being monitored, but no monitoring is required on the Fox River.

21. Public Forum-October Meeting

- a. Wayne shared the draft for what would be presented as the proposed budget at the Public Forum. Tom shared that draft via email to all the Commissioners.
- b. Chad and Alan have changes that they will provide to Wayne in order to make the revisions.
- c. The hearing is thought to be next month.

Reports and Updates

22. Report on activities of Fox Waterway Agency of Illinois – Rob Rinkenberger
 - a. Tom forwarded an invitation to all Commissioners on their upcoming Fox / Chain Watershed Stakeholders Meeting date.
 - b. It's Our Fox River Water Day is coming up this weekend and numerous events are being held both in WI and IL.
23. Report on future of the Echo Lake Dam in Burlington-Donny Hefty
 - a. Nothing to report
24. Report on Fox River Watershed TMDL progress – Rachel Sabre
 - a. No report
25. Report on the Fox Watershed Mitigation Plan- Tom Slawski
 - a. The final plan is completed and can be found at this link <http://www.sewrpc.org/SEWRPCFiles/Publications/CAPR/capr-343-fox-river-illinois-watershed-mitigation-plan.pdf> , which will be emailed to all commissioners after this meeting.
 - b. This will be removed from the agenda moving forward.
26. Watershed Protection Committee of Racine County- Chad Sampson
 - a. Farm Group hosted their summer field day. Friday, Sept 8th at Case Eagle Park. There are 3 stations. Reps from DNR, run off, and water quality. There are research plots and no till plots. Topics covered, cover crops, soil health systems, and products that are available.
 - b. Cover crop season coming up, and lots of people signing up for cost-share monies to implement them.
 - c. This winter several members are planning to attend the National No-Till conference in Indianapolis, instead of hosting a winter workshop.
27. Kenosha County Regenerative Producers- Mark Jenks
 - a. They are working on hosting their next Field Day September 26, with a focus on Soil Health, presenter Jamie Patton from NRCS.
 - b. Getting interest in expanding cover crops in the future.
28. SEWFRC Website – Al Sikora or Alan Barrows
 - a. No report

Correspondence

- 8/3/23 Tom Slawski forwarded the draft of the PROTECT Grant letter of support to the commissioners.
- 8/5/23 Katelyn Bratz sent the signed letter of support for the Protect Grant to Tom Slawski and Tom Ludwig.
- 8/7/23 Tom Slawski forwarded to commissioners the Ducks Unlimited article shared at our previous meeting.
- 8/15/23 Katelyn Bratz forwarded an email to the commissioners reminding them of the KRPG Monthly Meeting.
- 8/15/23 Katelyn Bratz forwarded an email to the commissioners from WWMD with their summer update.

Miscellaneous Issues

1. The next meeting is scheduled for October 20th , 1 pm at Burlington DPW Community room.
 2. Donny Hefty made a motion to adjourn the meeting.
 3. Russ Egan seconded the motion.
 4. The meeting was adjourned at 2:31 pm.
- * If you have any question about the Agenda, please call Secretary Tom Slawski at tslawski@sewrpc.org or (262) 953-3263.



Visit us at WWW.SEWFRC.ORG

Southeastern Wisconsin Fox River Commission Public Hearing Meeting Minutes

Friday, October 20, 2023- 1:00 PM

Meeting Location: DPW Community room located at 2200 S. Pine St, Burlington, WI 53105

Southeastern Wisconsin Fox River Commission Meeting Minutes

Commissioners and (alternates) Quorum= 9		
Representing	Name	Attended (yes/no, by phone)
Kenosha County	Andy Buehler Mark Jenks (non-voting)	Yes
Racine County	Chad Sampson (Jon Grove)	Yes
Waukesha County	Alan Barrows (Leif Hauge)	Yes- Online
City of Waukesha	Robins Grams (Doug Koehler)	
Town of Mukwonago	Katelyn Bratz (Barb Holtz)	
Town of Vernon	Lee Manthey	Yes
Town of Waterford	Jim Pindel (Shelley Tessmer)	
Town of Waukesha	Ken Miller	
Village of Big Bend	Kayla Rush	
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	
Town of Wheatland		
Village of Salem Lakes	Bill Hopkins	Yes
SEWRPC	Tom Slawski (non-voting)	Yes
WDNR	Sara DeBruijn (non-voting)	
WDNR	Rachel Sabre (non-voting)	Yes- Online

1. Wayne Jensen called the meeting to order at 1:00pm and roll call to verify quorum.
2. Review of the SEWFRC proposed budget for 2023-2024 as summarized by Wayne Jensen (attached to these minutes) and appropriately posted in several newspapers prior to this meeting pursuant to by-law requirements.
 - a. Bill Hopkins made a motion to approve the proposed budget.
 - b. Russ Egan seconded the motion.
 - c. Motion Passed unanimously.
3. Russ Egan made a motion to adjourn the meeting.
 - a. Fred Koeller seconded the motion.
 - b. The meeting was adjourned at 1:07 pm.

* If you have any question about the minutes, please call Secretary Tom Slawski at tslawski@sewrpc.org or (262) 953-3263.



Visit us at WWW.SEWFRC.ORG

Southeastern Wisconsin Fox River Commission Meeting Minutes- No quorum

Friday, November 17, 2023- 1:00 PM

Meeting Location: DPW Community room located at 2200 S. Pine St, Burlington, WI 53105
(with remote virtual Teams option)

Southeastern Wisconsin Fox River Commission Meeting

Commissioners and (alternates) Quorum= 9		
Representing	Name	Attended (yes/no, by phone)
Kenosha County	Andy Buehler Mark Jenks (non-voting)	Mark Jenks
Racine County	Chad Sampson (Jon Grove)	Yes
Waukesha County	Alan Barrows (Leif Hauge)	Yes
City of Waukesha	Robins Grams (Doug Koehler)	Yes
Town of Mukwonago	Katelyn Bratz (Barb Holtz)	Yes
Town of Vernon	Lee Manthey	Yes
Town of Waterford	Jim Pindel (Shelley Tessmer)	
Town of Waukesha	Ken Miller	
Village of Big Bend	Kayla Rush	
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	
City of Burlington	Donny Hefty	
Town of Wheatland		
Village of Salem Lakes	Bill Hopkins	
SEWRPC	Tom Slawski (non-voting)	Yes
WDNR	Sara DeBruijn (non-voting)	
WDNR	Rachel Sabre (non-voting)	Yes

Guests	
Representing	Name
Grant Horn	WWMD
Rob	

1. Katelyn Bratz called the meeting to order at 1:06 pm.
2. Pledge of allegiance
3. Roll call no quorum was present. It was decided to proceed with the meeting, but no official business could be finalized.
4. Confirm the Teams Chat recorder is running
5. Approval of minutes from the previous meetings held October 20, 2023- To be approved at next meeting.
6. Review the Treasurer's Report and ENUM project status.
 - a. Closed ENUM- 23
 - b. Enum-24 have submitted to the state and are waiting for funding from the state. Approx, \$5,000 remaining
 - c. ENUM-25 approved- will receive in July of next year.
 - d. Report to be approved at the next meeting.

Old Business

7. Fox River 2024 Summit – Tom Slawski
 - a. Will request the \$5500.00 at the next meeting.
 - b. Looking for topics and speakers
 - i. TMDL would be a topic idea.
8. Report on Fox River Park Project – Alan Barrows
 - a. Phase one was completed last year.
 - i. Added native vegetative mat last month.
 - b. Phase two- fishing pier and canoe launch, regrading.
 - c. Permits approved contingent on the public hearing.
 - d. Anticipating permit will be in hand shortly.
 - e. Bidding out in Dec/Jan.
 - f. Goal for completion end of May 2024.
 - g. Fred Koeller- what is the success rate with the vegetative mats?
 - i. Good, used on several previous projects.
 - ii. Have to water.

- iii. Jute mat will eventually biodegrade.
 - h. Does the product overwinter?
 - i. Yes, it has rained and froze very quickly. Survived well.
 - i. Are you getting funding for the ADA pier. There have been sources of funding from a few different sources. The one in the village of Waterford qualifies for grants.
9. WWMD Project-Grant Horn
- a. Grant went to the board to move forward with the project.
 - b. Property sale is delaying the transaction. Hopefully, shortly they can move forward with engineering and permitting.
 - c. Have to include the entire project as one finance package.
 - d. Is the only roadblock, securing the parcel?
 - i. Hopefully, the DNR is on board with the plan.
 - ii. Sites should be able to hold all the sediment.
 - iii. Also working on smaller sites to prevent pumping or barging further.
10. Solberg Slope Stabilization- Jon Grove
- a. Received the quote, which was around \$12,000 as the landowner requested. They are waiting on one more bid.
11. North River Bay Road Shoreline Restoration- Jon Grove
- a. All four projects are completed.
 - b. Wayne Jensen has received the invoices and submitted.
12. Willow Court Shoreline Repair- Jon Grove
- a. Out for bidding.
13. John Margis Jr. Wildlife Area Restoration- Jon Grove
- a. Phase one completed in Aug.
 - i. Paperwork all submitted.
 - b. County board supervisor would like to look into a phase two.
14. SEWRPC Survey from Waterford Dam to Illinois border-Tom Slawski
- a. Noting to report
15. Vernon Wildlife Area DU Impoundment Restoration-Kelsey Norton, WDNR
- a. No update- funding pending ENUM-25

New Business

- 16. 2021 – 2030 SEWFRC Implementation Plan – Tom Slawski & Alan Barrows
 - a. No Update- Have we created a formal group within the commission to support the revision? We have outlined the scope of the changes.
- 17. Waukesha Diversion Project- Grant Horn
 - a. The water level at the Waterford dam has been recorded every day since and precipitation.
 - b. They have pulled the data for the last 3 years to establish a baseline.
 - c. In the last 3 days the water level has been down a significant amount.
 - d. It has been fairly dry the last 10 days. -Anecdotal
 - e. Wayne Jensen- The dam levels should remain fairly constant.
 - f. Fred Koeller- It will impact above the Waterford dam before the

impoundment.

Reports and Updates

18. Report on activities of Fox Waterway Agency of Illinois – Rob Rinkenberger
 - a. Had a great year. Draw down has begun, each year 18 inches. The dredging will be wrapping up due to the draw down.
 - b. The soil sales are very high. Close to \$185,000. Hoping to expand the program.
 - c. Early stages of composting options. Hopefully, an amendment to their soil facility.
 - d. All the navigational lanes are out.
 - e. There are several at the boarder that they will be looking for support.
 - i. Cross lake, covers the border
 - ii. Dredging on Illinois side.
 - iii. Soil will be placed on Wisconsin farm land.
 - iv. Have a watershed plan for the 18 acres.
 - v. A great interstate project to collaborate on.
 - f. Could be a topic for the Summit
19. Report on future of the Echo Lake Dam in Burlington-
 - a. Cost has risen to 9 million- article in the Racine Times
20. Report on Fox River Watershed TMDL progress – Rachel Sabre
 - a. Had a meeting, well attended, great questions and answers. Recording is available online, if unable to attend.
 - b. The draft of the monitoring and ag survey is on their website.
 - c. Alan Barrows- when talking about different pollutants. Orthophosphates was called out. Why was that called out?
 - i. Total phosphorous is what we have the standard for.
 1. They are gathering information for more information.
21. Watershed Protection Committee of Racine County- Jon Grove
 - a. Committee received +20 requests for cost share on cover crops.
 - b. Will not be a winter workshop this year, the money will be going to cover the National No-till conference admissions.
 - c. Tom Slawski- Can they give us an update on the conference.
22. Kenosha County Regenerative Producers- Mark Jenks
 - a. Earlier this week, they worked out the new budget.
 - b. Awarded a new grant. Not what they asked for, but it was triple from their first year. DATCP.
 - c. Have been some discussions of working with the nutrient planners.
23. SEWFRC Website – Al Sikora or Alan Barrows
 - a. Tom Slawski met with Al Sikora. He has revamped the website and it is more user friendly for a mobile device. Also added some additional content. Feel free to look through the website.
 - b. Added links to that water trail, online portal, etc.
 - c. We need to do a better job sharing project updates, photos, etc.
 - d. Is there an easier way to submit documentation of our projects?

- e. Andy Buehler and Tom Slawski presented on the grants we are pursuing. We could post the presentations somewhere.
- f. Should we add an events page.

Correspondence

- 10/25/23 Ry Thompson emailed Tom Slawski asking for Al Sikora contact information to work on posting the Storymap to our website.
- 10/25/23 Tom Slawski emailed Al Sikora to coordinate to with RES and to figure out how to post the Storymap onto our website.
- 10/26/2023 Wayne Jensen emailed Sara at WDNR to request for funding of the Fox River Summit Conference of 2023.
- 11/6/2023 Racel Sabre emailed Tom Slawski concerning a land parcel site adjacent to the Fox River near Hwy I that is proposed to be restored as part of a WDNR surface water grant by Tall Pines Conservancy.
- 11/6/2023 Katelyn Bratz forwarded two emails from Laura Buska, informing of the KRPG meeting recap and their upcoming annual event on Nov 15th.
- 11/9/2023 Tom Slawski emailed Rachel Sabre concerning a land parcel site adjacent to the Fox River near Hwy I summarizing that this parcel is a high priority for Agricultural BMP restoration or protection.
- 11/13/2023 Al Sikora emailed Tom Slawski noting that he added a new Trail page up on the website for your review. <http://sewfrc.org/fabulous-fox-river.html> and added some content from FFWT page and the National Park Service page.
- 11/17/2023 Email from Gail Goodchild, Fox River Watershed Hazard Mitigation Plan requesting to be on the agenda at the next meeting, to discuss the commissions interests in assisting the regional coordination group.

Miscellaneous Issues

1. Alan Barrows- In Waukesha and Washington county. Old dairy farms are converting into horse operations. Conditional use permits for commercial operation. They do not know what nutrient management is, manure management. Held a horse management workshop. 65 attendees.
 - a. NRCS does not include equestrian farms.
 - b. This is a new group to work with, that has not been engaged with in the past.
2. Fred Koeller- we are struggling with quorum. We used to respond. We need alternates to attend if there is no quorum.
 - a. Tom Slawski- we need to set expectations for attendance.

- b. Can we contact the municipalities and request a new alternate.
 - c. Follow-up with those not in attendance.
 - d. Can we move the date and time?
3. Fox River Watershed Hazard Mitigation Plan
- a. Alan Barrows- SEWRPC was the drafter of the plan. There is on page 112-114 several pages of project recommendations, geared around flood mitigation. There are a number of projects that directly align with our work. There is a BRIC grant that offers 75% cost-share on projects. Gail asked if we could have her present at our next meeting.
4. Next Meeting and Location
- a. January 12, 2023 . Burlington Public Works. 1 pm.

5. Close Meeting

* If you have any question about the Agenda, please call Secretary Tom Slawski at tslawski@sewrpc.org or (262) 953-3263.