

Southeast Wisconsin Fox River Commission Meeting Minutes

Friday, February 20, 2026 at 1 p.m. – In person meeting at Vernon Fire Station #1.

W233 S7475 Woodland Ln. Big Bend, WI 53103

Commissioner's Present:

Alan Barrows, Waukesha County
Jim Pindel, Town of Waterford
Fred Koeller, Village of Waterford
Wayne Jensen, Village of Rochester
Lee Manthey, Town of Vernon
Chad Sampson, Racine County
Paul Tollard, Kenosha County
Howard Moser, City of Burlington
Wayne Castle, Village of Mukwonago

Agenda

1. Alan Barrows called the meeting at 1:01 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll call and verify quorum
4. Chad Sampson recording and taking minutes.
5. Paul Tollard made a motion to approve the previous minutes, seconded by Fred Koeller.
 - a. Motion passed unanimously.
6. Review of the Treasurer's Report. A motion made by Paul Tollard to approve the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Howard Moser.
 - a. Motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

7. Fox River Summit – Tom Slawski sent an email update. The Summit is on March 12 and provided a link for the Summit. Currently, there were 80 registrants. All members from the Commission will be reimbursed to attend.
8. SEWRPC Survey from the Waterford Dam to the Illinois border – Jim Pindel stated that Tom mentioned being very close to being finished at the last meeting.
9. Vernon Wildlife Area DU Impoundment Restoration – The project is complete and the reimbursement paperwork has been submitted. Remove this from the agenda.
10. Racine County Office of Emergency Management Flow Gauge – Chad Sampson stated the maintenance fee was denied by the Racine County Public Works, Parks and Facilities Committee. Howard Moser stated Burlington was willing to do the 3 way split, but the City is looking for more options to fund the gauge.
11. Noble Brothers Burgers Permeable Pavers – Chad Sampson said there is no update at this time.

New Business

1. Discussion of a bi-state NRCS RCPP – Dean Farr to have further discussions with the Commission at the Fox River Summit.
2. 2021 – 2030 SEWFRC Implementation Plan – Alan Barrows had a copy of the completed version of the Implementation Plan and will distribute a digital copy to the Commissioners.
3. Fox River Watershed Hazard Mitigation Plan / Regional Coordinator Group – No update.
4. Fox Bend Wetland Restoration Project within the Village of Vernon
 - a. Alan Barrows said the project has closed out two of the three grants. The last grant has not been closed out yet. There is a 3 year maintenance contract to be completed yet.
5. Consideration of having a Wisconsin Statute attorney on retainer to advise us on legal issues – No update.
6. Racine County 2026 Shoreline Projects – Alan Barrows stated the projects were presented by Kailyn at the last meeting and the were pre-scored with enough points. Jim Pindel stated the projects cannot exceed \$50,000 total. C. Sampson stated he will make sure the total is below \$50,000 and will make adjustments to cost-share as estimates come in. A motion from Howard Moser to approve the shoreline projects up to \$50,000, second by Paul Tollard. The motion passed unanimously.

Reports and Updates

1. Report on the activities of the Fox Waterway Agency of Illinois – No report.
2. Report on the future of the Echo Lake Dam in Burlington – Howard Moser said there is a tentative schedule from Yahnke Construction. They anticipate mobilization in April and will be working on the dam itself for 4 months. They plan on working straight through until September and will do a drawdown at that time. They are currently working with property owners to do dredging, but have been unsuccessful with that. The City properties are not large enough for dewatering, so they are looking at using dewatering tubes which will increase the cost, but speed up the process.
3. Report on the Fox River Watershed TMDL Progress
 - a. Chad Sampson said the DNR gave a TMDL presentation at the Winter Workshop. Phosphorus is the primary reduction needed for water quality to meet the TMDL.
4. Watershed Protection Committee of Racine County
 - a. Chad Sampson said there was a speaker on soybeans and Jim Stute spoke about the economic impacts of regenerative agriculture. C. Sampson said that Gunderson Grain Farms won the Wisconsin Farm Family of the Year and will be presented the award at the WI Land & Water Conference. Alan Barrows said in the past they hosted Conservation Observance Day at your farm, but the video is a better idea.

5. Kenosha County Regenerative Producers
 - a. Paul Tollard stated the had there 2026 kickoff meeting. The group is helping plan a nutrient management planning workshop in April.

6. SEWFRC Website
 - a. Alan Barrows said he was on the website and we should have the reimbursement forms available and easier to find.

Correspondence

1-18-2026 Jim sent an email to mark your calendars for the February 20 meeting.

2-9-2026 Jim sent out meeting announcement with attachments.

2-10-2026 Jim received a revised agenda from Chad Sampson

2-16-2026 Jim sent out the revised agenda.

Miscellaneous Issues

1. The next meeting was set for March 20 at 1 p.m. at the Big Bend Fire Station.

2. A motion to adjourn by Fred Koeller, seconded by Paul Tollard to adjourn at 1:33 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Chad Sampson, SEWFRC Commissioner.