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Southeastern Wisconsin Fox River Commission Meeting Minutes

Friday, March 20, 2026 - 1:00 PM

Commissioners and (alternates) Quorum= 9		
Representing	Name	Attended (yes/no, by phone)
Kenosha County	Andy Buehler (Paul Tollard)	Paul Tollard
Racine County	Chad Sampson (Jon Grove)	Jon Grove
Waukesha County	Alan Barrows (Leif Hauge)	Alan Barrows
City of Waukesha	Robins Grams (Doug Koehler)	
Town of Mukwonago	Katelyn Bratz (Barb Holtz)	Katelyn Bratz
Town of Vernon	Lee Manthey	Lee Manthey
Town of Waterford	Jim Pindel (Shelley Tessmer)	Jim Pindel
Town of Waukesha		
Village of Big Bend	Joshua Grover Bryan Bindell	Joshua Grover
Village of Mukwonago	Wayne Castle	Wayne Castle
Village of Waterford	Fred Koeller (Al Sikora)	Fred Koeller
Village of Rochester	Wayne Jensen	Wayne Jensen
Town of Burlington	Russ Egan	
City of Burlington	Howard Moser	
Town of Wheatland	Donna Duester	
Village of Salem Lakes	Bill Hopkins Andy Kreye	
SEWRPC	Tom Slawski (non-voting)	
WDNR	(non-voting)	
WDNR	Rachel Sabre (non-voting)	

Guests	
Representing	Name

Grant Horn	WWMD

In person Meeting to be held at:

Vernon Fire Station #1. W233 S7475 Woodland Ln Big Bend Wi 53103

Southeastern Wisconsin Fox River Commission Meeting

1. Call meeting to order. Alan Barrows called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.
2. Pledge of allegiance
3. Roll call and verify quorum.
4. Confirm the Team's Voice recorder is running.
5. Identify who will record the meeting minutes. Katelyn Bratz is completing the meeting minutes.
6. Approval of minutes from the previous meetings held February 20, 2026.
 - a. Paul Tollard made a motion to approve the February 20, 2026 meeting minutes.
 - b. Fred Koeller seconded the motion.
 - c. Motion passes.
7. Review the Treasurer's Report and ENUM project status.
 - a. Wayne Jensen shared \$123,025.92 balance at the end of Feb.
 - b. Enum 25 fund remain-\$25,476.57
 - i. Needs to be spent prior to the end of June, or we will need an extension.
 - c. Fred Koeller made a motion to approve the treasurer's report.
 - d. Jon Grove seconded the motion.
 - e. Motion passes

Old Business

1. Fox River 2026 Summit (3/12/26) – Tom Slawski
 - a. Alan Barrows shared that it was a nice program.
 - b. Members agreed that the speakers were wonderful.
 - c. Regenerative farming had great concepts shared as well.
 - d. American Bird Conservancy gave very interesting and important resources.
 - e. Check with Wayne Jensen if you need reimbursement.
2. SEWRPC Survey from Waterford Dam to Illinois border-Tom Slawski
 - a. No Update
 - b. Alan Barrows reminded, we have all the maps for the plan that show the risk areas.

3. Flow gauge for Racine County Office of Emergency Management for the Fox River. The request includes purchase of the hardware, installation and maintenance. – the SEWFRC committed to funding the hardware and installation only. - Lorenzo Santos
 - a. City of Burlington is considering the funding. No update on that status.
 - b. Jim Pindel proposed the idea of different organizations agreeing to one year commitments for funding.
 - c. Alan Barrows suggested that a municipality could give the commission the funds and the commission could manage the funds over a series of years.
4. Noble Brothers Burgers Permeable Pavers – Jon Grove
 - a. No update

New Business

1. Discussion consideration of coordinating a bi-state Natural Resources Conservation Service/ Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCP) grant and advocacy for making such a joint effort possible within the Fox River watershed. – Dean Farr or Tom Slawski
 - a. No update
 - b. One of the grants that Foth and RES worked on previously was the RCP grant. We could revisit this idea. The challenge is administering a grant.
 - c. An attorney could be valuable in this instance. Which we could fund with non-grant dollars.
2. 2021 – 2030 SEWFRC Implementation Plan – Tom Slawski & Alan Barrows
 - a. Alan Barrows emailed a new updated copy to members who had previously worked on it. It is not perfect, but please look at it.
 - b. If you want to edit and work on it, Alan Barrows can send to you access to the editable files.
 - c. Fred Koeller should the maps with the erosion sites be included? This could be on the website and referenced in the appendices.
3. Fox River Watershed Hazard Mitigation Plan/Regional Coordinator Group- Gail Goodchild
 - a. Alan Barrows reached out to the new coordinator, Alex Freeman. Alex is going to research the status and get back to us.
4. Fox Bend Wetland Restoration Project within Village of Vernon- Alan Barrows
 - a. We have been reimbursed on our piece. They are waiting on the establishment mowings on the native vegetation. The project area was flooded last fall. This is an example of a project started with Foth and Res. We can remove this from the agenda. The remaining work is paid for by a DNR Waterfowl Stamp Grant.
5. Consideration of putting a Wisconsin Statue attorney on retainer to advise us on legal issues. This would have to be paid for from non-grant funds. Email was sent to Rachel Sabre requesting forwarding to appropriate person(s) within WDNR.
 - a. Alan Barrows will follow up with potential attorneys.
6. Racine County Shoreline Projects (Miller, Ogden, Musta, Sackman, Strasser, Rees, Schwaab, Waterford Landing.
 - a. Musta, Schwaab, and Rees names are incorrect. Agenda for the next meeting should be updated.

- b. Wayne Jensen, the dollar amount was estimated. We would like a more definite number. They are currently working with contractors and working on permits. More concise numbers will hopefully be available shortly.
7. Conversations with Representatives might be worthwhile to revisit alternative funding resources.
8. WWMD has a presenter coming near future pertaining to wakeboarding. Grant Horn can forward the commission the information.
9. Lake County Clean Waters also has potential partnerships.

Reports and Updates

1. Report on activities of Fox Waterway Agency of Illinois – FWA or Tom Slawski
 - a. No Update
2. Report on future of the Echo Lake Dam in Burlington
 - a. No Update
3. Report on Fox River Watershed TMDL progress – Rachel Sabre
 - a. They presented at the Summit. Soon the allocations will be given out. They are still drafts but will give people ideas of what phosphorous and sediment reductions will be.
4. Watershed Protection Committee of Racine County- Chad Sampson
 - a. Booth at the Summit
 - b. Gearing up at Case Eagle Park.
5. Kenosha County Regenerative Producers
 - a. Met last week, Paul Tollard has been working with them to plan an introductory course on nutrient management planning in April.
6. SEWFRC Website – Al Sikora or Alan Barrows
 - a. No Update

Correspondence

2/21/26 Email from Jim Pindel to all commissioners to mark your calendars for today's meeting.

2/24/26 February 2026 approved minutes sent to Al Sikora

3/10/26 February meeting minutes received from Chad Sampson

03/10/26 Meeting announcement for today's meeting.

03/14/26 Revised agenda sent out for today's meeting.

Miscellaneous Issues

1. Friends of Mukwonago River sent an email this morning, they will be merging with the Waukesha County Land Conservancy. Katelyn Bratz forwarded the email to Jim Pindel.

2. Next Meeting and Location

April 17, Vernon Fire Station #1, W233 S7475 Woodland Ln Big Bend, WI 53103

3. Close Meeting

- a. Fred Koeller made a motion to adjourn the meeting.
- b. Joshua Grover seconded the motion.
- c. Alan Barrows adjourned the meeting at 1:40.

* If you have any questions about the Agenda, please contact Secretary Jim Pindel at jpindel@wi,rr.com or call him at 414 550 8213