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Southeastern Wisconsin Fox River Commission Meeting Minutes

Friday, January 19, 2024- 1:00 PM

Meeting Location: Virtual

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 Andy- Yes
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	
Town of Waterford	Jim Pindel (Shelley Tessmer)	Yes
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	Yes
Town of Wheatland		
Village of Salem Lakes	Bill Hopkins	No
SEWRPC	Tom Slawski (non-voting)	Yes
WDNR	Sara DeBruijn (non-voting)	
WDNR	Rachel Sabre (non-voting)	Breanna Crane

Guests	
Representing	Name
Greg Horeth	WWMD

1. Katelyn Bratz called the meeting to order at 1:02 pm.
2. Pledge of allegiance
3. Roll call was taken and quorum verified.
4. Confirm the Teams Chat recorder is running
5. Approval of minutes from the previous meetings held October 20, 2023
 - a. Wayne Castle made a motion to approve the minutes.
 - b. Alan Barrows seconded the motion.
 - c. Motion Passes
6. Review the Treasurer's Report and ENUM project status.
 - a. Jim Pindel Made a motion to approve the treasurer's report.
 - b. Russ Egan seconded the motion.
 - c. Motion passes

Old Business

7. Fox River 2024 Summit – Tom Slawski
 - a. Planning committee has begun working. They have lined up topics, pollutant load reduction, Fox River Study Group Implementation Plan, Fox River Basin TMDL, working with Chad Sampson for a soil health and cover crop speaker.
 - b. Registration is open, March 14th all day. Sending out announcements and promoting.
 - c. They will be offering a hybrid option. There will be recordings of the sessions.
 - d. Would like to request that we reimburse up to \$5500 for the upcoming summit.
 - i. Jim Pindel made a motion to approve the funds.
 - ii. Alan Barrows made a second.

iii. Motion Passes

- e. Alan Barrows asked if we could fund prior to the ENUM 24, Tom Slawski shared that funding could be delayed until later in the year.
8. Report on Fox River Park Project – Alan Barrows
- a. Second phase is out for bid. Jan 9th
 - b. January 18th there was a site walk through.
 - c. Bids due Feb 1
 - d. Approve contract by Feb 28
 - e. Mark Jenks- how many contractors came for the walk through?
Unknown. Will follow up with answer.
9. WWMD Project-Greg Horeth
- a. Continue work on the second offloading site. Waiting on the deal to move forward.
 - b. Once the second location is secured they should be able to move forward.
10. Solberg Slope Stabilization- Chad Sampson
- a. Estimate in, owner has agreed to 12,000, cost share 9,000 contractor lined up for May or June of this year.
11. North River Bay Road Shoreline Restoration- Chad Sampson
- a. Complete and paid- Could be removed from the agenda. Have not received the reimbursement, but approved by DNR.
12. Willow Court Shoreline Repair- Chad Sampson
- a. Had a few issues with the land owners cooperation, through the process. Approved for 15,600. The landowners have not been willing to sign the contract.
 - b. Will not be using the approved funds from the project. Money can go back into the cost share project fund.
13. John Margis Jr. Wildlife Area Restoration- Chad Sampson
- a. Complete in August, looks great, the annual rye grass has come in thick with the native seeds.
 - b. The funds have been approved, but we have not received the funds. Could be removed from the agenda.
14. SEWRPC Survey from Waterford Dam to Illinois border-Tom Slawski
- a. Not able to complete the promised draft
 - b. With the Foth and RES project done, Tom will be able to have the draft hopefully for the next meeting.
15. Vernon Wildlife Area DU Impoundment Restoration-Kelsey Norton, WDNR
- a. Awaiting ENUM funds in summer.
 - b. Kelsey Norton will be following up with DNR per email.

New Business

16. 2021 – 2030 SEWFRC Implementation Plan – Tom Slawski & Alan Barrows

- a. Met and created a framework for the project. Objective is to update and adopt the new document by the end of the year.
- b. Created a task list and timeline

Task	Lead Entity(s)	Target Date	Status Update
Project Kick-Off meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Charter overview • Project communication • Benchmark and Baseline research overview • File documentation 		January or February	
Review of Chapter 33, WI Statutes to ensure that all required items are identified.	Alan	February	
Identify plan components that are outdated	Alan, Katelyn, Chad and Mark	February	
Identify plan components that need to be added	Katelyn	March	
Send a letter to communities informing them of the plan update effort and outline expectations for representatives	Katelyn and Tom	April	
Complete a bulleted list of plan updates to be included	All	May	
Update plan narrative to include outdated & missing items	Katelyn	July	
Reference to the SEWRPC Fox River study		August	
Update plan maps, charts, figures, etc.	SEWRPC	August	
Work on plan formatting with Al Sikora for website	All	September	
Provide a draft of the updated plan to the Commission for review	All	October	
Complete revisions to draft plan	All	November	
Send a letter to solicit review comments from Partner communities and stakeholders	Katelyn / Tom	November	
Post plan to website with Al Sikora	All	November	
Plan adoption by Commission		December 2024	

- c. Jim Pindel- notifying the municipalities, Wheatland has dropped out of the commission with a commissioner. Perhaps require an active commissioner for the commission.
 - i. We need representation from every member community.
 - d. The work group contains:
 - i. executive committee members
 - ii. representatives from the 3 counties
 - iii. Would like representation from the DNR.
 - iv. Would anyone else like to volunteer to be a part of the work group.
 - e. Tom Slawski does not foresee a problem acquiring the maps.
 - f. No bound dates, update as needed
 - g. Greg Horeth appreciated the outline for the plan.
17. Waukesha Diversion Project- Greg Horeth
- a. At the next meeting, they have developed a chart to monitor the Waterford dam and tracking the levels along with the rainfall, to understand the impact or lack of impact on the water levels. It will share 2021, 2022, 2023. This will give us the history and quantitative impacts.
 - b. Will send the information out regularly.
18. Permeable Pavers- Chad Sampson
- a. We have a request to help fund permeable pavers for a parking lot.
 - b. Is this eligible for cost share for our commission?
 - i. Alan Barrows- does it meet the DNR best management standard?
 - ii. How do we determine if this is an eligible practice? Who makes this decision if it meets the standard?
 - c. From a technical standard- Waukesha reviews many applications and Alan Barrows could support.
 - d. We have never cost shared them in the past.
 - e. It is an approved best standard practice, which would make them cost shareable.
 - f. Alan Barrows shared that they are not cheap. On average they run 2-3 times more expensive than traditional asphalt.
 - g. Alan Barrows- there can be a run off ratio 4-1 you do not need to do all of the sidewalk. Infiltration over 100 inches per hour.
 - h. They are maintenance intensive, but should last a long time before needing maintenance.
 - i. We have put a cap on how much a shoreline can receive for individual landowner. Does there need to be a cap for this type of item?
 - i. Because it is a new approach, lets handle this specific to this project- Alan Barrows
 - ii. We put a cap on the shoreline because there were so many, no cap needed here, there is only one project. -Jim Pindel
 - j. Katelyn Bratz mentioned putting the concept into the Implementation Plan, as it is a new fundable process.

19. Poplar Circle Shoreline Restoration (3 landowners requesting \$9,000 each for \$27,000)
 - a. Came in a few years ago, located just off 164.
 - b. 3 land owners that are adjacent to each other.
 - c. 276 feet of shoreline
 - d. Excavate 176 feet of Shoreline and place RipRap
 - e. 100 feet will be filling voids, moving riprap, add stone
 - f. Native Plants along most of shoreline
 - g. Lawn grasses around pier and high traffic areas
 - h. Mulch and Erosion Control
 - i. They are waiting on firm estimates
 - j. Greg Horeth- When was the last time there was communication with the owners on the project, November or December. Chad Sampson's staff is working with them. All three owners have been in contact with staff. Met with them in August and again in October to discuss with a contractor.

20. Noble Brothers Burgers Permeable Pavers (Still waiting on cost estimate for cost share request)
 - a. Landowner called in November asking if there is any cost share money for pavers. The site is very close to the river.
 - b. The best areas for the permeable pavers might be the down areas of the parking lot.
 - c. 9,000 sq ft area. He was talking about completing the whole parking lot with the pavers.
 - d. Cost estimate is \$250,000
 - e. Would like as much as possible with the permeable pavers.
 - f. How much of the parking lot needs to be permeable, accounting for run off ratio?- Alan Barrows
 - g. It would be helpful to have an estimate for traditional asphalt. Then perhaps look at the difference between the two for cost sharing -Alan Barrows
 - h. Russ Egan- how much water is actually running off this parking lot into the Fox River? It all would go either to the road or the storm sewer. Are they asking us to repave their driveway? Chad Sampson replied, they are looking at a water quality and responsible way to manage the water flow. The goal of the group is to help be responsible. It is worth discussion. It is a high activity place, might create opportunity for signage to expand the impact of the commission.
 - i. Tom Slawski- placed a urban nonpoint grant management link in chat. April deadline for the grant. He has no experience with the grant, but worth a look. Might be a more appropriate vehicle to help fund the project.
 - i. [Urban Nonpoint Source & Storm Water Management Grant Program || Wisconsin DNR](#)
 - ii. Alan is familiar with the grant program. They have been unsuccessful acquiring it, it is very competitive.

21. Margis Wildlife Area Phase II (\$10,000 request)
 - a. Phase one was very successful.
 - b. Phase two will be \$10,000.
 - i. Completing the other side of the walking path.

- ii. Dead tree removal
- iii. Create access areas, rip rap, and seeding on the shoreline
- iv. Lawn grasses in high traffic areas
- v. Discussing the option of a pier in this area.
- vi. Overall cost will be closer to \$20,000.
- vii. Racine County will do in kind labor.

22. Fox River Watershed Hazard Mitigation Plan/Regional Coordinator Group- Gail Goodchild
- a. Moved to the February meeting agenda.

Reports and Updates

23. Report on activities of Fox Waterway Agency of Illinois – FWA or Tom Slawski
- a. No Update
24. Report on future of the Echo Lake Dam in Burlington-Donny Hefty
- a. The city has selected a firm to complete the work.
 - b. Feb 6 meeting will approve the contract for the work.
 - c. Greg Horeth- Interested in more information on the firm.
 - i. Donny Hefty shared- Director of Public Works is handling the project. But the upcoming meeting will also have more information on the firm.
25. Report on Fox River Watershed TMDL progress – Rachel Sabre
- a. Not much update, still working on the modeling. Some additional monitoring may occur over the summer.
26. Watershed Protection Committee of Racine County- Chad Sampson
- a. No winter workshop, money better spent on training.
 - b. Will possibly host a May field day, TBD. Summer field day will be occurring as well.
27. Kenosha County Regenerative Producers- Mark Jenks
- a. Held their first meeting this past Tuesday, talk about the practices they are hoping to cost share. Created a strategy to get more farmers involved with the group. The core group is people who are doing rotational grazing. They want to expand their influence. Sponsoring a showing of the movie Common Ground at Parkside.
28. SEWFRC Website – Al Sikora or Alan Barrows
- a. We did add an entire page for the Fox Water trail. Al Sikora would like review on the entire website, to determine what is still relevant. Would like to update the news site on the homepage.
 - b. Dire need of project information. Al Sikora does not get the information on the completed projects.

Correspondence

- 12/1/23 - Katelyn Bratz sent an email to all absent commissioners requesting

RSVP's for the meetings and alternates to help us achieve quorum.

- 12/1/23 Email from Root Pike WIN on Regenerative Farming videos
- 12/4/23 Email from Don Hefty to Commissioners on mtg attendance
- 1/9/24- Katelyn Bratz sent emails to all commissioners and all visitors listed on the agenda informing them of the meeting change to virtual.
- 1/15/24-Katelyn Bratz sent email too all commissioners notifying them of the new meeting date

Miscellaneous Issues

1. Next Meeting and Location

- a. Changes to the meeting day of the week.
- b. Flex days on Friday.
- c. Could we meet earlier on Friday and end by noon.
- d. People tend to take Fridays off. Summer Fridays are also challenging.

2. Would virtual meeting make attendance easier?

- a. Saves travel time.
- b. More efficient with time.
- c. Perhaps having a few in person meetings each year.

3. Virtual Meeting 10-12 on a Friday. Feb 23 On Teams.

4. Close Meeting 2:24

- a. Russ Egan made a motion to adjourn the meeting.
- b. Al Sikora seconded the motion.
- c. Motion Passes

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