

Southeast Wisconsin Fox River Commission Meeting Minutes

Friday, January 24, 2025 at 1 p.m. – In person meeting at Big Bend

Commissioner's Present:

Alan Barrows, Waukesha County
Chad Sampson, Racine County
Donna Duester, Town of Wheatland
Ellen Cole, Village of Big Bend
Lee Manthey, Town of Vernon
Jim Pindel, Town of Waterford
Roger Adams, Village of Waukesha
Robin Grams, City of Waukesha
Fred Koeller, Village of Waterford
Wayne Castle, Village of Mukwonago
Andy, Village of Salem Lakes

Guests:

Kailyn Palomares, Racine County (non-voting)
Grant Horn, WWMD (non-voting)

1. Alan Barrows called the meeting at 1:02 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll call and verify quorum
4. Chad Sampson recording the meeting and taking minutes.
5. Approval of the meeting minutes from December 13, 2024
 - a. Fred Koeller made a motion to approve the previous minutes.
 - b. Robin Grams seconded the motion.
 - i. Motion Passes
6. Review the Treasurer's Report and ENUM Project Status
 - a. December reports were received in an email from Jim Pindel.
 - b. Jim Pindel gave an overview of the new color spreadsheet.
 - c. A motion was made by Fred Koeller to approve the Treasurer's Report
 - d. The motion was seconded by Jim Pindel.
 - i. Motion Passes

Old Business

1. Fox River Summit 2025
 - a. The Fox River Summit is Thursday, March 13, 2025.
 - b. Commissioners wanting to attend can be reimbursed by the Commission.
 - c. Registration is available online.
2. Report on the Fox River Project
 - a. Alan Barrows stated the project is complete and final paperwork went to Wayne about two weeks ago.

- b. Alan Barrows said some photos of the final project will be on the website.
 - c. Jim Pindel asked if there were signs on the project and Alan stated that there were multiple partners and there will be signs recognizing all of them.
- 3. WWMD Project
 - a. Grant Horn said he had put together a master plan for the dredging project back in September.
 - b. Grant said a sand and gravel site less than 300 yards from the Fox River was going to be gifted to the Village and used as a dewatering site / sediment disposal site.
 - c. The dredging company that was chosen is doing a lot of hurricane relief work in Florida and was not responding to WWMD to do the dredging here.
 - d. Grant reached out to another company, but the cost was double.
 - e. The WWMD is currently working on getting a quote from Michels.
- 4. SEWRPC Survey from the Waterford Dam to Illinois border.
 - a. Alan Barrow stated Tom Slawski was completing a report from the Waterford Dam south to the Illinois border to identify erosion and other conditions of the river.
- 5. Vernon Wildlife Area DU Impoundment Restoration – No report
- 6. Waukesha Water Diversion
 - a. Grant Horn indicated they are no longer going to study the water levels because it appears there is not impact due to the diversion.
- 7. Poplar Circle Shoreline Restoration
 - a. Chad stated the project was completed in August and the contractor was paid.
 - b. Chad said we are only waiting for the reimbursement.
- 8. Noble Brothers Burgers Permeable Pavers
 - a. Chad stated that he has not received a new re-design and will be contacting the owner to make sure they are moving forward with the project.
- 9. Margis Wildlife Area Phase II
 - a. Chad said this work was completed at the end of September.
 - b. Chad said the County was paid and we are just awaiting reimbursement.

New Business

- 1. 2021 – 2030 SEWFRC Implementation Plan
 - a. Alan stated that we are currently in the process of updating the plan.
 - b. Chad Sampson suggested using non-grant funds to complete the update.
- 2. Review Commissioner List and alternates – including responsibilities.
 - a. Jim Pindel requested keeping this as agenda item until we have correspondence from all communities.

- b. Chad Sampson said he would contact members at the Town of Burlington and City of Burlington for representation.
- 3. Town to Village or Waukesha change
 - a. Roger Adams was present and represents the Village of Waukesha.
- 4. Fox River Watershed Hazard Mitigation Plan / Coordinator Group – No report.
- 5. Wetlands Restoration within the Village of Vernon
 - a. Alan Barrows stated he was using multiple grants to pay for the project.
 - b. All bids came in over budget, but they were able to secure additional funds.
 - c. Alan expects the construction to begin in February.

Chad Sampson requested items 6 through 11 be lumped together.

- 6. Magner Shoreline Protection
 - a. Meets scoring criteria.
 - b. \$9,000 was requested.
- 7. Plantz Shoreline Protection
 - a. Meets scoring criteria
 - b. \$9,000 was requested.
- 8. Doering Shoreline Protection
 - a. Meets scoring criteria.
 - b. Unused funds from other projects may be moved here.
- 9. Milczarski Shoreline Protection
 - a. Meets scoring criteria.
 - b. \$9,000 was requested.
- 10. McCormick Shoreline Protection
 - a. Meets scoring criteria.
 - b. Unused funds from other projects may be moved here.
- 11. Hondel Shoreline Restoration
 - a. Meets scoring criteria.
 - b. \$9,000 was requested.

A motion by Fred Koeller was seconded by Jim Pindel to approve items #6 through #11.
Motion passed unanimously.

- 12. Margis Phase III Shoreline Protection and Access Improvements
 - a. Chad Sampson stated this is Phase III of the project.
 - b. \$6,606.42 was requested

- c. A motion was made by Ellen Cole.
- d. Motion was seconded by Wayne Castle.
- e. 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. No report.
3. Report on the Fox River Watershed TMDL Process. No report.
4. Watershed Protection Committee of Racine County
 - a. The Winter Workshop is Monday, February 10, 2024 at the Cotton Exchange in Waterford.
 - b. Tom Cotter from Minnesota is going to be the speaker.
 - c. It is an all day event and lunch is included.
5. Kenosha County Regenerative Producers. No report.
6. SEWFRC Website. No report.

Correspondence

12/26/2024 – Email from Tom Slawski with attached request from the Friends of the Fox asking for a list of projects the commission accomplished in 2024 for the state of the fox address.

12/30/2024 – Email from the Fox Valley Group with attached invoice for publication in the Racine Journal Times. Forwarded to Wayne Jensen.

1/13/2025 – Email to Village of Waukesha requesting their participation in the SEWFRC.

1/21/2025 – Email from Chad Sampson with attached brochure for the 2025 Watershed Protection Committee of Racine County's Winter Workshop.

Miscellaneous Issues

1. The next meeting was set for March 14 at 1 p.m. at the Big Bend Fire Station.
2. A motion by Chad Sampson to adjourn. Seconded by Ellen Cole at 2:16 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Chad Sampson, SEWFRC Commissioner