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Southeastern Wisconsin Fox River Commission Meeting Minutes

Friday, March 14, 2025 - 1:00 PM

In person Meeting to be held at:

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

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

Guests	
Representing	Name
	Terrance O'Brien
Village of Salem Lakes	Jared Young

Southeastern Wisconsin Fox River Commission Meeting

1. Call meeting to order. Katelyn Bratz called the meeting the order at 1:00 pm.
2. Pledge of allegiance
3. Roll call and verify quorum.
4. Confirm the Teams Voice recorder is running.
5. Approval of minutes from the previous meetings held January 24, 2025.
 - a. Alan Barrows made a motion to approve the minutes.
 - b. Jim Pindel seconded the motion.
 - c. Motion passes
6. Review the Treasurer's Report and ENUM project status.
 - a. We have completed ENUM-24
 - b. Fred Koeller made a motion to approve the treasurer's report and the ENUM project status.
 - c. Alan Barrow seconded the motion.
 - d. Motion passes

Old Business

1. Fox River 2025 Summit – Tom Slawski
 - a. Had a great turnout, seemed to be more approachable for everyone, less technical, which was appreciated.
 - b. Potential for a guide for riparian owners, could be a project in the future.
 - c. One of the best that has occurred in recent years. Presentations were great, topics were good.
 - d. Great attendance
 - e. Any members that would like to be reimbursed for their attendance let Wayne know.
2. Report on Fox River Park Project (completed) – Alan Barrows
 - a. There was a presentation on the project at the Summit.
 - b. Paid and Approved- can be removed from the agenda.

3. WWMD Project-Grant Horn
 - a. Touring the sites
 - b. Was at a dredging conference, consulting with many people
 - c. Hopefully getting bids soon. Bids from 2023 are not valid anymore.
4. SEWRPC Survey from Waterford Dam to Illinois border-Tom Slawski
 - a. No update
5. Vernon Wildlife Area DU Impoundment Restoration-Kelsey Norton, WDNR
 - a. No update
6. Poplar Circle Shoreline Restoration (completed)– Chad Sampson
 - a. Waiting on reimbursement from WDNR
7. Racine County Shoreline Projects – Chad Sampson
 - a. This agenda item includes the Magner, Plantz, Doering Milczarski, McCormick and Hondel shorelines which were individually approved at the 1/24/25 SEWFRC meeting.
 - i. All have a design and are out for bids.
 - ii. Some have firm prices, some do not.
 - iii. They will sign the contract. Waiting for firm numbers on the contracts
 - iv. Will be applying for permits
 - v. Goal of Aug. - Sept.
8. Noble Brothers Burgers Permeable Pavers – Chad Sampson
 - a. Reached out to owner.
 - b. Need to know if he is continuing to pursue the project.
 - c. Needed to update project, less permeable pavers, more specifics on the plans.
 - d. Discussing what would be best for the location.
9. Margis Wildlife Area Phase II (completed) – Chad Sampson
 - a. Submitted and Approved- Can removed from the agenda.

New Business

1. 2021 – 2030 SEWFRC Implementation Plan – Tom Slawski & Alan Barrows – Could we hire someone to finish the project, using non-grant funds? We have worked with Foth. We could solicit quotes from that arena. Have we already done most of the difficult work?
 - a. Katelyn could work on the finishing work over the summer
2. Review Commissioner List and alternates-including responsibilities-
 - a. Village of Waukesha responded to Alan to reach out.
 - b. Have we heard from Racine County on replacement for Mark Jenks?
No.
3. Fox River Watershed Hazard Mitigation Plan/Regional Coordinator Group- Gail Goodchild
 - a. Gail Goodchild has moved into the director role.
 - b. Alan Barrows will reach out to Gail for more information.

4. Fox Bend Wetland Restoration Project within Village of Vernon- Alan Barrows
 - a. Construction started on the project.
 - b. Wetland restoration, broke the drain tiles this week. The scrapes are completed. Will dewater through next week. They will then come in a seed it. They are converting 20 acres to resources for wildlife.
5. Margis Phase III Shoreline Protection and Access Improvements – Chad Sampson
 - a. Going to continue invasive brush removal. Use rip rap in August or September.
6. Fox River Restoration at Wilmot Wi – Jared Young
 - a. The project has started, but the project is at a halt.
 - b. South of the Fox River bridge, the greatest curve south of Hwy C. People are losing several feet of property. People will start losing their sheds.
 - c. The survey lists it as a severe case of erosion. Next to the boat launch in Wilmot.
 - d. WDNR has come out, they would like more stone to help with the erosion.
 - e. They went to the county, but WDNR has agreed to waive all the permits.
 - f. They are out of funding and do not know where to go.
 - g. The toxicity of the materials left on the shoreline, was unexpected.
 - h. The amount of concrete that was previously put in, there were carcinogenic materials which has all been removed.
 - i. The clean up became a major unexpected expense.
 - j. Tiling was used due to all the springs that were found. Unclogged and reactivated.
 - k. They had been approved for the use of the boulders. Which the cost was high.
 - l. 60-70% of the project is done.
 - m. WDNR said they can go 8 feet into the river to remove sediment and return it to the bank.
 - n. Need to neutralize the sediment with lime and adding vegetation.
 - o. Jim Pindel asked if the work completed has it been paid for. No, it has not been paid for. The loan is being used to pay the previous expenses.
 - i. We don't approve a project that has already been started per Jim Pindel. In the past we were not allowed to fund previously began projects.
 - ii. Could we break it into future phases? Pay for parts that are not yet begun.
 - iii. Chad Sampson- We cannot actually vote today? Can we follow up with the WDNR on what their thoughts are on our funding? With our new funding source this is not necessary- per Jim Pindel.
 - iv. Owner never had any knowledge that this was an avenue of funding.
 - v. Fred Koeller- Can you pay off what you have done, and come to us with a phase two?
 - vi. Chad Sampson- We do not have much ENUM funds remaining. What are the rules for the non-grant funds?
 - vii. Is this one land owner or multiple? It is multiple land owners.
 - viii. Fred Koeller- What is the parcel that remains. It is one landowner, but they fixed a bit of the neighbor's land as well in the projects. Two tax parcels. Both parcels have been worked on, neither is completed.
 - ix. DNR is requiring additional stone. Pry close to \$45,000 just in stone.

- x. What remains in the project? placement of stone. The backfill and topsoil for regrading.
- xi. What is the SERPRC survey assessment of the property? Is it a high priority case for funding?
- xii. Alan Barrows- the projects that we do often don't have one funding source. They sometimes have other funding sources. Alan is available to share some of these other sources.
- xiii. Wayne Castle- Does Salem Lakes have an Adaptive Management Plan? Burlington might have an action area that Salem Lakes would be in.
- xiv. Fire Department has been consulted about using the property for access with the new shoreline.
- xv. There is potential in our non-grant funds and ENUM -26

Reports and Updates

- 1. Report on activities of Fox Waterway Agency of Illinois – FWA or Tom Slawski – Going well, saw a conference.
- 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. Sounded finished at the summit.
- 4. Watershed Protection Committee of Racine County- Chad Sampson
 - a. Had their winter workshop in Feb. Had 85 people in attendance. Kiss the Ground and Common Ground are great movies for regenerative agriculture. Will have a viewing and panel for questions. Can register online at the Farmer's Group. March 28, 1 pm.
- 5. Kenosha County Regenerative Producers-
 - a. Forwarded an email. Their upcoming meeting is the 19th.
- 6. SEWFRC Website – Al Sikora or Alan Barrows
 - a. No Update

Correspondence

1/25/25 Email from Jim Pindel to all commissioners to mark your calendars for today's meeting.

1/28/25 Email from Chad Sampson with attached 1/24/25 SEWFRC meeting minutes and request to combine the six new shoreline projects in Racine County into a single agenda line item.

2/13/25 Email from Alan Barrows to Katelyn Bratz and Jim Pindel with attached Cost Share Agreement for the Fox Bend Wetland Restoration.

2/20/25 Email from Tom Slawski reminding us to sign up for the 2025 Fox River Summit.

3/7/25 Emails and Phone call from Jared Young concerning Fox River Restoration Project at Wilmot Wi.

3/2/25 Email from Jared Young Concerning Restoration Project

3/6/25 Email from Kenosha Regenerative Farmers Group reminding on their upcoming meeting.

3/7/25 Email from Jared Young and Terry O'Brien concerning restoration project

3/12/25 Email from Jonathan Schapekahn asking for a letter of support for City of Waukesha application for WDNR Urban Non Point Source Planning Grant to update the city's stormwater Quality Management Plan

3/12/25 2 emails from Jill Rozell of Kenosha County asking for a letter of support for Urban Non Point Source Planning Grant to update the stormwater management plan and to conduct modeling to determine if the county can possibly meet new TMDL requirements.

Miscellaneous Issues

1. Next Meeting and Location
 - a. April 11th- 1 pm. Vernon Fire Department.
2. Close Meeting
 - a. Alan Barrows made a motion for adjourn the meeting.
 - b. Fred Koeller seconded the motion.
 - c. Motion Passes

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