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## **Southeastern Wisconsin Fox River Commission Meeting Minutes**

**Friday, April 11, 2025 - 1:00 PM**

In person Meeting to be held at:

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

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### **Southeastern Wisconsin Fox River Commission Meeting**

<b>Commissioners and (alternates) Quorum= 9</b>		
<b>Representing</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Attended (yes/no, by phone)</b>
Kenosha County	Andy Buehler Paul Tollard (non-voting)	Andy Buehler
Racine County	Chad Sampson (Jon Grove)	Chad Sampson
Waukesha County	Alan Barrows (Leif Hauge)	Leif Hauge
City of Waukesha	Robins Grams (Doug Koehler)	Robin Grams
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
Village of Waukesha		
Village of Big Bend	Larry Long (Ellen Cole)	Ellen Cole
Village of Mukwonago	Wayne Castle	
Village of Waterford	Fred Koeller (Al Sikora)	
Village of Rochester	Wayne Jensen	Wayne Jensen
Town of Burlington	Russ Egan	
City of Burlington		
Town of Wheatland	Donna Duester	
Village of Salem Lakes	Bill Hopkins	
SEWRPC	Tom Slawski (non-voting)	
WDNR	(non-voting)	

WDNR	Rachel Sabre (non-voting)	
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Guests	
Representing	Name
Terrance O'Brien	
Karen O'Brien	
Jared Young	
Paul Tollard	Kenosha County

1. Call meeting to order Katelyn Bratz called the meeting to order at 1:01 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 March 14, 2025.
  - a. Jim Pindel made a motion to approve the minutes.
  - b. Chad Sampson seconded the motion.
  - c. Motion Passes
6. Review the Treasurer's Report and ENUM project status.
  - i. Enum-24 closed
  - ii. Enum-25 submitted and waiting on two project reimbursements.
  - b. Robin Grams made a motion to approve the treasurer's report.
  - c. Ellen Cole seconded the motion.
  - d. Motion passes

## Old Business

1. Fox River 2025 Summit – Tom Slawski
  - a. Robin Grams checking in on how to be reimbursed for the summit.
2. Report on Fox River Park Project (completed) – Alan Barrows
  - a. Remove from Agenda
3. SEWRPC Survey from Waterford Dam to Illinois border-Tom Slawski
  - a. No Update
4. Vernon Wildlife Area DU Impoundment Restoration-Kelsey Norton, WDNR No Update
5. Poplar Circle Shoreline Restoration (completed)– Chad Sampson
  - a. Waiting on reimbursement
6. Racine County Shoreline Projects – Chad Sampson  
This agenda item includes the Magner, Plantz, Doering Milczarski, McCormick and

Hondel shorelines which were individually approved at the 1/24/25 SEWFRC meeting.

- a. Contractors have been chosen.
  - b. Some of the proposals might be slightly under what had been requested.
  - c. Hoping to use other sources.
  - d. No permits have been received.
  - e. Will most likely have to wait until after August 1<sup>st</sup> to begin construction.
7. Noble Brothers Burgers Permeable Pavers – Chad Sampson
- a. Have not received a new plan from owner.

#### New Business

1. 2021 – 2030 SEWFRC Implementation Plan – Tom Slawski & Alan Barrows
  - a. No Update
2. Fox River Watershed Hazard Mitigation Plan/Regional Coordinator Group- Gail Goodchild
  - a. No Update
3. Fox Bend Wetland Restoration Project within Village of Vernon- Alan Barrows
  - a. Construction is complete
    - i. Earthwork is complete and seeding done.
4. Margis Phase III Shoreline Protection and Access Improvements – Chad Sampson
  - a. Removing invasive species and rebuilding shoreline.
  - b. Work will be done inhouse.
  - c. Hoping complete around Labor Day
5. Fox River Restoration at Wilmot Wi – Jared Young
  - a. On hold waiting on funding.
  - b. Creating a new site plan for Kenosha County
  - c. Andy Buehler- They met yesterday on the project. There was a shoreline project issued in Nov and a general exemption permit through the DNR.
    - i. There has been a stop work order.
    - ii. Waiting on new plans before permits to be issued.
    - iii. Estimating the project is 65% completed.
    - iv. Tom Slawski sent an email stating (SEWRPC Survey): Although this area is within the high priority zone (within 1,000 feet of the water's edged or floodway, whichever is greater), this site was not identified or mapped as a priority site for either erosion or for nonpoint source pollution reduction. See below or attached file. There are priority erosion sites mapped upstream of this area. Since this area is developed land and not agricultural land, that is why it is not identified as a nonpoint agricultural areas for BMP implementation. It is also important to note that I conducted the shoreline survey in 2017
    - v. Chad Sampson, to clarify, we need to wait for the updated plan prior to reviewing SEWFRC project acceptance criteria. Yes.
    - vi. Jared Young- When will another SEWPRC Survey be completed. Unknown.
    - vii. Once we have the new plan we can discuss the project acceptance criteria and the funding.

- viii. Andy Buehler- At the moment, the permit was only issued from the one parcel.
- ix. Jared Young- There are two tax keys.
  - 1. Both of which will need to have shoreline permits issued for both properties per Andy Buehler.
- x. We would need the cost broken out per parcel to determine the funding administration.

## 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. No Update
- 4. Watershed Protection Committee of Racine County- Chad Sampson
  - a. Had a past showing of Common Ground.
    - i. There was around 45 people in attendance.
    - ii. Had a farmer panel after the movie.
      - 1. Had a great discussion on the regenerative ag movement
  - b. Applied for grant through the Sand County Foundation.
  - c. Had an informal meeting in late March. There were around 20 farmers brainstorming.
  - d. Summer Field day second Thursday in September.
- 5. Kenosha County Regenerative Producers- Andy Buehler
  - a. Paul Tollard is the new county land conservationist.
    - i. Reached out to the group.
    - ii. Will be inquiring about their goals.
- 6. SEWFRC Website – Al Sikora or Alan Barrows
  - a. No Update

## Correspondence

3/14/25 Revised agenda for 3/14/25 meeting sent to all including the addition of the potential Terrance O'Brien property project and Power Point Presentation from Jared Young.

3/17/25 Email from Jim Pindel to all commissioners to mark your calendars for today's meeting.

3/20/25 Email from Bill Hopkins requesting he be added to the list of people copied with our meeting minutes

3/28/25 Email from Jim Pindel to Andy Buehler making sure he was aware of the potential project at the Terry O'Brien property just south of Wilmont Wi.

3/28/25 Email from Paul Tollard (Kenosha County Conservationist) stating he has contacted Terry O'Brien and Jared Young and will visit the site for evaluation.

3/29/25 letter of recommendation to Kenosha County on behalf of the Southeastern Wisconsin Fox River Commission (SEWFRC) for your grant application.

3/29/25 letter of recommendation to City of Waukesha on behalf of the Southeastern Wisconsin Fox River Commission (SEWFRC) for your grant application.

#### Miscellaneous Issues

1. We have 6 municipalities in Waukesha, 6 municipalities in Racine County. We do not have municipalities in Kenosha County. Maybe we need to do something for more participation. In the past there were presentations to encourage participation. Maybe we need to come up with a plan for Kenosha County.
  2. Andy Buehler- We usually fund prior to start of the project. Do we need to share that upfront more. Discussed that we had shared with O'Brien, at the past meeting that we are not able to fund any of the work that has already been completed.
  3. Discussion of the quality of projects that we are discussing. Chad Sampson discussed that there are projects that come to him, which he does not bring to the commission, as they do not meet or align with our goals and priorities.
  4. Next Meeting and Location
    - a. May 9<sup>th</sup> 1:00 pm. Vernon Fire House.
  5. Close Meeting
    - a. Andy Buehler made a motion to adjourn the meeting.
    - b. Wayne Jensen seconded the motion.
    - c. Meeting adjourned at 1:57.
- \* If you have any questions about the Agenda, please contact Secretary Jim Pindel