

**Commission members present:**

Dean Falkner (Village of Mukwonago) (Chairman)  
Katlyn Bratz (Town of Mukwonago) (Vice Chairperson)  
Larry Long (Village of Big Bend)  
Bill Hopkins (Village of Salem Lakes)  
Andrew Lois (Town of Wheatland)  
Alan Barrows (Waukesha County)  
Donny Hefty (City of Burlington)  
Chad Sampson (Racine County)  
Jeff Lang (Town of Burlington)  
Wayne Jensen (Village of Rochester)  
Doug Koehler (City of Waukesha)  
Lee Manthey (Town of Vernon)  
Dale Buser (SEWRPC)  
Jim Pindel (Town of Waterford) (Secretary/Treasurer)

**Commission members absent:**

Fred Koeller (Village of Waterford)  
Ken Miller (Town of Waukesha)  
Andy Buehler (Kenosha County)  
Rachel Sabre (Wisconsin DNR)

**Also present:** Grant Horn and Don Baron of the WWMD, Mark Jenks of Kenosha County and Wayne Castle of Mukwonago Utilities.

1. At 1:01 PM, Chairman Dean Falkner called the SEWFRC meeting to order.
2. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Roll call was taken and a quorum was confirmed.
3. **Minutes** The minutes from the December 6, 2019 meeting were reviewed. It was motioned by Jeff Lang that the minutes be approved and the motion was seconded by Katelyn Bratz. Alan Barrows abstained from voting because he was not present for the last meeting. The minutes were approved unanimously.
4. **Treasurer Reports** – Jim Pindel reviewed the November 2019, treasurer's report. We started the month with \$146,341.26 in our Money Market Account. We made a payment of \$5,410.80 for the Channel Road project. With interest of \$74.80 our Money Market account comes to a balance of \$141,005.26. The change to the non-grant funds was the YTD 2019 interest of \$850.89 leaving us at \$38,432.45 in total non-grant funds. Regarding grant funds, Jim Pindel pointed out that we received reimbursement from the WDNR for the WWMD disposal site project and the Mukwonago River shoreline restoration at the WE Energies site. Also we paid Racine County the \$7,011.59 to close out the Tamarack Lane Stormwater control project and we paid \$5,410.80 which is our 90% cost share to the sponsor

of the channel road project. All four of these projects will be moved up to the “Completed and Closed Projects” in the next Treasurer’s Report. It was motioned by Alan Barrows that the Treasurer’s Report be accepted and seconded by Donny Hefty that the treasurer’s report be approved and the motion carried unanimously.

5. **Old Business**

a) Fox River Partnership 2020 Summit: Tom Slawski: Tom Slawski was not present. Dean Falkner said that he and Jim Pindel had a discussion concerning how we can best pay for or reimburse commissioners and alternate commissioners their attendance fee for attending the 2020 Summit. Jim Pindel said that if anyone wants him to pay for them simply email him and he will collect them and send one check to the Fox River Partnership. Jeff Lang pointed out that last year we compensated members of the FWA of Illinois if they attended. Jim Pindel asked Jeff how many of their members attended but would not have attended if we did not pay their way. Jeff said that he thought that there would have only been one attendee not the three who attended if we hadn’t paid their way. We decided to wait until our next meeting when hopefully Tom Slawski is present to decide to offer this benefit to the FWA.

Chad Sampson said that he looked at the website where you sign up for the Summit and he questioned if the farmers group, the Racine County Conservation Committee, had to pay \$100 for their table top display and an additional \$40 per farmer who attends. Jim Pindel said that in organizations he belonged to that is the way it was done. Chad said he will ask Tom Slawski to be sure.

Later in the meeting Dale Buser showed up and reported that they have secured some of the speakers for the Summit. Dale also said that the registration went on line last Friday. Jim Pindel pointed out that he forwarded the link to the registration to all the commissioners.

b) Mukwonago River shoreline restoration at WE Energies Site. During the Treasurer’s Report, Alan Barrows pointed out that we paid the contractor directly in two payments. So the entire project is paid in full. Jim Pindel said this project will come off of the agenda.

c) ESR Project disposal sites environmental impact: Jim Pindel reported that the pilot project which would have cost \$2,500,000 had been abandoned because it was too expensive. The WWMD is proposing a much smaller project where they will dredge 38 cubic yards of sediment and dewater it in dewatering boxes. The purpose of this test is to see how quickly the ammonia goes off into the air. If it goes off quickly enough we can go back to pumping the sediment to the Super Mix gravel pit and store it there until we dispose of it. The WWMD will make a presentation at our February meeting looking for a \$15,400 cost share from us for this smaller project. This item will be taken off the agenda before our next meeting.

- d) SEWRPC Survey for Waterford Dam to the Illinois Border – Dale Buser said that the draft version of the report should be ready before the Summit. Dale passed out some of the data that SEWRPC obtained in their chloride study. The handout included a map showing the sites where the data was collected as well as numerous boxplots showing the conductivity at specific locations on a monthly basis. Boxplots were provided along the main stem of the Fox River as well as some of its tributaries. Dean Falkner told Dale that he would like to see a summary of this report and more importantly of the survey so he could use that information to define the purpose of the RCPP grant application he is working on. Dale said that the SEWRPC is attempting to make their reports shorter and more user friendly. To this end they will now always include an executive summary which will highlight the findings and then if you want to get into greater detail, you can dive into the full report. Dale said that since an executive summary needs to be done for the survey, they could work on it first so that it would be available to Dean. Dale also pointed out that in Walworth County if you are working on a grant application, the county will provide grant application writing assistance. The implication is that we should look for some grant application writing assistance from some of our counties. Dean said that he is trying to get a collaboration among several organizations and municipalities so that they can share data and assist each other in their RCPP grant applications. Dean said that he is trying to set a date for the collaboration meeting and will have an agenda for it. Dale said that he does not write grant applications but does help people with a technical approach and helps them develop a preamble and a scope of work which helps define why the grant is required. Dale said if we want his help with the RCPP grant application we would have to go through the executive director of SEWRPC who can have Dale help us. Dale pointed out that the grant process at the WDNR is changing. In the past there were different pools of funds available for different purposes. Now there will be just one pool of grant funds and when you apply for a grant the WDNR will make the decision of what type of grant will be used. All the grants are being consolidated into one grant NR193.
- e) VoW Jefferson St. Park & Launch – Fred Koeller. Fred Koeller was not present and Jim Pindel said that at our last meeting Fred Koeller said that this is still a project and engineering should start this spring.
- f) Oakwood Shores Park Streambank Stabilization Project – Andy Buehler. Andy Buehler was not present, so Mark Jenks reported that they expect to go out for bids this winter. Then the work can be completed next summer when the water levels are lower. Jeff Lang asked Mark if there was any connection between this project and the work required on CHW W. Mark said the projects are not related and would have to go to the county highway department to see what they are planning.

g) Ranke Road Stormwater Control Project – Chad Sampson Chad said that even though the weather has been good for contractors to do work this winter, work has not started on this project. Chad said that they are hoping for spring or summer to do the construction on this project. Chad asked if there was a date by which the project had to be completed before our grant timed out. Jim Pindel said that we no longer have grant expiration dates.

h) John Kojis Farm Field gully repair project: Chad said that the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program opened up again last Wednesday. Chad said he asked John Kojis if he was interested in applying for funds from this program to help fund this project. Because there are other benefits to this program, John Kojis said he is interested. Chad said he forwarded all the information to the farm service office. Chad said that this program would become the primary funding source and we would become the secondary funding source. Therefore, our funding amount would be reduced from the present \$20,000.

### **New Business**

- a) Potential Grant opportunity via Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP): - Dean Falkner said that we already covered this topic in the earlier discussions with Dale Busser.
- b) Consideration of developing a USEPA 9-Key Elements Watershed Management Plan – Dean Falkner. Dean Falkner said that there is no need to further discuss this topic at this time and so we moved on.
- c) 2021 – 2030 SEWFRC Implementation Plan Jim Pindel pointed out that our current implementation plan is titled the 2011 – 2020 Implementation Plan and many of the items in the plan have not been addressed so far. Jim suggested that we keep the current Implementation Plan and simply add an executive summary and some addendums that address the agricultural work that has more recently come to our attention. For example, subjects like no till and cover crops are not mentioned in our present Implementation Plan. Jim pointed out that it took us all of 2010 to develop the present implementation plan and he didn't see any reason to go through that much effort again. Jim said that he will leave this item on the agenda until we have a meeting when Tom Slawski is present to make a final decision. Chad Sampson pointed out that on the Racine County Watershed Protection Committee's website there are links to pamphlets and other information concerning soil health, cover crops, no till and other related topics that we could reference when trying to develop an addendum to address our agricultural efforts. Alan Barrows stated that back in 2010, when we developed the present implementation plan we reference all the Urban Runoff Management Standards. Alan said that in the last 10 years there have been some new standards for bioretention, bios swales and others which we probably can cost share for and we need to review this area. Alan also said that they have developed a

Construction Verification Form. This could be used by our commission to make direct payments to contractors after the work has been verified. Chad asked if we could incentivize soil health projects and we did not resolve this issue. Chad said he would be looking for 3 or 5 year contracts to make sure the practices continue on. Dale Buser mentioned that we might consider equipment subsidies instead of acreage subsidies. Dale said that in Ozaukee County, the County purchased equipment needed to implement soil health practices and then rents out this equipment to farms who want to implement soil health practices without their having to buy this expensive equipment just to try something. Dale suggested that we partner with someone to provide this service.

### Reports and Updates

- a) Report on activities of Fox Waterway Agency (FWA) of Illinois – Jeff Lang said that he had nothing to report except that he will attend their February meeting.
- b) Possible diversion of City of Waukesha water treatment plant discharge away from the Fox River: Alan Barrows said that the Waukesha Utility has provided a 900 page engineering plan for the return water line back to Lake Michigan. Alan said he will be reviewing it to see what permits will be required. Alan said that about 50% of it addresses erosion control in Waukesha County. The question was asked about how much water has to flow back to Lake Michigan. The maximum amount has been said to be 10,000,000 gallons per day. However Doug Koehler said that they are not presently using this much water. Jeff Lang asked what the flow in the Fox River is. Grant Horn of the WWMD said that 19 cubic feet per second represented about 10% of the full flow of the river. Donny Hefty said that they measure the flow in the river downstream of the confluence of the White and Fox rivers and the flow is 120 cubic feet per second.
- c) Progress toward designation as a “National Water Trail” – Tom Slawski was not present and so no report was made.
- d) SEWFRC Website – Alan Barrows. Alan said that he has not been to the website recently but expects everything is going along just fine. Alan also pointed out that there is a page that lists all the completed projects with a short description, before and after pictures and a cost listed. Alan said that this provides a good explanation of who we are and what we do. Alan also pointed out that the website has an interactive map that shows the locations of the projects.

### Correspondence –

- a. 10/22/19 Email to tell you to Mark your Calendars for today’s meeting.
- b. 10/22/19 Email with attached letter of support from Dean Falkner to Tom Slawski for FEMA pre-disaster study for Waukesha County
- c. 11/19/19 Email from Tom Slawski with notice of Public Hearing concerning the Waukesha Diversion.

- d. 12/7/19 Email from Jim Pindel to Waukesha County stating we will support the AIS program for \$1,000 per year for the next 3 years.
- e. 12/23/19 Email report to Racine County showing how we used the 2019 Racine County \$10,000 allocation.
- f. Dean Falkner said that he tracked down the person in the WDNR who is responsible for leasing WDNR properties to farmers and asked him to require cover crops on these lands. Chad said that they have a no tillage clause in the fall but it does not require cover crops at this time.

**Miscellaneous Issues-**

Chad Sampson said that the Watershed Protection Committee of Racine County is having their winter workshop on February 7, 2020, at the same location that it was held at last year. The first speaker is Todd Novak of Dodge County who will speak on the Speaker's Taskforce on Water Quality. He will provide their results and talk about the new legislation that has resulted. Some of the legislation funds farmers groups and other legislation funds conservation staff like the work Chad and Mark Jenks do. The second speaker will be Donny Hefty who will speak about the City of Burlington's adaptive management plan. The meeting starts at 9:00 AM and will go until about 1:00 PM. Chad said he would send the agenda and brochure to Jim Pindel who will forward it to all the commissioners. Donny Hefty stated that the City of Burlington will be a sponsor of this farmer's group.

It was motioned by Jeff Lang that the meeting be closed and the motion was seconded by Katelyn Bratz. The motion passed unanimously.

**Meeting Closed** at 2:06 PM

**THE NEXT OFFICIAL MEETING WILL BE Friday  
February 21, 2020 at 1:00 PM. Meeting Location: Burlington  
Department of Public Works 2200 S. Pine Street, Burlington, WI.**

**Commission members present:**

Dean Falkner (Village of Mukwonago) (Chairman)  
Katlyn Bratz (Town of Mukwonago) (Vice Chairperson)  
Larry Long (Village of Big Bend)  
Bill Hopkins (Village of Salem Lakes)  
Andrew Lois (Town of Wheatland)  
Alan Barrows (Waukesha County)  
Donny Hefty (City of Burlington)  
Chad Sampson (Racine County)  
Jeff Lang (Town of Burlington)  
Fred Koeller (Village of Waterford)  
Lee Manthey (Town of Vernon)  
Rachel Sabre (Wisconsin DNR)  
Tom Slawski (SEWRPC)  
Jim Pindel (Town of Waterford) (Secretary/Treasurer)

**Commission members absent:**

Wayne Jensen (Village of Rochester)  
Doug Koehler (City of Waukesha)  
Ken Miller (Town of Waukesha)  
Andy Buehler (Kenosha County)

**Also present:** Don Baron of the WWMD, Mark Jenks of Kenosha County, Erin Delawalla of RES and Brian Valleskkey of Geosyntec Consultants.

1. At 1:00 PM, Chairman Dean Falkner called the SEWFRC meeting to order.
2. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Roll call was taken and a quorum was confirmed.
3. **Minutes** The minutes from the January 10, 2020 meeting were reviewed. It was motioned by Jeff Lang that the minutes be approved and the motion was seconded by Katelyn Bratz. The minutes were approved unanimously.
4. **Treasurer Reports** – Jim Pindel reviewed the December 2019, treasurer’s report. We started the month with \$141,005.26 in our Money Market Account. We made a payment of \$7,011.59 for the Tamarack Lane project. We made two deposits adding up to \$81,749.23 which were reimbursements for the WE Energies and WWMD dredging deposit projects. With interest of \$81.15 our Money Market account comes to a balance of \$215,824.05. The change to the non-grant funds was the YTD 2019 interest of \$935.04 leaving us at \$38,513.60 in total non-grant funds. Regarding grant funds, Jim Pindel pointed out that we moved 4 projects the WWMD disposal sites, Mukwonago River Shoreline restoration, Tamarack Lane and the Channel Road Shoreline to the “Completed and Closed Projects” in the Treasurer’s Report. Jim Pindel then moved onto the January 2020 Treasurers

Report. The only changes to the Money Market account was the payment of \$22,555.68 to the WWMD for the sediment disposal site project, \$5000 of which was provided by the 2017 Racine County allocation. There was also a payment of \$141.58 for office supplies and interest of \$100.70 resulting in a final balance in our Money Market account of \$193,227.49 There were no changes to the grant fund portion of the report from the December 2019 report. It was motioned by Donny Hefty that the Treasurer's Report be accepted and seconded by Alan Barrows that the treasurer's reports be approved and the motion carried unanimously.

## 5. **Old Business**

- a) Fox River Partnership 2020 Summit: Tom Slawski: Tom Slawski pointed out that the Summit on 3/26/2020 is coming up fast, so if you haven't registered or given your name to Jim Pindel to get you register, you should do so soon. Jim Pindel pointed out that the only ones he has listed to pay for and get registered are Wayne Jensen, Bill Hopkins, Fred Koeller, Jeff Lang, Dean Falkner, Jon Grove and himself. Tom said that he has the program in final form and will distribute it to us next week. Tom asked Chad Sampson if he had a list of the farmers who will attend and Chad said he will have it after next Friday's meeting with them.
- b) SEWRPC Survey for Waterford Dam to the Illinois Border – Dean Falkner pointed out that he pinned up two of the final maps from the survey on the back wall of the room for anyone to view. Dean then said that initially he thought that the survey only covered the main stem of the river, but Tom Slawski expanded it to include the entire watershed. It is a great resource map for everyone. Tom Slawski then passed out draft copies of the executive summary of the survey report. Tom encouraged everyone to review it and make comment and corrections as needed. Regarding stream bank erosion, Tom said that he has been working with Mark Jenks of Kenosha County to identify some of the worst locations before he finishes the prioritization of the erosion areas. Tom pointed out that previously he identified 41 sites of stream bank erosion and now in the executive summary he categorized them as “watch” (24 sites) where erosion doesn't seem to be severe, as “warning” (10 sites) where erosion is severe but is not threatening known infrastructure in the next 5 years and finally as “imminent threat” (7 sites) where the erosion is severe and could cause damage to known infrastructure within the next 5 years. Tom pointed out that the Oakwood Shores project we are working on in Kenosha County would be an imminent threat even though there is no infrastructure there, it is extremely excessive erosion. Tom said that he expects to have the final version of the maps and the executive summary ready for the Summit. Tom said it is not his intention to provide paper maps of the survey area but instead they will be available electronically and people will be able to download whatever portion of the map they need. Tom also said that until the WDNR provides the TMDL's for the Fox River, these maps can serve as a guide to where we should concentrate our efforts. Jim Pindel



pointed out that up until now we have been working on a first come first serve basis. But now that we have this prioritization we might want to change our funding to attack these now known areas of need top to bottom.

- c) VoW Jefferson St. Park & Launch – Fred Koeller. Fred Koeller said that the preliminary investigation showed that this location was not suitable for a beach and so the Village is dropping this project. We can remove this project from our agenda and we will not spend the \$3,000 we allocated to it.
- d) Oakwood Shores Park Streambank Stabilization Project – Andy Buehler. Andy Buehler was not present, so Mark Jenks reported that this project is going out for bids. They held a pre-bid meeting yesterday and all bids are due by March 10<sup>th</sup>.
- e) Ranke Road Stormwater Control Project – Chad Sampson Chad said that he still expects to get this project completed this year; however they still have not selected a contractor to do the work. Chad said that the landowner is anxious to get the work done.
- f) John Kojis Farm Field gully repair project: Chad said that he talked to John Kojis about getting into the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program so that our share of the project cost would be lessened. Chad said that one of the reasons they have not been able to apply for this program is the fact that the farm service person for Racine and Kenosha Counties quit last November and has not been replaced. They have tried to use the farm service person in Walworth County but this hasn't work out yet. Chad said he expects to apply for this program in March.

### **New Business**

- a) Presentation from RES – Erin Delawalla. Erin provided copies of RES's Company Overview, a pamphlet on their Stormwater management and Nutrient Reduction work and her business card to all present. Erin said that RES works on nutrient reduction programs throughout the US and has just recently moved into Wisconsin. They are very interested in helping with some of the phosphorus issues we are dealing with. The company started out by doing wetland and stream mitigation projects for the army corps of engineers. They did the engineering, land acquisition, construction, maintenance and monitoring of each project. One of the things RES does that might be useful to us is that they do phosphorus reduction projects to get credits for water treatment plants so that they don't need to expand their facilities to get into compliance. Erin said that they are working with several waste water treatment plants in Wisconsin. Erin pointed out that RES is the largest provider of nutrient credits on the state of West Virginia. She said that they provide the credits in perpetuity. Erin pointed out that now that we have identified the areas of concern in our watershed RES could design a program to get us and keep us in compliance.

- b) Small-Scale Dewatering Test Presentation – Grant Horn WWMD. Grant Horn was not present so Don Baron made the presentation. Don said that he just emailed the presentation to Jim Pindel who said he would forward it to all the commissioners. Don said that originally they were going to do a larger scale first attempt but the cost came out to \$1,300,000 which was prohibitive. Don said he provided a cost share agreement to Jim Pindel on 11/30/19 indicating a cost contribution from our commission of \$15,400. The project amounts to dredging a small amount of sediment from the impoundment and placing it in dewatering trays and then measure to rate of evaporation of the ammonia to see how quickly the ammonia goes off into gas and not stay in the liquid. If the ammonia evaporates quickly enough, it would be possible for the sediment to be stored in bulk at the Super Mix site after the test shows that the ammonia will not go as a liquid into the ground water. Don said that the next step would be to dredge a larger volume of sediment, about 7000 cubic yards, and land spread it at different depths on the WDNR land off of Marsh Road. This next step would demonstrate the ability to use the sediment as an agricultural product. Don said that they have been working on this dredging project since 2009 and they still have these hurdles to get over.
- c) Coates Shoreline Protection Presentation – Chad Sampson. Chad did a Power Point presentation and provided copies of the slides as a handout to all the commissioners. Chad said that he was approached by Ronald Coates last fall when he visited the site. The first two slides of the presentation were aerial views showing the site location, wide view and a close up view. The project amounts to 165 feet of shoreline on Tichigan lake. The next four slides show the present condition of the shoreline. Showing some blue-green algae against the shore and lawn grass right up to the shoreline. The project would amount to excavating the shoreline, placing rock riprap on geotextile mat, planting native plants on the remainder of the shoreline do mulch and erosion control. Chad said that they would also slope the shore to prevent some of the ice damage that was apparent. The time line would be to do the work between 7/15/20 and 9/30/20. The total cost of the project is estimated at \$24,000 with the SEWFRC 90% cost share of \$21,600.
- d) Knollcrest Shoreline Protection Presentation: Chad Sampson Chad did a Power Point presentation and provided handouts as well. Chad said that when he made Jim Pindel aware of this project, Jim questioned why we would do a project on Browns lake. Jim didn't think Browns Lake was connected to the Fox River. Chad said there is an outlet on Browns Lake that eventually flows into the Fox River. The first slides showed the location of the site on Browns lake and the next three slides showed the existing condition of the failed concrete wall and shoreline. The final slide showed the condition of the shoreline past the wall where it looked more natural and under control. The project covers 85 feet of shoreline. The project amounts to removing the failed concrete wall, grading the shoreline to a slope of 2:1 or flatter, placing rock riprap on geotextile mat, planting native plants on the remaining shoreline, doing mulch and erosion control. The timeline for this project is from 7/15/20 to 9/30/20, just like the previous project. With the total cost of the project estimated at \$20,000 our 90%

- cost share would be \$18,000. Chad was asked if he intends to recycle the concrete and Chad said he did not consider it and would talk to the potential contractor to see if it was a possibility.
- e) Potential Grant opportunity via Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP): - Dean Falkner said that he was trying to get county and interested people together to have a meeting on how they could help each other apply for this program. Dean asked those present if they knew of any times that would be a problem. The Summit was brought up and the first week of March was a problem for both Chad Sampson and Alan Barrows because of a meeting in Green Bay that week.
  - f) Consideration of developing a USEPA 9-Key Elements Watershed Management Plan – Dean Falkner. Dean Falkner said that we could skip this item for today.
  - g) 2021 – 2030 SEWFRC Implementation Plan Jim Pindel pointed out that our current implementation plan is titled the 2011 – 2020 Implementation Plan and many of the items in the plan have not been addressed so far. Jim suggested that we keep the current Implementation Plan and simply add an executive summary and some addendums that address the agricultural work that has more recently come to our attention. Jim also stated that there is no statutory requirement for redoing out implementation plan. Dean Falkner said that he would try to put together the addendum covering soil health issues. Alan Barrows pointed out that the maps will have to be changed because our area of responsibility has changed and also our funding method has changed. Tom Slawski said that the non-point source data from the SEWRPC survey could be included. Jim Pindel said that he wanted to know how to get additional copies of the present implementation plan so he could give them to our newest members, who never received copies. Tom Slawski said all Jim must do is make a formal request to him and he can get more copies made. Dean Falkner asked Tom if there was a digital copy available so we can modify it. Tom said it is available as a .pdf on their website. Katlyn Bratz said that if Tom sends her the link to the plan she will convert it to word and then send it to Dean and Jim.

#### Reports and Updates

- a) Report on activities of Fox Waterway Agency (FWA) of Illinois – Jeff Lang said that he had nothing to report except that he will attend their February meeting next week.
- b) Possible diversion of City of Waukesha water treatment plant discharge away from the Fox River: Dean Falkner pointed out that after our last meeting Dale Buser provided flow data for the fox river from 1964 to 2018 showing an average flow of 115 cfs. Dean also said that it pointed out the fact that the flow has been increasing. Dean thought that the decrease of flow from the Waukesha treatment plant might be offset by this recent increase in flow. Jim Pindel pointed out that

the change in flow might be cyclic and could go back down.

- c) Progress toward designation as a “National Water Trail” – Tom Slawski said that getting this designation would be a long process taking many years, so he didn’t think we need to review it on a monthly basis. As a result, we decided to take this item off of the agenda.

d) SEWFRC Website –Alan Barrows. Alan said that he had nothing to report at this time. Tom Slawski said that he was viewing some of the project sites on the map and some of them did not automatically portray the project and asked who was taking care of this ability. Alan said he was doing this work but there are a few mostly recent projects where he doesn’t have the pictures and narrative to do the work. It is up to the project sponsors to get the before and after pictures and narratives to Alan. Tom also asked if we were including educational projects like workshops on our website. Alan said we were not and Tom asked if we could display them as a separate category possibly in a different color.

**Correspondence –**

- a. 1/13/2020 Email from Jim Pindel asking commissioners to mark their calendars for today’s meeting.
- b. 1/13/2020 Forward of an email from Dale Buser that included a table listing the Mean Annual Flow of water in the Fox River from 1964 to 2018 in cfs. The overall average was 115 cfs.
- c. 1/25/2020 Forward of an email from Tom Slawski concerning the "It's Our Fox River Day" (IOFRD). Proclamation.
- d. 2/18/2020 Email forward of two presentations by Chad Sampson for today’s meeting.

**Miscellaneous Issues-**

Andrew Lois said that in the Town of Wheatland is Lily Lake. This lake has no outlet and the water level is coming up causing problems. They had to make the lake no wake all last summer because of the water level. The town engineer has looked at a concrete channel, a grass way and the use of two 16” pipes to provide flow out of the lake to adjust its level. The outlet would flow into a creek that eventually flows into the Fox River. Andrew said the water level is about 1 foot above where it should be. He believes that there will be considerable flow when the outlet is opened that this will likely not happen until this fall. The riparian owners want to pay for the new outlet so that they have control over it.

Alan Barrows said that Waukesha County is working on the design for the shoreline work needed at the Fox River Park which they own. Sometime this spring when the engineering is done he will be coming to the commission for funding. This was the highest priority project which came out of their 2013 erosion study. It is a 200 foot long section in the City of Waukesha. There is an archaeological site nearby which as to be considered.

Chad Sampson said that the Watershed Protection Committee of Racine County had their winter workshop on February 7, 2020. In total, 75 people attend with 50 of them being farmers. The first speaker is Todd Novak of Dodge County who will speak on the Speaker's Taskforce on Water Quality. The second speaker will be Donny Hefty who will speak about the City of Burlington's adaptive management plan. Chad said this meeting was different than most of the others because the main topic of discussion was not soil health but was well received. They intend to run another field day probably next September.

Chad also said that he attended a conference in Stevens Point last week covering soil health and cover crops and the like. Chad said that the most interesting thing was a talk by a farmer from west central Indiana. Up until 10 years ago he was a conventional tile farmer on his 7000 acre farm along the Mississippi River. He explained to the 400 attendees how he changed to soil health and cover crops and his 5 crop rotation he goes through. The crops are corn, soy beans, wheat, alfalfa and a regeneration crop. He listed all the inputs he was saving on like fertilizer, insecticides and other that results in a saving of \$860,000 per year. Chad said that today's farmer must produce 224 bushels of corn per acre to break even. In this farmers system the breakeven point is 43 bushels per acre and he expects to get 150 bushels per year and might even get to 200 bushels per year. He gets all his farming done with 4 additional laborers. Chad said that of the 5 farmers who went with him to the conference, one of them is already doing this practice.

It was motioned by Jeff Lang that the meeting be closed and the motion was seconded by Fred Koeller. The motion passed unanimously.

**Meeting Closed** at 2:22 PM

**THE NEXT OFFICIAL MEETING WILL BE Friday March 20, 2020 at 1:00 PM.** Meeting Location: Burlington Department of Public Works 2200 S. Pine Street, Burlington, WI.

**Commission members present:**

Dean Falkner (Village of Mukwonago) (Chairman)  
Katlyn Bratz (Town of Mukwonago) (Vice Chairperson)  
Andy Buehler (Kenosha County)  
Larry Long (Village of Big Bend)  
Alan Barrows (Waukesha County)  
Donny Hefty (City of Burlington)  
Chad Sampson (Racine County)  
Jeff Lang (Town of Burlington)  
Doug Koehler (City of Waukesha)  
Fred Koeller (Village of Waterford)  
Lee Manthey (Town of Vernon)  
Rachel Sabre (Wisconsin DNR)  
Jim Pindel (Town of Waterford) (Secretary/Treasurer)

**Commission members absent:**

Wayne Jensen (Village of Rochester)  
Bill Hopkins (Village of Salem Lakes)  
Andrew Lois (Town of Wheatland)  
Tom Slawski (SEWRPC)  
Ken Miller (Town of Waukesha)

**Also present:** Don Baron and Grant Horn of the WWMD, Nick Lent of the WDNR

This was a virtual Zoom meeting hosted by Katlyn Bratz.

1. At 1:06 PM, Chairman Dean Falkner called the SEWFRC meeting to order.
2. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Roll call was taken and a quorum was confirmed.
3. **Minutes** The minutes from the February 21, 2020 meeting were reviewed. It was motioned by Jeff Lang that the minutes be approved and the motion was seconded by Katelyn Bratz. The minutes were approved unanimously.
4. **Treasurer Reports** – Jim Pindel reviewed the February 2020, treasurer's report. We started the month with \$193,227.49 in our Money Market Account. Jim Pindel noted that he made a correction to the Racine County 2019 allocation. Back in November 2019 he reduced the amount still in our account from \$10,000 to \$9,500 because of the payment for the Channel Road project, but neglected to reduce it by an additional \$2,500 for the payment of the Tamarack Lane Project. With interest of \$91.05 our Money Market account comes to a balance of \$193,318.54. Jim Pindel then moved onto the March 2020 Treasurers Report. The only changes to the Money Market account was interest of \$61.97 resulting in a final balance in our Money Market account of \$193,380.51. Regarding the grant fund portion of the report, the VoW Jefferson Street launch project was

reduced to \$0.0 because the Village decided to drop this project. Jim also pointed out that we need to reallocate the \$2,000 of the Racine County 2018 allocation that was assigned to this project. Later in the meeting Jeff Lang motioned that we apply \$500 if this allocation to the Coates shoreline project, \$500 applied to the Knollcrest shoreline project and the final \$1000 to the Gordon shoreline project. The motion was seconded by Larry Long and the motion passed unanimously. It was motioned by Donny Hefty that the Treasurer's Report be accepted and seconded by Alan Barrows that the treasurer's reports be approved and the motion carried unanimously.

## 5. **Old Business**

- a) Fox River Partnership 2020 Summit: Tom Slawski: Tom Slawski was not present and so no report was made.
- b) SEWRPC Survey for Waterford Dam to the Illinois Border – Tom Slawski was not present and so report was made. Dean Falkner asked the county representatives if they were utilizing the maps in this report to identify and correct sources of non-point source pollution. Alan Barrows said that Waukesha County was making use of the maps to identify critical sources of pollution. Similarly Chad Sampson said the Racine County was using the maps to identify areas that need to be addressed. Andy Buehler of Kenosha County said they have not started using the maps but certainly will in the future. Donny Hefty indicated that he used the SEWRPC report and then drove the areas to identify potential projects.  
Alan Barrows mentioned there were a couple ideal projects in a tributary to the Fox. With some discussion, the area was beyond the Mukwonago Adaptive Management plan area. Nick Lent indicated that projects beyond the AM area can be considered. The Mukwonago final permit will take time for public notice & permit issuance, but discussions could occur to develop projects acceptable under the permit AM plan.
- c) Oakwood Shores Park Streambank Stabilization Project – Andy Buehler. Andy Buehler pointed out that the lowest bid that came in for the project was more than the original estimate and so the county was asking us to provide 90% of the now known actual cost. It was motioned by Alan Barrows and seconded by Fred Koeller that we increase our cost share from \$32,400 to \$33,595.60. The motion passed unanimously.
- d) Ranke Road Stormwater Control Project – Chad Sampson Chad said that he still expects to get this project completed this year.
- e) John Kojis Farm Field gully repair project: Chad said that he has a contractor ready to start but he is trying to work with the farmer to do the work between alfalfa harvests.

f) Report on the Fox River Park Project: Alan Barrows. Alan said that this was a new project on the outer bank of the river where historical aerial maps show that they have lost about 6' of river bank. The county is working on the engineering of this project and they will be coming to us for funding. Jim Pindel pointed out that he put this agenda item under old business because he thought that this was going to be a follow up report on a Fox River Park project that we already completed. Alan said that he will rename this project to help differentiate it. This project will be moved to the New Business section if future agendas.

### **New Business**

a) Small-Scale Dewatering Test Presentation – Grant Horn WWMD. Grant Horn made the presentation that had been forwarded to all the commissioners previously. Grant put up a map that showed the locations where the sediment will be taken, where the dewatering will be done, where the dewatering discharge will go and where the sediment will be spread out. The purpose of this test project is to determine how much of the ammonia evaporates out of the sediment to see if the remaining amount of ammonia is within allowable limits for spreading. Don Baron added that the sediment will be spread at different depths like 1", 2" and 3 inches to determine how deep they can spread the sediment and stay within acceptable limits. Some of the monitoring will be done by the UWM fresh water sciences department. Grant itemized the costs of the different parts of the project with the final cost coming out to \$15,400. Because the intent is to complete this project this summer. Jim Pindel asked the commission if we could forgo the waiting until our next meeting to vote on accepting the project for funding. The commission agreed and it was decided that the project acceptance criteria for this project would most certainly pass as well as the many other of the other projects associated with this overall dredging project that we have accepted. It was motioned by Jeff Lang and seconded by Larry Long that we provide grant funds for 90% of this projects cost. The motion passed unanimously.

Coates Shoreline Protection Presentation – Chad Sampson. Chad Sampson made a power point presentation on the project at our last meeting. Jim Pindel said that in anticipation of our possible acceptance of this project and the Knollcrest Shoreline project below, he filled out a project acceptance criteria form for both projects which are practically identical. The acceptance criteria for both projects totaled 42 out of a possible 55 points and met criterial 1 and 8. It was motioned by Jeff Lang and seconded by Katelyn Bratz that we grant fund to 90% both of these two projects. The motion passed unanimously.

b) Knollcrest Shoreline Protection Presentation: Chad Sampson This project was accepted for funding under the previous topic.

c) Potential Grant opportunity via Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP): - Dean Falkner said that due to the corona virus he not able to get all the



- different parties together to see how they could collaborate to get this funding. It is already too late to apply for this funding this year.
- d) Gordon Shoreline Protection Project Presentation: Chad Sampson Chad did a power point presentation with the assistance of Katelyn Bratz. The first slide was an aerial view showing the location of the project on Riverside Road. The second slide homed in on the exact property showing that it included 92' of shoreline. The project amounts to excavating the shoreline, placing rock Riprap, adding native plants on the remaining sections of the shoreline and then mulching and doing erosion control. The total cost of the project is \$15,190 as quoted by the contractor with our cost share being 90% which comes to \$13,671. With regard to the project acceptance criterial we all agreed that it was exactly identical to the other two shoreline protection projects we just approved and so we didn't have to individually evaluate it. It was motioned by Jeff Lang and seconded by Fred Koeller that we accept this project for grant funding. The motion passed unanimously.
  - e) Consideration of developing a USEPA 9-Key Elements Watershed Management Plan – Dean Falkner. Dean Falkner said that we could skip this item for today.
  - f) 2021 – 2030 SEWFRC Implementation Plan: Dean Falkner said that he has been working on modifying the plan and said he will keep plugging away to try to make it more representative of what we are doing today.

#### Reports and Updates

- a) Report on activities of Fox Waterway Agency (FWA) of Illinois – Jeff Lang said that he had attended their last meeting in February and there was nothing of concern to us.
- b) Possible diversion of City of Waukesha water treatment plant discharge away from the Fox River: Nick Lent, who has been involved in this diversion for a long time, made a rather lengthy discussion on this topic with some of the major points being the following. The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was reissued and passed in January of this year. There will continue to be some discharge into the Fox River after the diversion goes into effect in late 2021. Because the affluent discharge will be going into both the Fox River and the Root River and the Root River requires a cleaner water standard the Waukesha treatment plant will have to improve the cleanliness of its discharge for both rivers. Nick said that he didn't expect the flow in the Fox River to be diminished by more than 1%.
- c) SEWFRC Website – Alan Barrows. Alan said that he had nothing to report at this time.

#### Correspondence –

- a. 2/25/2020 Email from Jim Pindel advising you to mark your calendars for 3/20/2020 meeting.
- b. 3/9/2020 Forward of an email from Paul Kling of the WWMD with a report from the WDNR on the usage of water in the state of Wisconsin.
- c. 3/16/2020 Email from Jim Pindel cancelling the 3/2020 meeting
- d. 4/24/2020 Email from Jim Pindel asking if commissioners have the ability to attend a Zoom virtual meeting and if you have a full version of Zoom and can host the meeting. Only received 4 responses.
- e. 5/1/2020 Email from Jim Pindel advising everyone to attend this virtual meeting, with attached email from Katlyn Bratz with link to Zoom meeting.

**Miscellaneous Issues-**

Chad Sampson said that the Watershed Protection Committee of Racine County has been active and is in the process of developing a MoU with IH- Case to get Case to provide free equipment so that farmers in Racine County who want to try cover crops can use this equipment and not have to purchase their own equipment for this trial basis plantings.

It was motioned by Jeff Lang that the meeting be closed and the motion was seconded by Chad Sampson. The motion passed unanimously.

**Meeting Closed** at 2:47 PM

**Assuming that we will be able to hold a physical in person Meeting. THE NEXT OFFICIAL MEETING WILL BE Friday July 17, 2020 at 1:00 PM. Meeting Location: Burlington Department of Public Works 2200 S. Pine Street, Burlington, WI.**

**Commission members present:**

Katelyn Bratz (Town of Mukwonago) (Vice Chairperson)  
Andy Buehler (Kenosha County)  
Larry Long (Village of Big Bend)  
Alan Barrows (Waukesha County)  
Donny Hefty (City of Burlington)  
Chad Sampson (Racine County)  
Jeff Lang (Town of Burlington)  
Doug Koehler (City of Waukesha)  
Fred Koeller (Village of Waterford)  
Lee Manthey (Town of Vernon)  
Wayne Jensen (Village of Rochester)  
Wayne Castle (Village of Mukwonago)  
Bill Hopkins (Village of Salem Lakes)  
Tom Slawski (SEWRPC)  
Jim Pindel (Town of Waterford) (Secretary/Treasurer)

**Commission members absent:**

Rachel Sabre (Wisconsin DNR)  
Andrew Lois (Town of Wheatland)  
Ken Miller (Town of Waukesha)

**Also present:** Don Baron of the WWMD, Mark Jenks of Kenosha County, Jason Wilke of Waukesha County and Dean Falkner of the Village of Mukwonago.

1. At 1:03 PM, Vice Chairperson Katelyn Bratz called the SEWFRC meeting to order.
2. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Roll call was taken and a quorum was confirmed.
3. **Minutes** The minutes from the May 15, 2020 meeting were reviewed. It was motioned by Jeff Lang that the minutes be approved with the changes he emailed to Jim Pindel and the motion was seconded by Wayne Jensen. The minutes were approved unanimously.
4. **Treasurer Reports** – Jim Pindel reviewed the April 2020, treasurer's report. We started the month with \$193,380.51 in our Money Market Account. The only change to the report was the \$19.60 of interest we made. Jim then went on to review the May 2020 treasurer's report. The only changes in this report were a payment of \$129.95 to Host Drive for hosting our website and \$32.83 of interest earned. Jim then went on to review the June 2020 treasurer's report. The only changes here were a payment of \$13,671.00 for the Gordon Shoreline restoration and interest of \$29.40 earned. On the grant funds page, the amount allocated for the Oakwood Shores Park was increased to \$33,595.60. The amount allocated to the Coates shoreline restoration was added at \$21,600.00. The amount allocated

for the Knollcrest Shoreline restoration was added at \$18,000.00. The Gordon Shoreline restoration was added at \$13,671.00. And finally the WWMD small scale dewatering test was added at \$13,860.00. Jim then went on to review the July 2020 treasurer's report. The only change to the money market account was the \$24.22 of interest earned. On the grant funds page the Ranke Road Stormwater control project cost was corrected from \$27,000 to \$31,500.00. The Coates Shoreline restoration project was changed from \$21,600.00 to \$22,950.00 to cover the project's overrun. Finally the John Kojis farm field gully repair cost was corrected back to the original estimate of \$20,000.00. It was motioned by Doug Koehler that the Treasurer's Report be accepted as corrected and seconded by Larry Long that the treasurer's reports be approved and the motion carried unanimously except for Jeff Lang who abstained.

## 5. Old Business

- a) Fox River Partnership 2021 Summit: Tom Slawski: Tom Slawski said that he didn't feel that there will be a 2021 Summit because of the covid-19 pandemic. Tom did say that there is an organization that is organizing a webinar for different environmental organizations, like us, and that the webinar could last from a couple days to a week. There will be a charge for participation that we would have to pay to host our Summit in the webinar. Also attendees would have to pay some charge to participate or view the webinar. Tom said that if we participate we would probably only attend for the day that our presentations are being held. It was motioned by Jeff Lang and seconded by Alan Barrows that we apply for participation in this webinar as long as it doesn't exceed the \$5,550.00 we have allocated to the 2021 Summit. The motion passed unanimously.
- b) SEWRPC Survey for Waterford Dam to the Illinois Border – Tom Slawski said that he was working on the draft version of the final report.
- c) Oakwood Shores Park Streambank Stabilization Project – Andy Buehler. Andy Buehler asked Mark Jenks to make the report. Mark said that the project has run into a snag. The WDNR has stopped them from starting the work because they want them to wait until the turtle nesting season is over. Mark said that they have a contractor lined up and are just waiting for the go ahead from the WDNR.
- d) Ranke Road Stormwater Control Project – Chad Sampson Chad said that project is completed and that it went over budget. Originally the plan was to divert the runoff water around the farm yard through a meadow and down to the wetland that flows into the Fox River. Before they started construction the owner said that he intended to use that meadow to graze his cows and so he didn't want it to be flooded or soft so the cows would churn up the ground. So the project was altered so that the diverted water going around the farm yard would not go through the pasture. The cost of the project went up to \$31,500 to cover the cost associated with the new design.

- e) John Kojis Farm Field gully repair project: Chad said that work on this project has not started yet. The farmer has corn planted in this field and apparently wants to harvest the corn before construction. The project is still estimated at \$20,000.00.
- f) Report on the Fox River Park Project: Alan Barrows. Alan Barrows and Jason Wilke made a presentation to get 90% cost share contribution from the commission. They provided an aerial view of the project area marked up with where the design components will be located including the location of the existing parking lot. Also on this plan sheet were included a picture of a kayak launch and fishing dock with overlook tower and views of what the decking would look like. The overall project includes a kayak/canoe launch, fishing dock with overlook, an asphalt connection to the project area, signage, amenities, fencing, engineering and river bank stabilization. The total project cost is estimated at \$91,500 with the 90% cost share requested from us being \$82,000.00. When asked where the location of this project was, Alan said that it is just behind Waukesha West High School. Alan pointed out that the current in this bend of the river is tricky and it even circulated around in front of the project. Tom Slawski suggested that they implement some current diverters to channel the water away from the stream bank in the curve of the river.  
Later in the meeting Alan Barrows asked if we could have a meeting earlier than the October 9<sup>th</sup> meeting we agreed to for our next meeting with public hearing. It was decided to have a brief virtual zoom meeting on 11/11/2020 to hopefully get our commitment on funding this project.
- g) Small-Scale Dewatering Test Engineering – WWMD. Grant Horn was not present and so Don Baron reviewed the content of the project which had been presented at our last meeting. Don didn't provide a status report on the progress of this project.
- h) Coates Shoreline Protection Presentation – Chad Sampson. Chad Sampson said that the project was completed and that the property owner was very pleased with the results.
- i) Knollcrest Shoreline Protection Presentation: Chad Sampson Chad said that this project is also completed and came in well under the budgeted cost of \$18,000 and our cost share came to \$7,312.50.
- j) Gordon Shoreline Protection Project Presentation: Chad Sampson Chad said that this project was completed, the property owner very happy and it went well at the amount budgeted.

**New Business**

- a) Small-Scale Dewatering Test Presentation – WWMD. Grant Horn was not present and so no presentation was made.
- b) Zanella Shoreline Restoration Project presentation: Chad Sampson provided paper copies of his PowerPoint presentation for everyone present. The first slide was an aerial view with the project location circled and identified. The next slide identified the 235 feet of shoreline that needs to be rock riprapped. The next slides were pictures of the shoreline showing some of the undercutting and trees falling into the river when their roots get undercut. The project amounts to excavating the 235 feet of shoreline, removing only dead, diseased, fallen or undesirable trees. Provide native plants along most of the shoreline, lawn grassed around the pier and high traffic areas; mulch and erosion control. The project is estimated to cost \$40,000 with our cost share being 90% or \$36,000. We will do the project acceptance criteria and vote on acceptance at our next meeting.
- c) Reidy Shoreline Restoration Project: Chad Sampson provided paper copies of his PowerPoint presentation for everyone present. The first slide was an aerial view of the project location. The second slide zoomed in on the project property. The next slides showed the condition of the shoreline and some evidence of erosion. Chad said that about half of the 92' shoreline doesn't appear to be eroding. So Chad is suggesting that we restore 50' of the 92' shoreline. The project amounts to excavating the south 50' of shoreline and place rock riprap on it, providing native plants on the remainder of the shoreline, provide lawn grass around the pier and do mulch and erosion control. The cost of this project is estimated at \$10,000 with our cost share being \$9,000. We will do the project acceptance criteria and vote on this project at our next meeting. After Chad mentioned that it looks like many of these shoreline protection projects will be coming up because the word is getting around about what a good deal this is with our commission providing 90% of the cost. Andy Buehler brought up the idea that the commission should work to have a different payout criteria for private shoreline restorations. Andy said that even though these projects are needed, if too many private shoreline projects come in it could deplete our funds for other worthy projects. Andy also pointed out that if we turn some of these projects down equity issue may arise.
- d) Review of the preliminary 2020-2021 SEWFRC Budget: Jim Pindel provided paper copies of the 2020-2021 Budget for Counties preliminary draft 082120, which we reviewed in detail. Jim Pointed out that in previous years he estimated from January of the previous year to June 30<sup>th</sup> and then from July 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup> and then from January 1<sup>st</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup> of the next year. With our doing the budgeting so late in the year we are only budgeting the current fiscal year that is July 1<sup>st</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup> of the next year. The non-grant income including an estimated \$546.64 came to \$44,874.30. The non-grant expenses came to \$14,125.53. For grant income Jim said he included the next \$200,000 ENUM which should have come in on 7/1/20. Jim said that he emailed Sara DeBruijn asking her when this will happen and if he needs to do anything to get it started.

In the active projects awaiting completion the same project Knollcrest Shoreline Restoration was listed twice under different names. The Kmecak Shoreline riprap project was dropped and the \$7,312.50 was assigned to the Knollcrest project. The total SEWFRC income (grant and non-grant) came to \$444,874.30 and our total expenses (grant and non-grant) with a future reserve balance of \$238,187.28 came to \$444,874.30 giving us a balanced budget. Under the Racine County projects the cost of the John Kojis farm field project was erroneously listed at \$31,500 and had to be changed to \$20,000. Jim asked the County representatives to review the Anticipated Potential Projects for their counties and email him with what they want listed. Looking at the word document version of the budget that will be published in the 3 newspapers of record, we decided to hold the public hearing on October 9, 2020 and hold it as a virtual zoom meeting. Katelyn Bratz volunteered to set up the zoom meeting. Jim Pindel motioned that we accept the proposed budget as we corrected it and the motion was seconded by Jeff Lang. The motion carried unanimously.

- e) Potential Grant opportunity via Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP): - Dean Falkner said that this program is dead as far as our getting funds from it. Dean said that it appears that the best way to accomplish all the projects that we need to get done to clean up the Fox River and get it into compliance is for the municipalities to develop Adaptive Management Plans and then work in cooperation with the Counties to get funding. All present thanked Dean for his years of commitment to the commission as Chairman.
  
- f) 2021 – 2030 SEWFRC Implementation Plan: This being the first commission meeting that Tom Slawski was present when this topic came up, we told him that we were thinking of just keeping our current implementation plan and just adding an addendum that covered some of the new things we are getting into like soil health, cover crops and no till farming. The question came up if we should change from our fiscal year of July 1 to June 30<sup>th</sup> of the next year to the calendar year. Jim Pindel said that he thought that revised state statutes of a couple years ago set our fiscal year to the July 1 to June 30<sup>th</sup> of the next year. Jim said he would look it up and report back. It was also decided that we will not set an effective date for the new implementation plan. It was motioned by Jeff Lang and seconded by Alan Barrows that we request SEWRPC to help us develop the new implantation plan. Alan Barrow offered to help out sighting items that we have developed that should be included. For example, the project acceptance criteria, the project completion sign off and revise the plan to include our new member communities.

### Reports and Updates

- a) Report on activities of Fox Waterway Agency (FWA) of Illinois – Jeff Lang said that he was not able to get into their last zoom meeting, but will try for the next

one which he thought was next week.

b) Possible diversion of City of Waukesha water treatment plant discharge away from the Fox River: Alan Barrows said that he is getting copies of the piping design for the incoming and return flows and is involved in permitting them for the county.

c) SEWFRFC Website –Alan Barrows. Alan said that he had nothing to report at this time.

**Correspondence –**

- a. 7/7/20 Forward of an Email from Dean Falkner regarding the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Grants
- b. 7/7/20 Forward of an email from Don Barron suggesting we use the Town of Waterford Park for our August meeting.
- c. 7/23/20 Forward of an email from Chad Sampson notifying us that the cost of the Ranke Road Stormwater control project is complete and went over budget by \$4500.00. Since no one objected we agreed to increase our share to \$31,500.00.
- d. 7/23/20 Forward of emails between Dean Falkner and Rachel Sabre concerning how to measure the flow of tributaries into the Fox River.
- e. 7/29/20 Email from Jim Pindel to Sara DeBruijn asking when we will get our next Enum and if he needs to do anything. (this communication was between Jim and Sara only)
- f. 7/30/20 Email from Jim Pindel with attachments of the work sheets and Preliminary Budget for 2020 – 2021 for your review
- g. 8/3/20 Email from Jim Pindel stating that the August 21, 2020 meeting will be held at the Town of Waterford Park
- h. Forward of an email from Tom Slawski concerning How's My Waterway Doing Program.
- i. 8/16/20 Forward of an email from Tom Slawski concerning the Fox River Study Group virtual meeting.

**Miscellaneous Issues-**

Chad Sampson said that the Watershed Protection Committee of Racine County has scheduled its Summer Field Day for September 10, 2020. Chad handed out copies of the brochure for the field day to all who were present. The brochure included the times and location for the event.

Jim Pindel pointed out that at our upcoming meeting with public hearing on October 9<sup>th</sup> we will have election of officers. Jim pointed out that he has been the secretary treasurer for 14 years. Jim suggested that the two jobs be separated with a separate secretary and treasurer to lessen the amount of work each one has to do. Jim also pointed out that he will be 74 years old soon and some day he will have to move on. He also emphasized



that it would be good that he could help the people taking over while he was still a member of the commission.

It was motioned by Jeff Lang that the meeting be closed and the motion was seconded by Donny Hefty. The motion passed unanimously.

**Meeting Closed** at 3:05 PM

**THE NEXT OFFICIAL MEETING WILL BE Friday  
September 11, 2020 at 1:00 PM.** Meeting Location: This will be a short zoom virtual meeting.

The next meeting after the one above will be the public hearing and regular meeting on October 9, 2020 at 1:00 PM and this will also be a virtual zoom Meeting.

**Commission members present:**

Katelyn Bratz (Town of Mukwonago) (Vice Chairperson)  
Andy Buehler (Kenosha County)  
Larry Long (Village of Big Bend)  
Alan Barrows (Waukesha County)  
Donny Hefty (City of Burlington)  
Chad Sampson (Racine County)  
Jeff Lang (Town of Burlington)  
Doug Koehler (City of Waukesha)  
Rachel Sabre (Wisconsin DNR)  
Jim Pindel (Town of Waterford) (Secretary/Treasurer)

**Commission members absent:**

Fred Koeller (Village of Waterford)  
Lee Manthey (Town of Vernon)  
Wayne Jensen (Village of Rochester)  
Wayne Castle (Village of Mukwonago)  
Bill Hopkins (Village of Salem Lakes)  
Tom Slawski (SEWRPC)  
Andrew Lois (Town of Wheatland)  
Ken Miller (Town of Waukesha)

**Also present:** Mark Jenks of Kenosha County and Jason Wilke of Waukesha County

This was a virtual Zoom Meeting.

At 1:06 PM, Vice Chairperson Katelyn Bratz called the SEWFRC meeting to order.

1. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Roll call was taken and a quorum was confirmed.
2. **Minutes** The minutes from the August 21, 2020 meeting were reviewed. Jeff Lang pointed out that under New Business there was a typo listing June 39 instead of June 30. It was motioned by Jeff Lang that the minutes be approved with the change he indicated and the motion was seconded by Larry Long. The minutes were approved unanimously.
3. **Treasurer Reports** – Jim Pindel reviewed the August 2020, treasurer's report. We started the month with \$179,685.61 in our Money Market Account. We made four payments for completed projects and made \$16.73 in interest resulting in a final balance of \$116,939.84 in our money market account. In the grant funds portion of the report three projects had a comment added that they have been paid and now we are only waiting for approval from the WDNR. It was motioned by Donny Hefty that the Treasurer's Report be accepted and seconded by Alan Barrows that the treasurer's reports be approved and the motion carried unanimously.

At this point Jim Pindel put up a screen for all the zoom participants to view that was a copy of the spreadsheet he sent out to everyone before the meeting showing that if we approve the three projects we intend to vote on for grant funding and in addition provide grant funding for the WWMD's small scale dewatering test we will only have \$647.62 of grant funds available. Jim went on to say that Fred Koeller and Chad Sampson requested that he add shoreline restoration presentations to the October meeting agenda. Also he received an email from Don Baron of the WWMD listing about 9 other shoreline restoration projects that he will be asking for funding. This started sort of a brainstorming session, with Jim Pindel starting by saying maybe we should put a moratorium on shoreline restorations or consider a different cost share ratio for shoreline restoration projects like 20% and 80%. Jim also said that he thought that we should give a higher priority to municipalities and organizations over private property owners. More people will be directly affected when we fund a municipality or organization than when we fund an individual. However we do realize that any shoreline restoration affects and benefits the entire watershed. Jim also said that we might have to create a new category titled possibly "Grant fundable Projects waiting for available Grant Funds". This would be for projects that make it through the grant fund application process that we agree to fund but have to wait until we have the funds to pay for it. Andy Buehler said that at the last meeting he made a comment that maybe we have to treat private owner shoreline restoration project differently with a different cost share ratio like the 80% 20% ratio mentioned before or even go to a ratio of 50% 50%. This should make it possible for us to help more people with something rather than nothing. It was also suggested that we could assign a portion of our yearly budget, for example \$50,000, as a maximum to be spent on shoreline restorations, leaving us with the other \$150,000 for other projects. Chad Sampson said we should consider our cost share up to some cap maximum like \$5000. This idea seemed to have considerable support. Alan Barrows said that at our last meeting Tom Slawski mentioned some other grant program that might be applicable for shoreline restoration projects and asked if Rachel Sabre could look into getting someone from the WDNR to tell us how we might be able to apply some of these funds to the growing number of shoreline restoration projects. Chad Sampson said that he spent some time looking into this other grant program and that it has a \$5000 limit for private owner shoreline restorations. Chad said that we need to find out who is the person at the WDNR in charge of this other grant program and get him to explain to us what we can do. Rachel Sabre said that she thinks we are referring to the Healthy Lakes Program and said she can talk to the person in charge and see if that person would be willing to make a presentation to us at our next meeting. Rachel said the person we are talking about is Heidi Bunk. Rachel said that a new applicant must put in a request in about May to see if they are eligible. All the necessary information must be available by September 1<sup>st</sup> and then it is reviewed by Heidi and the biologists to decide by November 1<sup>st</sup> if they can get the grant funds. Jim Pindel said that he will list up all the different points that were made concerning how to handle shoreline restoration projects and make it an

agenda item for our next meeting. Jim also said he would email the list to everyone so they can think about it and possibly come up with some other alternatives. Jim also said that he will talk to the WWMD because the \$105,000 they are looking for is over a year's worth of our budget. Maybe they can come up with some of that money. Jim pointed out that we have already supported the dredging project for more than \$200,000 and it wouldn't make sense for us to abandon this long lasting effort.

#### 4. **Old Business**

Katelyn Bratz asked if anyone had an urgent issue with an existing project. No one indicated that they had any issue at this time, so we moved on.

#### **New Business**

- a) **Fox River Park Project:** Alan Barrows Alan started out by saying this project fits well within the scope of our implementation plan and noted that Jason Wilke was on line with this meeting in case we had any technical detail questions. Alan then said why we don't go into the Project Acceptance Criteria. Jim Pindel then put up a screen showing the scores he thought were appropriate for this project and the two Chad Sampson has that we were going to consider for funding today. Jim explained that the scores for the two Chad Sampson projects, the Zanella and Reidy projects were copies of the scores we assigned to the Coates and Knollcrest projects that we already agreed upon for shoreline restoration projects. Jim pointed out that the differences for the Fox River Park project were that he assigned 4 points to the score for enhancing the knowledge and understanding of the Fox River ecosystem because he expected educational signage, just like Waukesha County did for the Schultz Playground project. Alan and Jason agreed and said that some educational signage will be provided. Larry Long motioned that we accept the acceptance criteria as submitted and the motion was seconded by Doug Koehler. The motion carried unanimously. Alan Barrows brought up the point that at our last meeting the question came up of what was the closest launch south of this park. At that time Alan said it was Frog Alley but after looking at maps Alan now says that the closest one to the south, also in the Vernon Marsh, is on Benson Road. Both of these launches require a carry in, the one at Benson Road is ½ mile and the one at Frog Alley is a full mile. Rachel Sabre added that there should be Aquatic Invasive Species signage at the site and Alan agreed that there will be there at the launch. Alan Barrows thanked everyone for attending this special meeting and providing the grant funds for it. Alan pointed out that it has been a couple years since Waukesha County had a large project and appreciated the support. Jeff Lang motioned that we fund the project at the amount specified in the County's presentation the motion was seconded by Donny Hefty. The motion carried unanimously.
- b) **Zanella Shoreline Restoration Project :** Chad Sampson Chad said that he thought that it would be appropriate that we hold off on deciding to fund this and the

Reidy project until after we make a decision at our next meeting on how we want to handle shoreline restoration projects. At this point Jeff Lang asked if we should modify our Project Acceptance Criteria to modify the cost share ratio for each shoreline restoration project. When Jim Pindel asked Jeff for an example of what he meant, Jeff said that if a project appeared to have immediate catastrophic shoreline failure, falling into the river it could be considered for 90% & 10% cost share whereas a property that probably could wait a couple years without major failure might qualify for say a 70% & 30% cost share. It was also suggested that the cost share might be modified based on whether it was a private individual or a municipality. Chad Sampson made the point that it should be up to the project manager to make sure we are not doing more work than necessary. For example on the Reidy project he only included fixing 50% of the shoreline because the rest of it was not showing any signs or erosion and had native plants in place, even though the property owner wanted the whole shoreline reworked. Katelyn Bratz asked if it made sense to create a separate acceptance check list for shoreline restoration projects that would address all these issues. It was motioned by Jeff Lang and seconded by Larry Long that we table the Zanella and Reidy projects until after we make a decision on how we want to handle shoreline projects.

- c) Reidy Shoreline Restoration Project: This topic was covered in the last agenda topic.

### Reports and Updates

Katelyn Bratz asked if anyone had any important or urgent issues and no one had any.

#### **Correspondence** –

- a. 8/22/2020 Email from Jim Pindel asking everyone to review the meeting minutes because he accidentally deleted the DVR record.
- b. 8/24/2020 Forward of an email from Tom Slawski with attached draft copy of WDNR upper Fox River Watershed Assessment.
- c. 8/26/2020 Email from Sara DeBruijn with attached copy of ENUM- 22, which I signed and returned requesting \$100,000 cash advance.

#### **Miscellaneous Issues**–

It was pointed out that our next meeting with Public Hearing will be on Friday October 9, 2020 and this will also be a virtual Zoom meeting

**Meeting Closed** at 1:42 PM

**Commission members present:**

Katelyn Bratz (Town of Mukwonago) (Vice Chairperson)  
Andy Buehler (Kenosha County)  
Alan Barrows (Waukesha County)  
Donny Hefty (City of Burlington)  
Chad Sampson (Racine County)  
Doug Koehler (City of Waukesha)  
Fred Koeller (Village of Waterford)  
Lee Manthey (Town of Vernon)  
Wayne Jensen (Village of Rochester)  
Wayne Castle (Village of Mukwonago)  
Bill Hopkins (Village of Salem Lakes)  
Tom Slawski (SEWRPC)  
Jim Pindel (Town of Waterford) (Secretary/Treasurer)

**Commission members absent:**

Jeff Lang (Town of Burlington)  
Larry Long (Village of Big Bend)  
Rachel Sabre (Wisconsin DNR)  
Andrew Lois (Town of Wheatland)  
Ken Miller (Town of Waukesha)

**Also present:** Don Baron and Grant Horn of the WWMD, Mark Jenks of Kenosha County.

At 1:01 PM, 10/9/2020, Vice Chairperson Katelyn Bratz called the Public Hearing to order.

The only order of business was the review of the Southeastern Wisconsin Fox River Commission Proposed Budget for 2020 - 2021. This is the fourth budget based on a July 1 to June 30 fiscal year. For the record, Jim Pindel stated that the notice of Public Hearing and the Proposed Budget was published in the 3 newspapers of record, namely the Waukesha Freeman, the Racine Journal Times and the Kenosha News. The proposed budget was read for the record. Vice Chairperson Katelyn Bratz then asked the non-commission members present if they had any questions or comments. Grant Horn of the WWMD said that the amount listed for the Small Scale Dewatering test Engineering will come in under budget. Jim Pindel said that this was good news but does not affect the budget as submitted. Katelyn then asked the public a second and third time if anyone wanted to speak in favor or against the proposed budget. There were no comments from the public concerning the budget. It was then motioned by Wayne Jensen and seconded by Donny Hefty that the public meeting be closed and so the meeting was closed.

The Public Hearing was closed at 1:09 PM.

1. At 1:09 PM, Vice Chairperson Katelyn Bratz called the SEWFRC meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Roll call was taken and a quorum

- was confirmed.
2. **Approval of the Proposed 2020 – 2021 SEWFRC Budget**. It was motioned by Alan Barrows and seconded by Wayne Jensen that the proposed budget be approved. The motion carried unanimously.
  3. **Minutes** The minutes from the September 11, 2020 meeting were reviewed. It was motioned by Donny Hefty that the minutes be approved as submitted and the motion was seconded by Andy Buehler. The minutes were approved unanimously.
  4. **Treasurer Reports** – Jim Pindel reviewed the September 2020, treasurer’s report. We started the month with \$116,939.84 in our Money Market Account. The only change to the report was the \$14.41 of interest we made. This interest brought the money market account up to \$116,954.25 and the non-grant income up to \$44,445.25. It was motioned by Alan Barrows that the Treasurer’s Report be accepted and seconded by Doug Koeller that the treasurer’s reports be approved and the motion carried unanimously.
  5. **Election of Officers for 2020 – 2021 fiscal year**. Jim Pindel started out by saying that he would be willing to continue on as Secretary/Treasurer, but only for one last year. He pointed out that during the next year someone has to take on the Secretary Job and someone else has to assume the Treasurer’s job. They should start during the year so Jim can help them get familiar with how to do things. Alan Barrows asked Katelyn Bratz if we could table this issue until the next meeting because some of the commissioners were not present and he thought that someone might be willing to accept either or both offices. Katelyn Bratz said that she was willing to continue on in her position which should be Chairperson, not Vice Chairperson, as she is listed now. It was motioned by Alan Barrows and seconded by Donny Hefty that we table this issue until our next meeting.
1. **Old Business**
    - a) **Fox River Partnership 2021 Summit**: Tom Slawski: Tom Slawski said that he is working on the Summit which will be hosted on the UW Extension Webinar; he is getting the program together and will see how the day will play out.
    - b) **SEWRPC Survey for Waterford Dam to the Illinois Border** – Tom Slawski said that he was working on the draft version of the final report. Tom expects the report to be ready sometime in November.
    - c) **Oakwood Shores Park Streambank Stabilization Project** – Andy Buehler. Andy Buehler asked Mark Jenks to make the report. Mark said that he and the contractor met on site and expected the WDNR to be there as well. The

WDNR did not show up but Mark has talked to them on the phone and found that they are okay with the project and told him to get started ASAP. Mark said that the contractor is now trying to find how he can fit this project in with the other work he is doing. Once the contractor gets mobilized on site the work should only take a couple days. Mark expects the project to be completed this year.

- d) John Kojis Farm Field gully repair project: Chad said that he talked to John Kojis about 3 weeks ago and found out that he has field corn planted in that field and doesn't want to have about 4 acres of corn destroyed by the project. Chad said he has a contractor all ready to start and as soon as the corn is off the field they will get the project done. Chad thinks it should get done this year.
- e) Report on the Fox River Park Project: Alan Barrows. Alan Barrows said that they are working with the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) engineers to get the design done. Alan said that the County has been approached by the Village of Mukwonago water treatment department and as part of their adaptive management plan will provide some funds to extend the project down river to where the bridge passes over the Fox River. Alan said that they are very happy to have the Village of Mukwonago as a partner in this project. Alan believes that the project will be done in 2021.
- f) Small-Scale Dewatering Test Engineering – WWMD. Grant Horn said that we budgeted \$13,860 but this project is coming in well under budget, so there will be some savings for us here.

### **New Business**

- a) Discussion concerning Acceptance Criteria for Shoreline Restoration Projects: Chad Sampson started out by saying he has thought about this quite a bit trying to decide what is fair and what is not fair. Chad said that the property frontages along the river are generally quite short like 60 to 100 feet long. Chad said he thought we should consider paying 90% of the cost up to \$10,000. This would cover a majority of the restorations and then we would have to consider what we do above that. Chad said for example the Zanella shoreline project we will be voting on later in the meeting covers 235' of shoreline, so we would only provide \$9,000 toward this project and it would be up to the land owner to get the rest somehow. Going further Chad said he thought we should limit our spending on shoreline restoration project to about \$50,000 annually leaving the rest of our funds available for other projects.
- Jim Pindel pointed out that he sent a list of all the discussion points concerning this topic and a condensed summary of these points to everyone before the meeting. Jim indicated which of the points he thought had merit and attempted to make a motion that covered it all. The motion was we would do a 90% cost share



up to \$10,000. We put an annual limit on shoreline restorations at \$50,000. Jim said he would modify the item in the Project Acceptance Criteria which now asks “does the proposed project assist in local decision-making or formation of a strategy to protect the quality of the Fox River ecosystem”? To now say is the proposed project one of the 41 erosion sites identified in the SEWRPC survey, if it is it gets 4 points and if it is in the top half of the identified erosion sites it gets 8 points. Wayne Jensen said he was concerned that with these limits we would only be able to do 5 or 6 projects a year and there are hundreds of sites that need work. Wayne also said that with some commissioner not present we should probably put off making a final decision. Wayne also said that the first point in the list of considerations “Put a moratorium on shoreline restorations for the next year” seems reasonable to him. Chad Sampson said he has two shovel ready projects that could start tomorrow and he doesn’t think it is fair to put off our decision on funding them any longer, he has already put them off for the last month knowing that we were going to consider how to treat shoreline restorations. At this point Chad seconded Jim Pindel’s motion, later we decided not to go forward with this motion at this time. Andy Buehler then asked wasn’t someone going to look into some other funding mechanism for these projects. Chad Sampson said that he did look into it and there is a \$5,000 grant program from the WDNR’s surface waters program and there are probably some other programs as well. Jim Pindel pointed out that we have to be careful not to double dip on WDNR grants. You cannot partially fund a project from more than one WDNR grant program. Andy Buehler then asked if we knew how much other grant funds were available and what is the probability of getting these funds. Chad said he hadn’t looked at that yet. Bill Hopkins asked Chad if he could look into the timing of these other grants to see what the turnaround time would be. Don Baron of the WWMD said that he applied for the surface waters program grant for the 5 shoreline restoration project that the WWMD needs to get done. He said that the program has an application deadline in November and that the application process is complicated and it took him 3 days to do the application. Andy Buehler made the suggestion that we consider the two projects that Chad has on the agenda for voting under our current norms and apply whatever decision we make concerning overall shoreline restoration on all projects after that. The consensus was that this makes sense. Jim Pindel said that he would provide a written copy of his motion to everyone to consider or modify before our next meeting

- b) Small-Scale Dewatering Test Presentation – WWMD. Grant Horn said that the project amounted to building a 2,700 cubic yard pond to hold 400 to 500 cubic yards of dredged material that will be 15% to 18% solids. They expect to dredge about 100 feet of river length just downstream of the WDNR launch. This will provide improved access to this area. All the piping from the dredge to the pond would be above ground. The dredged materials would be allowed to settle for 1 or 2 weeks. The nitrate, nitrite and ammonia levels as well as PH will be monitored throughout the process to see if the levels fall within the WDNR’s acceptable limits. . It was the consensus of the commission that we could hold off on waiting until the next meeting to vote on funding this project. Katelyn

- Bratz asked if we need to review the project acceptance criteria before voting and Jim Pindel pointed out that we have reviewed the acceptance criteria on many of the phases of the dredging project already and it certainly would pass again. Fred Koeller asked if we need to make the funding of \$52,500 contingent on the WWMD being able to provide the rest of the funds to get the project done. The WWMD has funds available in the ESR budget and a special dredging account to make up the difference. Jim Pindel made a motion that we fund this project at \$52,500 and the motion was seconded by Wayne Jensen. The motion passed unanimously.
- c) Zanella Shoreline Restoration Project presentation: Chad Sampson said that he made the presentation on this project at our last meeting. The project was about \$40,000 because much of the shoreline was heavily wooded and steep. Jim Pindel pointed out that this is the next meeting and so we should vote on it today. Jim also pointed out that he provided a copy of the project acceptance criteria for this project and the Reidy project at our last meeting which we all agreed to. Chad Sampson made a motion that we fund this project at 50% cost share or \$20,000 and the motion was seconded by Bill Hopkins. The motion passed unanimously. It will be up to the land owner to come up with the other \$20,000.
- d) Reidy Shoreline Restoration Project: Chad Sampson said that this is a project that is shovel ready. Chad said that he originally asked for 90% of the \$10,000 estimated cost but now thinks it will come in lower. It was motioned by Bill Hopkins that we fund this project at a 90% cost share and the motion was seconded by Alan Barrows. The motion passed unanimously.
- e) White Oak Lane Shoreline Restoration: Chad Sampson asked Katelyn if she could project the presentation for all of us. Chad said it is very much like all the other shoreline restoration projects. Chad said that the project is on the peninsula between Conservancy Bay and Tichigan Lake. It amounts to 58' of shoreline. The owner is about to sell the property to someone who intends to build a house on it. Chad said he was concerned because there was so much erosion on the site. He provided a picture of the shoreline that has a steel fence pounded into the ground to hold the shoreline back. The project amounts to excavating 58' of shoreline and place riprap along it, Remove one small Willow tree, provide native plants along the shoreline, and put lawn grasses around the pier and high traffic areas and mulch and erosion control. Chad said that this project is shovel ready. It was the consensus of the commission that even though we normally would wait until our next meeting to vote on a project, the fact that our virtual meetings are not regularly scheduled we could vote on this project today. Jim Pindel motioned that we accept this project at 90% cost share and the motion was seconded by Donny Hefty. The motion passed unanimously.
- f) ER-31 Stream Bank Erosion Site – Waterford Landing HOA Presentation: Fred Koeller said that the Fox River runs about 1000' along this site and the Waterford landing about 650' of this site is ER-31 identified in the SEWRPC survey. Fred

said that the Village has already completed out 60' of shoreline restoration. Fred said that some of the reason that the shoreline has been worked on is that running through it is a deeded walking and bike path. The path is deeded as public access. There is over a mile of path running through a 44 acre conservancy. The conservancy has about 3000' of shoreline. In the future the Village is considering building a pedestrian bridge over the Fox River to connect Whitford Park to the path. Fred said that from 2000 to 2015 the erosion along ER-31 varied between 7' and 11.5'. In the SEWRPC survey the erosion here is considered high and the severity as moderate. It is estimated that between 81 and 20.5 tons of sediment is loaded into the Fox River each year from this site. Chad said that his staff felt there was 195' of shoreline that needed immediate attention. The project amounts to excavating 195' of shoreline and placing riprap, remove dead, diseased, fallen or undesirable trees, native plants on the shoreline, lawn grasses on high traffic areas and do mulch and erosion control. The cost estimate for the project is \$30,000 with 90% being \$27,000. There was some discussion on if we could afford \$27000 and Katelyn pointed out that this is a public access site not a private owner. Chad Sampson motioned that we provide \$20,000 toward this project and the motion was seconded by Wayne Jensen. The motion passed unanimously.

- g) 2021 – 2030 SEWFRC Implementation Plan: Tom Slawski was no longer on the Zoom meeting. Jim Pindel pointed out that at our last meeting we asked SEWRPC to take charge of the new plan. Alan Barrows said that he talked to Tom Slawski after our meeting at Waterford Park and Tom was going to look for a Microsoft word version of the plan. Alan said that he volunteered to assist with the new plan but he has not had any contact with Tom since.

#### Reports and Updates

- a) Report on activities of Fox Waterway Agency (FWA) of Illinois – Jeff Lang was not present and so no report was made.
- b) Possible diversion of City of Waukesha water treatment plant discharge away from the Fox River: Alan Barrows said that he is continuing to do reviews on the return pipe line that runs through Waukesha County. Alan also said he has been contacted by contractors who want to get started, but they have not had a preconstruction meeting at this time. Jim Pindel pointed out that on 9/9/20 he forwarded an email from Tom Slawski with an update on the diversion.
- c) SEWFRC Website –Alan Barrows. Alan said that he received photos from Chad Sampson of some of the completed projects and he will be forwarding them to Al Sikora.

#### Correspondence –

- a. 9/8/2020 Forward of an Email from Dean Falkner concerning SEWRPC information about the Booth Lake diversion.
- b. 9/9/2020 Forward of an email from Tom Slawski with attached update on the Waukesha diversion.
- c. 9/17/20 Forward of emails between Dean Falkner and Tom Slawski discussing the possibility of using the amount of phosphorus reduction as a criteria for project acceptance criteria.
- d. 9/28/2020 Email from Jim Pindel with attached Letter of Support for the Western Racine County Sewage Districts Adaptive Management Plan.
- e. 10/7/20 Email from Jim Pindel with September Treasurers Report and Summary of condensed Shoreline Restoration Points.

### **Miscellaneous Issues-**

Chad Sampson said that the Watershed Protection Committee of Racine County had its Summer Field Day on September 10, 2020. Chad said about 35 people showed up. The Day was held outside with social distancing. They had a soil pit, some cover crops and an airplane flew over dropping cover crop seeds. Chad was encouraged by the fact that some younger farmers showed up. Their next workshop will be in February.

It was motioned by Bill Hopkins that the meeting be closed and the motion was seconded by Andy Buehler. The motion passed unanimously.

**Meeting Closed** at 2:08 PM

**THE NEXT OFFICIAL MEETING WILL BE Friday  
December 11, 2020 at 1:00 PM.** Meeting Location: This will be a Zoom virtual meeting.

**Commission members present:**

Katelyn Bratz (Town of Mukwonago) (Vice Chairperson)  
Andy Buehler (Kenosha County)  
Alan Barrows (Waukesha County)  
Chad Sampson (Racine County)  
Doug Koehler (City of Waukesha)  
Fred Koeller (Village of Waterford)  
Lee Manthey (Town of Vernon)  
Wayne Jensen (Village of Rochester)  
Wayne Castle (Village of Mukwonago)  
Bill Hopkins (Village of Salem Lakes)  
Jeff Lang (Town of Burlington)  
Donny Hefty (City of Burlington)  
Larry Long (Village of Big Bend)  
Rachel Sabre (Wisconsin DNR)  
Tom Slawski (SEWRPC)  
Jim Pindel (Town of Waterford) (Secretary/Treasurer)

**Commission members absent:**

Andrew Lois (Town of Wheatland)  
Ken Miller (Town of Waukesha)

**Also present:** Grant Horn of the WWMD.

At 1:09 PM, Vice Chairperson Katelyn Bratz called the SEWFRC meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Roll call was taken and a quorum was confirmed.

- 1) **Minutes** The minutes from the October 9, 2020 meeting were reviewed. Two typo's were pointed out by Jeff Lang and Jim Pindel said he will make the corrections. It was motioned by Alan Barrows that the minutes be approved as corrected and the motion was seconded by Larry Long. The minutes were approved unanimously.
- 2) **Treasurer Reports** – Jim Pindel reviewed the October 2020, treasurer's report. We started the month with \$116,954.25 in our Money Market Account. The only changes to the report were the deposit of \$100,000 cash advance from ENUM- 22 and the \$16.36 of interest we made. This interest brought the money market account up to \$216,970.61 and the non-grant income came up to \$44,461.61. On the grant funds page it was noted that we allocated \$40,505.04 more than the grant funds available. It was motioned by Fred Koeller that the Treasurer's Report be accepted and seconded by Larry Long that the treasurer's reports be approved and the motion carried unanimously. The November 2020 Treasure's Report was then reviewed. We started the month with \$216,970.61 in our money

market account. We made three payments to the three newspapers of record for publishing our 2020 – 2021 budget and public hearing announcement as well as receiving \$23.09 in interest leaving us with \$215,794.57 in our money market account. These changes were reflected in the non-grant funds leaving us with \$30,244.83 in available non-grant funds. There were no changes to the grant funds for this month. At this point Jim Pindel referred to an email he sent to Chad Sampson, Alan Barrows and Grant Horn asking them for assistance with \$40,000 we are over budget. Jim asked Alan if he could put off any of the payments for the Fox River Park to 2022. Jim asked Grant Horn if he would accept 50% payment in 2021 and the balance in 2022 after we get the cash advance from our next ENUM. Grant responded that the WWMD would be willing to do it. Jim asked Chad if we could push any of his projects off into 2022 and if we would be getting the \$10,000 allocation from Racine County's 2021 cultural grant. Chad responded that we would not be getting any cultural grant funds from Racine County. Chad also said that he could push off the John Kojis farm field project for at least a year. Chad also said that we budgeted \$20,000 for this project and he will only need \$10,000 to \$11,000 from us for this project. Chad also said that a number of the other projects will be coming in under budget. It was motioned by Wayne Jensen and seconded by Bill Hopkins that the treasurer's report be accepted as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.

- 3) **Election of Officers for 2020 – 2021 fiscal year.** Katelyn Bratz said that she would be willing to be the chairperson for this next year. Jim Pindel nominated her for this position and the nomination was seconded by Jeff Lang. The vote for making Katelyn the Chairperson was unanimous. Jeff Lang stated that he will not be volunteering for any positions on the commission because he will be running for Chairman of the Town of Burlington in this spring's election. If Jeff wins in the election he will be assigning someone else to our commission. Grant Horn said he would be willing to serve as an officer, but he was told that he would have to be a commissioner to be an officer. The only way he could be a commissioner would be to take Jim Pindel's place as representative of the Town of Waterford. Alan Barrows volunteered to be the vice chairman. Jeff Lang nominated Alan for vice chairman and Wayne Jensen seconded the nomination. Alan won on a unanimous vote. Katelyn Bratz pointed out that at our last meeting Jim Pindel said that he wanted to stand down but would be willing to serve for one more year if it is required. Jim pointed out that he would like people to take over soon enough so he could help them know the ropes of each job. Wayne Jensen said that he would be willing to learn how to do the treasurer's job with Jim's help. With that Jim said the job amounts to doing the monthly treasurer's report and the annual budget but forgot to mention the treasurer also submits the paperwork to the WDNR for reimbursements for projects completed. Jeff Lang nominated Wayne for Treasurer and Larry Long seconded the nomination. The nomination carried unanimously. At this point Jim Pindel stated that he would be willing to continue as secretary for only this coming year and really wants someone to come forward as early as possible to learn the ropes. To that end, Katelyn Bratz said that looking for a new secretary should be an agenda item each month so we give

it the proper attention. Jeff Lang nominated Jim for the secretary position and the nomination was seconded by Doug Koehler. The nomination passed unanimously.

4) **Old Business**

- a) Fox River Partnership 2021 Summit: Tom Slawski: Tom Slawski said that he is working on the Summit which will be hosted on the UW Extension Webinar which will happen on March 11, 2021. Tom said that he sent a link to reserve that day for the webinar to Jim Pindel. Jim said that he received it around noon today and will forward it to all the commissioners. Tom said that there is no way we could have an in person summit in 2021 but was hopeful for one in 2022. The cost of the webinar will be \$20.00 each for that one day session. Registration for the webinar is not open as of now and Tom will advise us as soon as we can register and you can register for as many days as you want. We will be part of the UW extension week long water week program and March 11<sup>th</sup> will be the watershed day. Tom said he also included a link to the weeklong webinar with more detail on the events of each day. Tom said that he is trying to resurrect as much of the 2020 summit which was not held for the webinar and has some speakers lined up for it. Katelyn Bratz said to Tom that some of the webinars she has attended recorded the session and made it available for viewing after the fact. Tom said they intend to do the same.
- b) SEWRPC Survey for Waterford Dam to the Illinois Border – Tom Slawski said that he has made some progress toward finishing the report. Tom said that there were 41 sites in the system that were high priority and he was asked to determine the load estimate for each of these sites. Tom said he was able to finish this task and quantify the phosphorus and sediment loads for each of the sites. This data will help him rank these sites showing which ones need addressing first. The ranking will include the severity and proximity to infrastructure of the site. Tom said he will be able to share this data very soon. This was one of the last requirements to complete the report data. Tom said he should be able to provide a draft of the report in the next few weeks and then finish the report.
- c) Oakwood Shores Park Streambank Stabilization Project – Andy Buehler. Andy said that the project was started and completed on November 4<sup>th</sup>; Andy said that Mark Jenks reported at our last meeting that the WDNR wanted the project completed this fall, the contractor was able to do the work in one day and so it is done. Andy said he was thankful to the commission for the financial help that we provided.
- d) John Kojis Farm Field gully repair project: Chad said that this project is not completed. There was a time in October and early November when the work could have been done, but the owner had corn planted in the field and didn't want to lose his crop. So the contractor move out and now they are looking to do the project in early spring before crops are planted. Chad said that John Kojis was in

his office yesterday and is excited to get the work done. Chad said that he has two other sources of funding and he will not need all of the \$20,000 we allocated to this project.

e) Report on the Fox River Park Project: Alan Barrows. Alan Barrows said as a review this project amounts to providing an EDA accessible canoe and kayak launch at the Waukesha County Park along with shoreline restoration along the river bank. Since our last meeting they have received the final design from the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP). Alan said that project includes 300' of shoreline restoration. Right now they are waiting for approval from the state engineer for the project. Presently they are working on developing the bid documents. Alan said that the Village of Mukwonago is interested in providing some funding for this project. They are working with the Village and their attorney to sign an interdepartmental agreement. They are also working at getting some additional funding from the DATCP. Alan said that he expects this project to get going as soon as warmer weather comes along. He also said that they still have to go through the permitting process.

f) Small-Scale Dewatering Test Engineering – WWMD. Grant Horn said that they are in the process of closing this project out and that they will not need the entire \$15,400 that we allocated for this engineering. Grant said that our next meeting he should be able to inform us of the lower actual amount we need to provide.

g) Small Scale Dewatering Test: Grant Horn said that at this time they are waiting for approval from the WDNR for this project. The WDNR has some questions about the 2700 cubic yard pond that will be needed to dewater the sediment and there are also some concerns about soil contamination. Grant said that the project has been approved by the WWMD board.

h) Zanella Shoreline Restoration Project: Chad Sampson. Chad reported that they ran into a little problem because you do not require a WDRN permit for shoreline restorations of less than 200' but this project runs for 235'. So they have to apply for a permit. Chad said that since we only allocated 50% or \$20,000 to this project the property owner is having some trouble raising the other \$20,000, so this project might push out as far as 2022.

i) Reidy Shoreline Restoration Project: Chad Sampson. Chad said that he has been in contact with the property owners and they are wanting to move forward. This is a project that we allocated \$9,000 for but it will come in at a lower cost. Chad said the project should happen next spring or summer.

j) White Oak Lane Shoreline Restoration Project: Chad Sampson. Chad said that this project is completed and that Jim Pindel sent the cost share check to the owner. The project turned out to be somewhat interesting. There was a lot of



garbage and debris holding up the existing shoreline that had to be removed. The contractor had to fill a dumpster with the debris. It is finished and the owners are happy with the results. Chad said this is an interesting property of about 60' of shoreline bending around a point. The next door property owner has seen the work and will probably be coming to us for assistance.

k) ER31 Streambank Erosion Site – Waterford Landing HOA: Fred Koeller & Chad Sampson. Chad pointed out that this is one of the sites identified in the SEWRPC survey as causing a lot of erosion. Chad said that we approved \$27,000 at our last meeting for this project. Now they have an estimate from a contractor to do the job for \$24,000 so our 90% cost share will be down to \$21,600. Fred Koeller said that access to the walking path currently is through a vacant lot. The HOA just received notification that someone is going to build on this lot and so access to the path will be longer and more difficult about 600' to 700' away. Fred said that the contractor Chiles said it would cost \$2000 to \$3000 more if he can't use the vacant lot for access. So Fred was hoping we could get the work done before the lot owner starts construction in 6 or 7 weeks.

### **New Business**

a) Discussion concerning Acceptance Criteria for Shoreline Restoration Projects:

Jim Pindel provided a motion at our last meeting that is copied here, so we can consider it:

The motion was we would do a 90% cost share up to \$10,000. We put an annual limit on shoreline restorations at \$50,000. Jim said he would modify the item in the Project Acceptance Criteria which now asks “does the proposed project assist in local decision-making or formation of a strategy to protect the quality of the Fox River ecosystem”? To now say is the proposed project one of the 41 erosion sites identified in the SEWRPC survey, if it is it gets 4 points and if it is in the top half of the identified erosion sites it gets 8 points.

Before we got started Alan Barrows made a point that these streambank restorations can be for private individuals, municipalities, multiple owner properties, counties and even the WDNR. Alan asked the group if we wanted to limit these new restrictions to just the private residential properties. Alan made an additional point of the fact that private residential properties are usually small in scope compared to properties owned by the WDNR, municipalities and counties likely making them go over any maximum annual limit we might establish. Alan pointed out that the WE Energies site, the Waterford Park and the Fox River Park project we are now working on are very large by comparison and probably would not have been done without the much larger contribution from the Fox River Commission. Katelyn Bratz pointed out that in our previous discussion we wanted to emphasize doing restorations that were listed in the 41 worst erosion sites. Tom Slawski pointed out that in his survey he had three levels of severity with the worst one being imminent threat sites of which there were only seven with the Village of Waterford ER-31 site being one of them. Jim Pindel said that he would be willing to rewrite the motion confining it to private residences and

being more specific about addressing the eminent threat erosion sites. The consensus was for Jim Pindel to rewrite the motion and forward it to all the commissioners as soon as he rewrites it. Wayne Jensen made a motion that Jim rewrites the motion and Alan Barrows seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

- b) 2021 – 2030 SEWFRC Implementation Plan: Alan Barrows started out by saying he had volunteered at our last meeting to work on the update to the implementation plan and said that he talked briefly with Tom Slawski after our last in person meeting at the Town of Waterford Park. Alan asked Tom if he was able to find a word document version of the plan. Tom responded that he started looking for the word version but got overwhelmed with other work and never got around to finding it. Tom said he will start over to find the word document. Tom said he is hopeful that he can find the word version. Katelyn Bratz said that when the word document is found she would be willing to help out as well. In the meantime Alan said that he looked back in his emails back in 2011 and had some that might include the word document.

#### Reports and Updates

- a) Report on activities of Fox Waterway Agency (FWA) of Illinois – Jeff Lang pointed out that no one from the FWA was present at this meeting and that he has not attended any of their meetings since the one he reported on the last time. Therefore no report was made.
- b) Possible diversion of City of Waukesha water treatment plant discharge away from the Fox River: Rachel Sabre said the only information she had was the newspaper article saying that construction would be starting soon.
- c) SEWFRC Website – Alan Barrows. Alan said that he looked at the website just before the meeting and noticed that our current projects page is empty showing that we are not working on anything right now. We all know that there are quite a few projects in process and so Alan asked for photos and brief descriptions that he could forward to Al Sikora to update the website.

#### Correspondence –

- a. 10/13/20 Email from Jim Pindel to mark your calendars for today's meeting.
- b. 10/13/20 Email from Jim Pindel with the motion concerning Shoreline Restoration Acceptance Criteria.
- c. 11/4/20 Email from Jim Pindel concerning "we have a big problem".
- d. 11/9/20 Email from Jim Pindel with follow up to Chad Sampson, Alan Barrows and Grant Horn asking for specific help with the big problem. Received replies from Chad Sampson and Greg Horeth.
- e. 11/13/20 US Mail Letter from Mark Schaaf of Racine County stating that we will not receive any Cultural Grant Funds in 2021.

- f. 12/11/20 Jim Pindel received an email from Barb Holtz concerning the cleanup work required on the Milwaukee River, which Jim said he forwarded to all the commissioners.
- g. 12/11/20 An email with attached links was sent to Jim Pindel from Tom Slawski for the upcoming 2021 Summit and the entire water week program. Jim said he only received the email just before the meeting and will forward it very soon.

### **Miscellaneous Issues-**

Jeff Lang said that WE Energies has a pipeline project that will be going under the Fox River somewhere near Burlington. Jeff said that WE Energies have mobilized some of the heavy equipment into place this last week. Jeff wanted to make us aware of this situation which could disturb the river in this location.

Chad Sampson said that the Watershed Protection Committee of Racine County received a \$40,000 grant for 2021. They will be holding two events in 2021, their winter workshop where they will feature a farmer from west central Indiana who will make a presentation on how the only thing he puts into the ground is seeds. He uses no fertilizer or pesticides. This will be an in person meeting at the Cotton Exchange in Waterford on February 12, 2021. Chad also mentioned that because of the favorable weather conditions this fall, he has recorded over 9000 acres of cover crops in Racine County. Alan Barrows asked if this group was a 501 c3 organization and Chad said yes they are and that he is the treasurer for the group and handles the grant funds and the funds received by sponsors like the City of Burlington and the Eagle Lake Management Association. The grant funds and sponsor funds are kept in separate checking accounts.

It was motioned by Larry Long that the meeting be closed and the motion was seconded by Jeff Lang. The motion passed unanimously.

**Meeting Closed** at 2:23 PM

**THE NEXT OFFICIAL MEETING WILL BE Friday  
February 5, 2021 at 1:00 PM.** Meeting Location: This will be a Zoom virtual meeting.