

Southeast Wisconsin Fox River Commission Meeting Minutes

Friday, April 17, 2026 at 1 p.m. – In person meeting at Vernon Fire Station #1.
W233 S7475 Woodland Ln. Big Bend, WI 53103

Commissioner's Present:

Alan Barrows, Waukesha County
Jim Pindel, Town of Waterford
Fred Koeller, Village of Waterford
Wayne Jensen, Village of Rochester
Lee Manthey, Town of Vernon
Chad Sampson, Racine County
Donna Duester, Town of Wheatland
Howard Moser, City of Burlington
Wayne Castle, Village of Mukwonago
Barb Holtz, Town of Mukwonago
Doug Koeller, City of Waukesha
Rachel Sabre, WI DNR

Others in attendance:

Grant Horn, WWMD
Kailyn Palomares, Racine County

Agenda

1. Alan Barrows called the meeting at 1:01 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll call and verify quorum
4. Chad Sampson recording and taking minutes.
5. Fred Koeller made a motion to approve the previous minutes, seconded by Chad Sampson.
 - a. Motion passed unanimously.
6. Review of the Treasurer's Report. A motion made by Fred Koeller to approve the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Howard Moser.
 - a. Motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

1. Fox River Summit – No Report
2. SEWRPC Survey from the Waterford Dam to the Illinois border – No Report
3. Racine County Office of Emergency Management Flow Gauge – Chad Sampson stated that Lorenzo is no longer the Emergency Management Coordinator. Liz Adams has taken over that position for now. There is no other update.
4. Noble Brothers Burgers Permeable Pavers – Chad Sampson said Jay Noble left a message that they will be moving forward with Phase II of the project this summer.

New Business

1. Discussion of a bi-state NRCS RCPP – No report.
2. 2021 – 2030 SEWFRC Implementation Plan – Alan Barrows said there were no comments regarding the updated plan.
3. Fox River Watershed Hazard Mitigation Plan / Regional Coordinator Group – Alan Barrows said Gail Goodchild moved into the Director role.
4. Consideration of having a Wisconsin Statute attorney on retainer to advise us on legal issues – Alan Barrows said we could use the interest from our account (non-grant) funds to pay for an attorney. Alan said Attorney Don Gallo was interested and would only charge 50% of the going rate and include offer some pro bono. We have a list of questions that we reviewed at the meeting. The questions included. Can we fund the long-term flow gauge maintenance? Can our non-voting members count toward quorum? State statute says we must post the meeting announcement 15 days prior to the meeting (business days or any days)? Alan is going to work with Don and come back with a proposal.
5. Racine County 2026 Shoreline Projects – Kailyn Palomares gave an update on the shoreline projects. The list of projects on the agenda needs to be corrected. Wayne Jensen stated we need to spend some of the enum by June 30. Chad Sampson said some of the contractors require down payments and we can do that.

Reports and Updates

1. Report on the activities of the Fox Waterway Agency of Illinois – No report.
2. Report on the future of the Echo Lake Dam in Burlington – Howard Moser said Yahnke is on site and are working on the coffer dam. They will start doing some of the real work next week. The high water levels may cause some delays.
3. Report on the Fox River Watershed TMDL Progress – Rachel Sabre said there is a webinar out there to watch. The website shows the allocations. Comments and recommendations can be made on the website. Wayne Castle asked when the TMDL will be approved. Rachel said she wasn't sure how long it will take the EPA to approve it.
4. Watershed Protection Committee of Racine County
 - a. Chad Sampson said Gunderson Grain Farms won the WI Farm Family of the Year and will be doing a short film in August. The Summer Field Day will take place on September 10th.
5. Kenosha County Regenerative Producers – No Report
6. SEWFRC Website
 - a. Alan Barrows asked if anyone had any comments on the website. There were none.

Correspondence

- 3-23-2026 Jim email everyone to mark their calendars for today's meeting.
- 3-25-2026 Al Sikora emailed stating the approved minutes are on the website.
- 4-9-2026 An email announcing today's meeting.
- 4-9-2026 Jim received an email from Robin Graham's stating his last day working for the City of Waukesha is April 10th and he will no longer be on the Commission.
- 4-17-2026 Alan said there was spam in the email inbox, but nothing else.

Miscellaneous Issues

1. The Commissioner's had some discussion about the recent rain and high water / flooding situation.
2. The next meeting was set for May 29 at 1 p.m. at the Big Bend Fire Station.
3. A motion to adjourn by Fred Koeller, seconded by Chad Sampson to adjourn at 1:54 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Chad Sampson, SEWFRC Commissioner.