

Commission members present:

Al Sikora (Village of Waterford) (Chairman)
Don Scott (Town of Vernon) (Vice-Chairman)
Francis Stadler (Village of Big Bend)
Alan Barrows (Waukesha County)
Doug Koehler (City of Waukesha)
Robert Bartholomew (Town of Vernon)
Chad Sampson (Racine County)
Barb Holtz (Town of Mukwonago)
Randy Craig (Town of Vernon)
Dean Falkner (Village of Mukwonago)
Mary Pindel (Town of Waterford – Alternate)
Shelley Tessmer (Town of Waterford)
Jim Ritchie (Wisconsin DNR)
Tom Slawski (SEWRPC)
Jim Pindel (Town of Waterford) (Secretary/Treasurer)

Commission members absent:

Randy Meier (Town of Waterford)
Ken Miller (Town of Waukesha)
Ron Peterson (Village of Big Bend)

Also present: Paul Kling of the WWMD, Rebeca Ewald, Barb Messick of the Village of Waterford, Dan Treloar of Kenosha County and Michael Schwarz a resident of the Town of Vernon.

At 1:04 PM, Chairman Al Sikora called the SEWFRC meeting to order.
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Roll call was taken and a quorum was confirmed.

Minutes The minutes from the October 24, 2014 meeting were reviewed. It was motioned by Bob Bartholomew that the minutes be approved and seconded by Don Scott. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Treasurer Reports – The Treasurer’s Report for October 2014 was reviewed first. In summary we started the month with \$102,019.35 in our money market account. We made a deposit of \$26,059.95 and received an interest payment of \$20.75 leaving us with a final balance of \$128,100.05 at the end of the month. The undedicated grant funds left in ENUMs 18 and 19 amounts to \$65,451.40. Jim Pindel pointed out that one or several of the active projects must file for at least \$22,271.40 before the end of this year so that we can close out ENUM-18 by fully using it up. Jim Ritchie asked if the WWMD would have sufficient invoices within this calendar year to cover the \$22,271.40. Jim Pindel said that he had a phone conversation with Don Baron of the WWMD who said that they had received the invoices for October and November for Graef Eng. and that they amounted to about \$15,000. With that and the \$4050 Waukesha County will apply for the farm field gully repair in the Town of Vernon, we will be close. If necessary we may have to ask the WWMD to submit the December invoice from Graef Eng. to cover the

entire amount. The November 2014 Treasurer's Report was then reviewed with the only change being the additional interest income of \$21.06 leaving a ending balance of \$128,121.11. It was motioned by Francis Stadler and seconded by Shelley Tessmer that the Treasurer's Report be approved. The reports were approved unanimously.

Old Business

- a) Fox River Partnership Summit – Tom Slawski said that he attended the Fox River Partnership committee meeting in mid-November. In attendance was Jeff Barzan part of the international crane foundation, who will be a speaker at the Summit. He makes the connection between birds, water, plants and people which forms the international crane foundations approach to conservation around the world. Applying these principals he had performed conservation projects around the world and wetland and farmland projects here in Wisconsin. In the US he has worked with farmers to address crop damage from sand hill cranes. He has been instrumental in reintroducing whooping cranes in Wisconsin. Tom enumerated Jeff's academic credentials and said he expects him to be a very informative speaker. The clear choices – clean water program which came up at the last summit is not dead and they are working toward a watershed wide program for our Fox River. Tom pointed out that we have not done very well at getting attendance from the local municipalities and that we need to target them this coming year. Tom made a presentation to the Waukesha County agri-business group which Commissioner Randy Craig is a member of. Tom said that he had interesting discussions with some of the farmers in attendance and realizing that they are the major land owners within the watershed we need to address them. Tom then passed out a descriptive brochure of the Farmer-led watershed council for the St. Croix/ Red Cedar River basin as an example of what could be done in our watershed if we got the right farmers involved. Tom asked the commission for any ideas on how to involve the farmers within our watershed in the Summit and/or a watershed council. Tom also mentioned that he submitted an article to the Wisconsin Natural Resources magazine concerning the past summit. When Shelly Tessmer asked if the farmer watershed council was concerned primarily with phosphorus pollution, Tom pointed out that the intent of the councils was to address the overall effects of nonpoint water pollution. Randy Craig and Bob Bartholomew stated that the major concern of the farm community was flooding. Regarding phosphorus Bob Bartholomew pointed out that the phosphorus stays within the soil, so if soil is washed into the river than the phosphorus goes with it.

- b) Mukwonago River shoreline restoration at WE Energies Site. Alan Barrows said that things have been quiet on his side. Dean Falkner said that it appears that there is a problem going across Alex Seifert's property and asked of Waukesha County had any contact with him. Alan said that he knocked on his door a number of times but got no response. It appears that the situation is hopeless and Dean is looking into any possible alternatives to crossing Seifert's property. Alan said that the problem seems to be that because of the overhead power lines they

- cannot plant trees so the plantings (grasses, sedges and shrubs) are only about 5' high. Apparently Alex Seifert doesn't like the way that may look. Alan expresses some concern that the native plantings they intend to use will not stop the undercutting of the shoreline and be an effective shoreline stabilization control. Jim Pindel asked when we will get a firm cost for this project and Alan said that if we get permission from Seifert the changes to the project as quoted would not change much, except in the quantity of items not the content of the project. Therefore the project will not need to be rebid, unless the scope of the project changes. Most likely this project will not be settled until next spring.
- c) Big Bend Boat/canoe launch retaining wall fence & vegetation – Francis Stadler said that there has not been any progress on the project. It appears that this small price project cannot get any attention because the contractor has bigger fish to fry.
 - d) Wood Drive Erosion Control Project – Chad Sampson said that he is lumping this project and the Malchine Farm field project below into one project as far as getting things done. He has one contractor who is interested in the job but has not received a paper quote from him so far. He has considered putting in one tile that could drain the entire area and make it workable. Chad asked if he could get cash advances against these projects to help out with using up the funds in ENUM-18 and it was explained that the cash advances had to be for work already accomplished, which would not be the case here.
 - e) Malchine Farm field Erosion Control – Chad Sampson. This item was covered in the previous project report by Chad. Both projects will be worked on simultaneously and are adjacent to each other but because they had different owners we need to keep them separate.
 - f) Highway 164 Ravine repair Project: - Chad Sampson. Chad said that this project has been designed and is out for bid. It is expected that the work will be accomplished between May and July next year.
 - g) Waterford Impoundment ESR Project Dredging Permit: - WWMD. Jim Pindel reported that he had a phone conversation with Don Baron of the WWMD and said that Graef Eng. has billed for the work they did during October and November to the tune of about \$15,000. Considering that the project will cost about \$50,000, it shows that progress is being made. Jim went on to say that the WWMD through Graef Eng. submitted its Chapter 30 dredging application to the WDNR and the WDNR had 30 days to respond. The WDNR responded with a list of questions and concerns within the time limit. A meeting was held among the WNDR, the WWMD and Graef after which the WWMD and Graef have until January 15 to respond to all the different points. The major problem or point of contention is whether a general or individual permit is required. It is many times more involved and difficult to obtain an individual permit, which is what the WDNR thought was necessary. The WWMD and Graef responded by addressing all the points required for a general permit and has asked the WDNR to

reconsider. This is the major issue which has to be resolved.

- h) Schuetze Playground Storm Water Abatement: - David Burch. Alan Barrows said that he had a conversation with David Burch who told him that they have been getting a lot of donations to help pay for the project. David asked us to provide \$25,000 toward the project and Alan said he thought that total cost would be somewhere in the neighborhood of \$200,000. David said they intend to approach some clubs, like the rotary club, as well as do some fund raisers.
- i) Town of Vernon Farm field Gully repair: Alan Barrows passed around some before and after pictures, so we could see what it looks like now. The project was completed in early November and Alan said that the paperwork should be completed this year. The project worked out very well and is a clean fix with the gully being moved out away from the woods. This field is farmed under contract and Waukesha County has taken one acre around this gully out of the contract so that the native plantings can continue to grow. The Parks Department will be responsible for maintaining (cutting the grass) the gully. The project came in close to budget, but was a little over. We had committed \$4,050 but the actual 90% cost share will come out to \$4,696 and we agreed that we will cover this small overrun. Bob Bartholomew asked if the swale had been seeded and Alan said that it was, but because of the cold weather it did not come up. So the county covered the swale with coconut erosion mat, which should hold the ground in place until the native plantings get a chance to grow.

New Business

- a) Consideration of expanding the Commission's jurisdiction south to the Illinois border Tom Slawski said that he had nothing new to report. Dan Treloar said that the bid to unincorporate Silver Lake failed so we have to address this municipality as well. So this leaves us with just two more municipalities to get MoU's with, they being Silver Lake and the Town of Salem.
- b) Obtain designation as a "National Water Trail" - Village of Waterford. Rebecca Ewald made a power point presentation assisted by Barb Messick. The presentation outlined what the Village envisions for the Fox River Water Trail which is a canoe/kayak travel trail from the head waters in Waukesha County to the Illinois chain of lakes. The intent is to reap economic benefits for the river communities including the Village of Waterford. Rebecca pointed out that many of the local residents have never been on the waterway and she feels that promoting the water trail will help encourage them to benefit from this great resource. Presently the Village is working on improving accessibility and streambank stabilization of this under- utilized and under- appreciated waterway. Rebecca focused on a streambank stabilization project the Village accomplished in Whitford Park showing pictures after the completion of the project. They have received a stewardship grant to match 50% of the cost to build canoe/kayak launches. They have also applied for grant funds for the balance of the launch

costs to the Racine County Foundation. The Village is also working on a riverfront redevelopment project at the 10 Club Park, which will beautify the riverfront and gain additional access to the river. The Village is working with 'Real Racine' which places the Fox River Water Trail on the priority list in promoting Racine County. Now the question comes down to how to get the National Water Trail Designation. Rebecca cited a number of other water trails especially the Rock River Water Trail which received national designation in 2010. The National Water Trail designation is granted by the Secretary of the Interior. The National Park Service is the primary administrator working in partnership with a local group. There are four major criteria for National Water Trail designation. The trail and access points must be open to the public. The trail must be in compliance with land use plans and environmental laws. The trail must be open to public use for at least 10 years. The trail must be supported by all the land owners at all of the access points. Besides these criteria the water trail must incorporate recreational opportunities, education and conservation. This requires community support, getting the information out to the public, trail maintenance and planning. The Village is doing this to obtain nation promotion and support as well as getting the opportunity to obtain technical assistance and funding. National designation should provide a positive economic impact increase protection and sustainability of the water trail as well as contribute to public health and quality of life. Rebecca finished up by pointing out that their efforts are aligned with the mandates stated in our implementation plan. Our implantation plan dictates that we work toward improving water quality, protect and enhance recreational use of the river which is expected to increase over the next decade. When Rebecca mentioned that they would like to put mile markers along the river so people had some idea of where they were and how much farther they had to travel to get to some location, like a launch site or restaurant. Shelly Tessmer suggested that the mile markers be put on Wood Duck houses. Jim Ritchie pointed out that the WDNR owns many boat launches throughout the state which are primarily concerned with motor boats. They have received considerable feedback that people would like to see canoe/kayak launch sites incorporated at these locations and provide car parking without trailer space and areas at the pier for non-motorized vehicle use. There was considerable discussion about the fact that there is an identity crisis because there are two Fox Rivers in Wisconsin and we need to somehow identify ourselves separately from the Green Bay Fox River. Chad Sampson said that it appears that the Village is not asking for funding from us at this time but expects that they will approach us in the future. Rebecca said they might come to us for funding of specific items in the future but her real intent at this time was to make us aware of what they are up to in this regard and asked if we really wanted to be kept updated. The consensus was that we were interested and would like to be kept abreast of their progress.

- c) Consideration of how we operate with a larger membership base: Jim Pindel said that he had nothing new to bring up at this time. Al Sikora summarized some of the items we have already agreed upon like one commissioner and one alternate commissioner for each member entity. Jim Pindel added that we would

consider an annual audit of our finances if we had a way to pay for it and if it was considered appropriate. Dean Falkner asked if the WDNR audited us because we were using their funds. Jim Ritchie said that the only auditing was of the grant process on each individual ENUM basis. No one checks our non-grant funds.

- d) Possible diversion of City of Waukesha water treatment plant discharge away from the Fox River: Jim Ritchie pointed out the fact that an article from the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel was forwarded around from Barb Holtz which stated that the City of Waukesha will have to ask for an extension because they cannot meet the reduced radium level by 2018 as required. Jim also said that he talked to Eric Ebersberger, who is in charge of the group that is developing the environmental impact statement (EIS), the review process is moving along. The WDNR has asked for additional information from the City. Eric told Jim that the EIS is expected to be completed by the end of March 2015 at that time public comment will be solicited and public hearings will be held. After that the bid for diversion will have to go through the Great Lakes Compact scenario.

Reports and Updates

- a) Report on activities of Fox Waterway Agency (FWA) of Illinois – Tom Slawski said that he had nothing new to report.
- b) SEWFRC Website – Al Sikora said he had no updates at this time.

Correspondence –

- a. 10/28/14 Email from Jim Pindel to Jim Ladwig thanking him for including a \$10,000 allocation for the SEWFRC in the new Racine County budget.
- b. 10/28/14 Email from Jim Pindel to Craig Workman of the City of Burlington advising him that the City will have to wait for legislative action changing our boundaries before the make an appointment to our commission.
- c. 10/27/14 Email from Jim Pindel to all commissioners and friends of the commission advising to mark their calendars for the 12/5/14 SEWFRC meeting.
- d. 11/20/14 Interesting article concerning the City of Waukesha's request for Lake Michigan water provided by Barb Holtz.
- e. 11/19/14 Email notification that we were not selected for the WaterSMART program.
- f. 11/20/14 Email forwarded by Jim Pindel Interesting article concerning the City of Waukesha's request for Lake Michigan water provided by Barb Holtz.
- g. 12/01/14 Email with attachments from Jim Pindel to all commissioners providing the November 2014 Treasurer's report and the advised agenda for today's meeting.

Miscellaneous Issues –

Alan Barrows said that he has been working with Michael Schwar an engineer who has been attending many of our meetings. They have selected one of the erosion

sites in Waukesha County that was identified in the Graef GIS map that we had generated last year. Michael will do the engineering to stabilize this location and at that time Alan will come to us for cost share funding. This is a 300 foot section on county land near Bob Bartholomew's land.

Chad Sampson announced that Jim Ladwig is stepping down as Racine County's County Executive as of January 1st. From then to the election which will be next April, Peter Hansen the County board chairman will act as county executive.

Jim Pindel brought up the point that Citizens Bank of Mukwonago (with whom we do our banking) has sent us an application for a small business credit card. The card has no annual fee and does pay back some small percentage of what money is processed through the card. Jim went on to say that there has only been a few instances where a credit card would have been helpful. After considerable discussion it was motioned by Francis Stadler and seconded by Dough Koehler that Jim Pindel goes ahead and apply for the credit card. The motion passed unanimously.

It was motioned by Bob Bartholomew and seconded by Dean Falkner that the meeting be closed and the motion carried unanimously.

Meeting Closed at 2:50 PM

**THE NEXT OFFICIAL MEETING WILL BE Friday,
January 23, 2015 at 1:00 PM.** (Meeting Location: Town of
Vernon Fire Station #1, W233 S7475 Woodland Lane, Big Bend,
WI 53103.)