

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

**Open Space and Environmental Management Committee**

ECWRPC Offices  
January 10, 2018

Committee Members Present:

DuWayne Federwitz, Chair ..... Waupaca County  
 Bob Schmeichel, Vice Chair ..... Winnebago County  
 Ed Kleckner ..... Calumet County  
 Jeremy Johnson (perm alt. for Elizabeth Moses) ..... Menominee County  
 Larry Timm ..... Waushara County

Committee Members Excused:

Dan Rettler ..... Outagamie County

Staff Present:

Eric Fowle ..... Executive Director  
 Tom Barron ..... Principal Planner  
 Scott Konkle ..... Mining Reclamation Specialist  
 Todd Verboomen ..... Associate Environmental Planner  
 Trish Nau ..... Principal Park and Recreation Planner

1. Welcome and Introductions: Chair DuWayne Federwitz facilitated the meeting and everyone went around the table and introduced themselves.

Mr. Federwitz called the meeting to order at 1:33 p.m.

2. Statement of Compliance with Wis. Stats. Ch. 19, Subchapter V, Sec. 19.84 Regarding Open Meetings Requirements

It was determined that the meeting was in compliance with Wisconsin § Chapter 19, Subchapter V, Section 19.84 regarding Open Meeting Requirements and a quorum was present.

3. The pledge of allegiance was said to start the meeting.

4. Approval of Agenda & Motion to deviate

A motion to approve the agenda and to deviate as needed was made by Mr. Kleckner and seconded by Mr. Johnson, passing unanimously.

5. Public / Guest Comment

There was no public comment.

## ACTION ITEMS:

6. Approval of July 12, 2017 Open Space & Environmental Management Committee Summary of Proceedings (*Attachment #1*)

A motion to approve the summary of proceedings with changes of Mr. Johnson's permanent alternate to Elizabeth Moses was made by Mr. Johnson with a second by Mr. Schmeichel. Motion passed unanimously.

7. Elements 1400 and 1600 2018 Work Program items:

- a) Mr. Fowle went over the new projects for the 1400 and 1600 elements and budgeted amounts as well as requirements. The Committee reviewed the materials and asked questions pertaining to the projects listed. A motion was made by Mr. Schmeichel and seconded by Mr. Kleckner, passing unanimously.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Mr. Fowle gave information on the Grant Award for the Emerald Ash Borer Mitigation Grant through Bay-Lake RPC and GLRI. \$82,000 was awarded last year with \$300,000 from the USFS in 2017 for the region to rid the species. These will be given to communities to help with riding of the pest. There will be more to come on this topic when implementation tools get established and awards to which communities.

## **INFORMATIONAL AND DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

- a) Water Management Issues
  - i) Jan 9<sup>th</sup> Lower Fox River Watershed Stakeholders Roundtable meeting- ECWRPC hosted a roundtable of constituents to discuss water quality issues in the basin. The meeting was well attended and received. There isn't a vision yet to look at one aspect of the basin so the idea was to identify what the priorities would be in the watershed.
  - ii) Lower Fox River TMDL: Mr. Verboomen stated that the group had a meeting and the progress of getting all the phosphorus out of there would take 70 years but as time goes on it should get better. This will take best practices and control of the source of pollutants into the watershed.
  - iii) Weigh in on the Winnebago Waterways Update Mr. Fowle and Mr. Verboomen gave an update that his involvement has been less at this point. Mr. Verboomen worked on the data at the Fox Wolf Watershed Alliance's offices and condensing it as well as past documents to make them searchable. He also gave insight to possibly more direct surveys for the lake. Mr. Fowle stated that all three counties did agree to the agreement and have come together on the issue. It was also relayed that the Waterways group is looking for members-at-large positions for its Steering Committee. These applications are due January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2018.
  - iv) White Clay Lake, Shawano County Lake Planning Grant: Mr. Verboomen gave an update the Lake Management Plan stating the process is now moving along. Involvement of the committee is mostly farmers. The town's gave mailing addresses

for the survey and have 83 responses so far. He will connect with Shawano County for more on the modeling.

- v) Lake Michigan Day and Stakeholders – Mr. Verboomen relayed to the Committee that at the last meeting in Green Bay in November was part of the conference. He presented at the conference for the group on how to collaborate throughout the basin.
  
- vi) A Coastal Collaboration for Healthy Lake Michigan: Mr. Verboomen gave a brief update on the status of the Coastal Collaboration project's survey. The group is marketing with a Lake Michigan Coastal Pledge by the Counties to keep the lake healthy. The stakeholders are still working on coastal management issues they hired a consultant to come up with a tag line and strategies to get a consistent message out basin wide. The next meeting was at the end of November.

### **Recreation Planning Activities Update**

Ms. Nau relayed to the Committee on updates to the 2017 Park Plans. The Village of Winneconne was adopted by the Park Board and will go in front of the Village Board on January 16. She also mentioned some conflicts between the Town and County for the Town of Dayton's CORP. A new park creation by a non-profit group and having the Town of Dayton adopt the CORP as an official document.

### **NR-135 Metallic Mining Program**

Mr. Konkle stated that he gave the operators their annual reports on the fee structures. Shawano County has a new sand pit for the highway department for their roads in the Town of Pella. The town has its own ordinance even though the County owns that pit. There was a legal issue that had to be resolved between the town and the county on the pit. It is now open and being used for the roads.

### **Fox-Wisconsin Heritage Parkway:**

Mr. Baron relayed to the Committee that on-going efforts include an App and online mapping portal, board representation, and assisting with navigational aids. The app will be used for repair and maintenance on kayak launches. The non-profit board is dwindling at this point and trying to sustain the parkway as they try to get in new board members. It has been challenging to keep it going. A water trail, economic plan, and a master plan are complete and will need to be implemented in 2018. Many landings have been gifted and created and that now need to be maintained by the communities.

Mr. Kleckner asked on the status of the grants and the money to formulate the parkway and install kayak launches as Calumet County is working on installing some launches. Mr. Baron said they could look into health grants but there aren't that many options out there. We could look into the ADA requirements as a possibility but kayaking is more of a passive recreation sport. The Community Foundation or Tourism option could be another source.

### **Niagara Escarpment Update**

Mr. Fowle gave an update on the group and stated not much has been happening over the summer as they are suffering from some capacity issues. They have a little bit of budget to help with some branding and fund raising on projects. The group is looking also at staffing and interns

to help out. They will be refocusing on the geotoursim concept and try to recapitalize on this. Kewaunee County's Dominion Utilities may assist with economic development activities. Ledge tours and outreach are still being planned. Calumet County is pursuing a Stewardship Grant on the piece of property between High Cliff and Calumet County Park.

**County Round Table Discussion:**

Items of importance from committee members regarding their perspective counties consisted of:

**Waushara County** – Mr. Timm stated that new administration is in effect at the county so could be some changes. There is also some work being done on allowing ATV's on County Roads to get to off road connections.

**Calumet County** – Mr. Kleckner stated they have completed their new county park shelter for the park staff and this could be a location for the next meeting of the Committee.

**Menominee County** - Mr. Johnson stated they are looking for a new AIS Coordinator for Shawano and Menominee Counties. The Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance is helping to facilitate this grant for the position and some GLRI funding.

Next Meeting Time & Agenda

The next meeting of the committee is tentatively scheduled for **Wednesday, April 11, 2018 at 1:30 p.m.** with the location TBD.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Johnson and seconded by Mr. Timm. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 3:16 p.m.

*Upcoming Meeting dates: This Committee meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month at 1:30 p.m. in the afternoon unless otherwise noted. Locations may vary by season and ECWRPC conference room availability.*

**Tentative Upcoming 2018 Meeting Dates:**

*April 11, 2018, July 11, 2018, & October 10, 2018*