

## Minutes

### WINNEBAGO WATERWAYS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

**TIME OF MEETING:** 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

**DATE OF MEETING:** Wednesday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024

**PLACE OF MEETING:** In person James P. Coughlin Center, 625 East County Road Y, Oshkosh, Meeting Room B

1.

#### SUBJECT MATTER OF THE MEETING

2. Attendees: Chuck Farrey – Winnebago County, Todd Wahler – Waushara County, Megan Kapp – Waushara County, Reese Phillips – Winnebago County Exec Office, John Jarvis – Waushara County, Allison McCormick – Waushara County, Sam Kaufmann – FDL County, Dani Santry – Calumet County, Jim Wickersham, Jessica Schultz, Katie Reed

Jon Doemel Arrived at 9:23AM

3.

4. Call meeting to order - Sam Kaufmann – 9:04 PM

5. Approval of minutes from the April 10, 2024 Winnebago Waterways Executive Committee Meeting – Chuck Farrey motion, seconded by Todd Wahler. M/C

Members of the public who wish to address the committee on specific agenda items must register their requests at this time, with such comments subject to the reasonable control of the committee chair, as set forth in “Robert’s Rules of Order.”

6. Introductions of All Members -

#### **ALL AGENDA ITEMS ARE ACTIONABLE**

##### A. Winnebago Waterways Program

- a. Overview – Started the discussion with a photo highlighting clear water in Asylum Bay where presence of aquatic vegetation is abundant. Jim gave an overview of the program and FWWA programs for new attendees. Outreach to local businesses is going strong, and positive feedback on what the Winnebago Waterways Program is doing. Winnebago Waterways program budget was \$1,600,000 in 2023, with \$80,000 contributed by the counties. Grants are filling some of the gap, but additional revenue is needed. FWWA is expanding fundraising goals by bringing on a Communication Specialist to support the Development Director in expanding FWWA’s reach with individual memberships and business relationships.
- b. Communication Specialist – FWWA hired Dan Beckwith to fill that role. His expertise is in short media video clips. Sam recommended to have FWWA present at County Boards every 12 to 24 months.

7.

- B. Streambank inventory – The TMDL did not take into account the streambank erosion in the modeling and final allocations. A Streambank Inventory was contracted in order to help model the inputs from streambanks in the pollutant loading to Winnebago System. There is ongoing conversation with DNR on how the inventory can be used in the Nine-Key Element (9KE) Plans.

8.

- C. Breakwall construction/funding update - \$1,219,000 awarded to the project through various funding sources. However, the project keeps getting delayed due to ice conditions over the past few winters.

- a. Extensions – extensions were secured through 2024-2025 winter construction season, but we are looking at alternative plans to complete the project.
  - b. Additional funding – Additional funding has been offered by Ducks Unlimited to add fish habitat in the form of fish sticks or similar practices.
- D. Town of Calumet potential new project – Runoff Reduction Committee is funding additional ARTS (ag runoff treatment systems).
  - a. Funding update – 3 grants have been awarded to fund a 3-acre ARTS project that will also reduce flooding of lakeshore properties and roads. Fund for Lake Michigan, Serious Foundation, and
- E. Calumet Streambank Restoration and ARTS project – Some issues with obtaining landowner permissions and involvement due to changes in ownership. However, Calumet County has been securing signatures over the past 2 weeks, so the projects should start soon.
  - a. Permitting – DNR is requiring 2 different permits for the Brothertown Creek Shoreline Restoration projects.
  - b. ARTS Location
- F. Water level management update – Jim presented the past year’s Lake Winnebago water levels. Ice was off a month earlier than normal, so the ACOE adjusted their strategy band to accommodate the earlier ice off. Due to the strategy change and the wet spring, the water levels did not the Winnebago Waterways water level committee recommended refill strategy. FWWA is meeting with the water level committee in the afternoon to discuss what happened and communicate concerns to the ACOE at the water level meeting next week.
- G. Climate Smart Agriculture grant update – All counties are staffed except Winnebago and Brown Counties (who are choosing to start in 2025). Those staff are meeting and communicating well, building a teamed approach to advancing the conservation at the local level.
- H. Event updates
  - a. The Happiest Hour - FWWA is bringing back the Watershed Celebration through a rebrand of the event. To be held next Thursday, October 10, 2024.
- I. Permitting update – Jess is working with a Wetlands Lawyer on interpretation of state statutes, including that Ag practices potentially should be exempt. Wetlands Study Council (Governor Appointed) (WSC) met in September. FWWA was invited to present at the meeting. WSC tasked DNR to assess the scope of the project, determine if it's a problem with interpretation of existing rules, or if legislative action is needed to make it easy to get conservation permits. November 14 will be the next WSC meeting.

9. H. Adjourn – Motion to adjourn by Farrey, seconded by Doemel, M/C. 10:51AM