

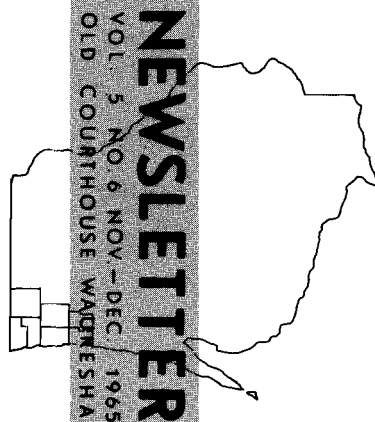
FOX RIVER WATERSHED STUDY UNDERWAY

A three-year comprehensive study of the Fox River watershed, as recommended by the Fox River Watershed Committee in August 1964, is scheduled to begin in January 1966, after having been approved by the HHFA (now Department of Housing and Urban Affairs) and the six local counties with area in the watershed. This is the second watershed study to be undertaken by the SEWRPC. The first is the two-year comprehensive study of the Root River watershed scheduled for completion in June 1966.

The study is designed to provide a long-range plan for the solution of the following major resource-related problems of this important watershed, as defined by the Fox River Watershed Committee in the Fox River Watershed Planning Program Prospectus: 1) Flood control and storm water drainage, 2) Pollution and deteriorating surface water quality, 3) Irregular streamflow, 4) Lake and stream siltation and soil erosion, 5) Changing land use within the basin as a whole, 6) Inadequate soil and water conservation and management practices, 7) Park and open-space reservation, 8) Inadequate sewage and industrial waste disposal facilities both private and public, and 9) Water availability and use.

(continued)

**SOUTHEASTERN
WISCONSIN
REGIONAL
PLANNING
COMMISSION**



FOX RIVER WATERSHED STUDY — continued

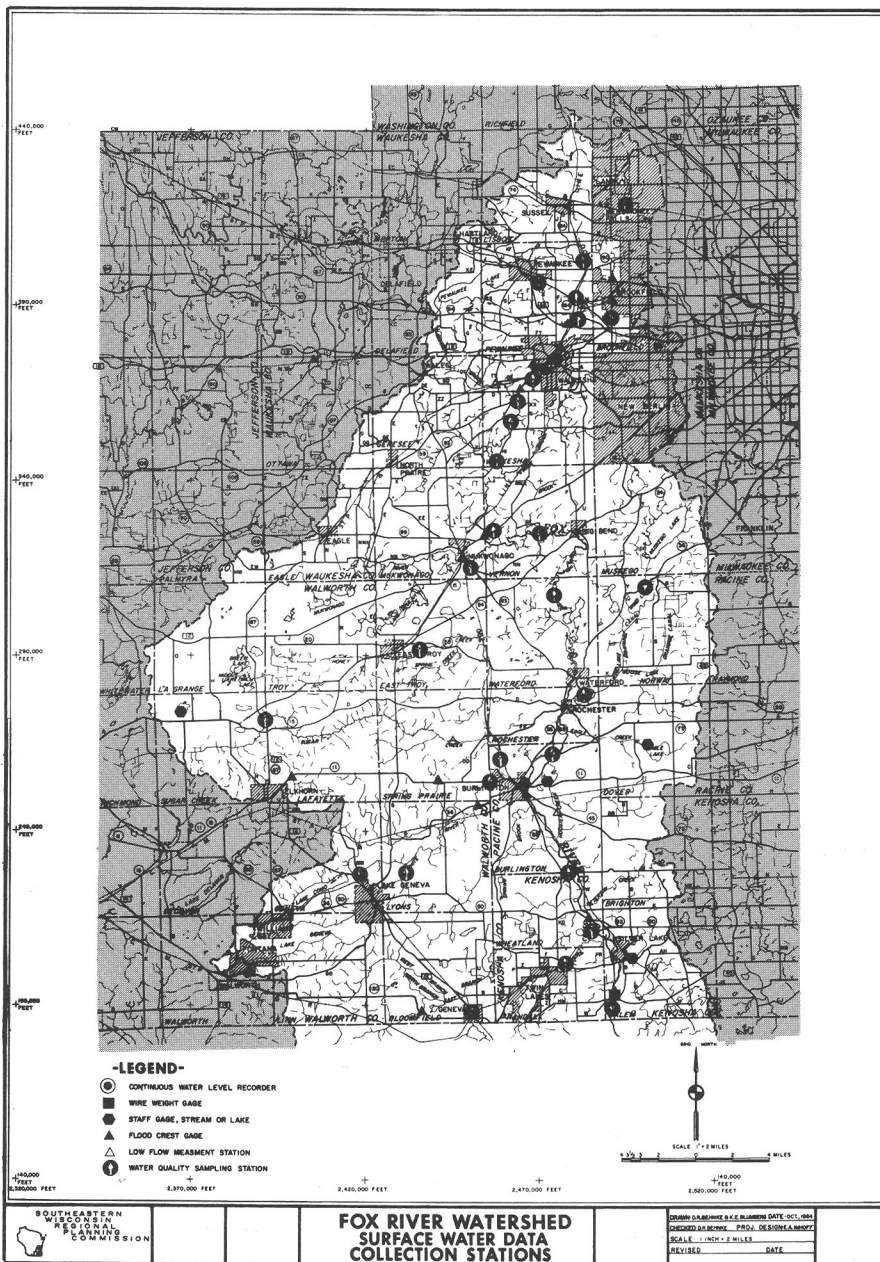
Study Organization

Key investigative state and federal agencies have previously expressed an interest in participating in the study, including the Soil Conservation Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture; the Geological Survey, U. S. Department of the Interior; the Wisconsin Conservation Commission; the Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey; the State Committee on Water Pollution; the State Board of Health; and the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers. The latter agency has agreed to withhold completion of the single-purpose flood control study of the Fox River presently underway pending completion of the comprehensive watershed planning study and has offered its services in coordinating planning with that part of the basin lying south of the Wisconsin state line.

Certain work elements will probably be accomplished through private consultants, such as mapping and sanitary engineering studies. The exact roles of each of the agencies and the private consultants will be set forth in a detailed study design, the preparation of which will constitute the first step in the study program.

The SEWRPC will be responsible for the coordination of all work roles and for the accomplishment of all basic data studies which might logically be considered of a general regional planning nature, including land use, economic activity, population, water use, and public utilities inventories, and any other data which has been developed in other Commission work programs. The adoption of design criteria and standards; evaluation of alternate watershed plans; and selection of the final plan, including the necessary public hearings, will be the joint responsibility of the SEWRPC, the participating agencies, and the Fox River Watershed Committee.

The map on the opposite page shows the reaches of the Fox River watershed in southeastern Wisconsin. The entire Fox River Basin has a drainage area of about 2,600 square miles, of which 942 square miles lie within Wisconsin and 938 square miles lie within the Southeastern Wisconsin Planning Region.



FOX RIVER WATERSHED STUDY — continued

Study Financing

The cost allocation for the total cost of the study, which has been given approval by all participating agencies, is on a 2/3-1/3 basis over the three-year program as follows:

HHFA (2/3 of the total cost)	\$254,679.00
Kenosha County	18,259.00
Milwaukee County	1,107.00
Racine County	35,145.00
Walworth County	19,290.00
Washington County	39.00
Waukesha County	53,481.00

The county obligations are allocated according to relative assessed valuation within the watershed.

Conduct of the Study

The Fox River Watershed Steering Committee, which directed the preparation of the planning program prospectus, was re-elected by the full Fox River Watershed Committee on December 6, 1965, and will advise the SEWRPC staff in the conduct of the study. Periodic progress reports will be made to the full watershed committee and the SEWRPC. Members of the Fox River Steering Committee are:

W. D. Rogan, Chairman	Waukesha County Agri-Business Agent
Harold A. McMiller, Vice-Chm.	Executive Director, Waukesha County Park and Planning Commission
Lester Hoganson, Vice-Chm.	Consultant Engineer, Burlington, Wisconsin
Paul Jaeger, Secretary	Kenosha County Agricultural Agent
Prof. Benjamin Richason	Department of Geography, Carroll College
Franklin Walsh	Walworth County Board Supervisor
Mervin L. Brandt	Waukesha County Board Supervisor, SEWRPC Commissioner
Al Stivarius	State Board of Health
Herbert A. Ripley	Chief Sanitarian, Waukesha County Health Department

FOX RIVER WATERSHED STUDY

Other members of the Fox River Watershed Committee are:

K. W. Bauer	Executive Director, SEWRPC
Henry W. Beyer	Zoning Administrator, Racine County
Robert L. Frank	Lake Geneva, Wisconsin
Clifford E. Germain	Wisconsin Conservation Department
H. Copeland Greene	Genesee Depot, Wisconsin
Howard C. Hass	Area Conservationist, Soil Conservation Service
McKinley Hodge	Lake Geneva Property Owners Association
Eugene Hollister	SEWRPC Commissioner
V. H. Holtdorf	Supervisor, Village of Silver Lake
Stanley W. Ihlenfeldt	Walworth County Agricultural Agent
John E. Jones	Chairman, Town of Genesee
Elwin G. Leet	Racine County Agricultural Agent
Paul Lohaus	Chairman, Fox River Flood Control Committee, Burlington
Charles P. Maier	President, Village of East Troy
John H. Mielke	Ruekert and Mielke, Inc., Waukesha
Kenneth Mitchell	Zoning Supervisor, Walworth County
Bauer Mohr	Rochester, Wisconsin
Phil Sander	S. E. Wisconsin Sportsmen's Federation
Rodney VandenNoven	Chief City Engineer, City of Waukesha
Theodore Vogel	Chenequa, Wisconsin
Franklin Wirth	Mayor, City of Brookfield
John Zillmer	Ice Age Park and Trail Foundation

(And a member from Kenosha County to be named later.)

This advisory committee will have a particularly important role in the selection of the final plan and in assuring its financial and administrative feasibility.

The Fox River Steering Committee is empowered to act in judgment for the full committee on all matters conducted by the study except the selection of plans from among alternatives. The latter function is reserved to the full Watershed Committee.

SEWRPC NOTES

Officers and Executive Committee Elected for 1966

At the December quarterly meeting, held at the Milwaukee County Courthouse on December 2, 1965, the Commission elected its officers for 1966. Chairman George Berteau, Kenosha County, was re-elected to his fifth consecutive term as Chairman. Dr. Henry Schmandt was the first Commission Chairman in 1961. Elected to serve as Vice-Chairman of the Commission was James F. Egan, replacing Joseph Schmitz, who retained his place as Washington County representative on the Executive Committee. This is Mr. Egan's first term as a Commission officer. He served as Administrative Committee Chairman in 1965. Richard W. Cutler was re-elected as Secretary for his third term, and Mr. Lyle L. Link was re-elected to his second term as Treasurer.

Others elected to the Executive Committee besides the four officers are: Milton F. LaPour, Racine County; Maynard W. Meyer, Waukesha County; Eugene Hollister, Walworth County; and Arthur E. Weiner and Joseph A. Schmitz, Washington County.

Standing Committees Named

According to Article III, Section 10 of the bylaws, Chairman Berteau has named his standing committee members for 1966. They are:

Administrative Committee:

Milton F. LaPour, Chairman, Racine County; Joseph A. Schmitz, Vice-Chairman, Washington County; Lyle L. Link, Waukesha County; and Judge John D. Voss, Walworth County.

Planning and Research Committee:

Maynard W. Meyer, Chairman, Waukesha County; Henry J. Schmandt, Vice-Chairman, Milwaukee County; George C. Berteau, Kenosha County; Mervin L. Brandt, Waukesha County; Richard W. Cutler, Milwaukee County; James F. Egan, Ozaukee County; Carlton M. Herman, Washington County; Milton F. LaPour, Racine County; Sam Rizzo, Racine County; Ray Schmidt, Walworth County; and Arthur E. Weiner, Washington County.

Intergovernmental and Public Relations Committee:

Eugene Hollister, Chairman, Walworth County; Mervin L. Brandt, Vice-Chairman, Waukesha County; George C. Berteau, Kenosha County; Ray F. Blank, Ozaukee County; Charles A. Hollencamp, Kenosha County; Lyle L. Link, Waukesha County; John P. Murphy, Milwaukee County; Wilfred Patrick, Racine County; and Joseph A. Schmitz, Washington County.

QUESTION BOX

WHAT IS A FLOOD PLAIN?

A hydrologist would define a flood plain as a strip of relatively smooth land bordering a stream, built of sediment carried by the stream and dropped in the slack water beyond the influence of the swiftest current. If it is overflowed in times of high water, it would be called a "living flood plain." If it is beyond the reach of the highest flood waters, it would be called a fossil flood plain.

For planning purposes, a flood plain may be defined as lowland that borders a river, stream, or watercourse, usually dry but subject to periodic flooding. Before intensive urban development occurs, periodic inundation of the flood plain is usually accepted as a natural course of events; and no "flood problem" exists. When urban development is allowed to encroach upon the natural flood plains, however, without regard to the periodic flood hazards and concomitant damage to property, danger to human life, and danger to public health, a "flood problem" is created and a demand for expensive public flood control works generated. A sound long-range approach would avoid the creation of flood problems and demand for flood control works by protecting the flood plains from encroachment by incompatible urban land uses.

The delineation of a flood plain for the purpose of land use regulation is a complex engineering problem. It requires specification of the flood hazard related to specific flood occurrences from which protection is desired and the collection and analysis of data on the hydrologic and hydraulic characteristics of the stream system, including historic flood height and discharge measurements from which flooding magnitudes, expected flood frequencies, stage discharge relationships, and flood profiles can be derived, as well as the preparation of accurate topographic maps on which the flood hazard lines can be drawn.

QUOTABLE QUOTE.....

*"Woe unto them that join
house to house, that lay field
to field, till there be no
place, that they may be placed
alone in the midst of the
earth."*

ISAIAH 5:8

SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN REGIONAL
PLANNING COMMISSION

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Kurt W. Bauer
Executive Director

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