



## Our Mission:

*"To educate and provide opportunities for people of diverse interests to work together to improve the environmental, recreational, cultural, and economic resources of the Rock River Basin"*

## Board of Directors Minutes April 23rd, 2012

**Next Regular Meeting:** Tuesday, June 19, 2012, 4:30 PM – UW Extension, Jefferson

**Attending this meeting:** Jane Carlson, Patricia Cicero, Lisa Conley, Jim Kerler, Scott Taylor, Suzanne Wade  
Nancy Sheehan, Jeanne Scherer

**Absent:** Peter Hartz, Jim Koepke

- **Call to Order:** Scott Taylor called the meeting to order at approximately 4:35 PM.
- **Approval of Minutes from February 28<sup>th</sup> meeting:** Patricia moved approval of the January 21, 2012 minutes following a correction to the spelling of Greg Farnam's last name. Lisa seconded. Motion passed with all votes in favor.
- **Announcements:** This is Scott's last regular board meeting as president. Patricia will take over at the next meeting. Scott will run the annual meeting. Patricia has taken over supervision of the new employees.
- **Walk around Lake Monona:** Suzanne announced July 6-8<sup>th</sup> with Grandmother Josephine Mandamin, who walked around all of the Great Lakes. She accepted an invitation from local lake activists. The event has a significant spiritual component.
- **Nancy Sheehan:** Scott welcomed Nancy to the organization as Water Monitoring Coordinator. Nancy thanked Patricia and Suzanne for their help in getting herself established in the position. Nancy has worked with Madison Schools, Pheasant Branch and other water education groups. She has a forestry degree from Yale and a Peace Corps background.
- **Jeanne Scherer:** Scott welcomed Jeanne as Wetlands Monitoring Coordinator. She has a teacher BA certification, and is finishing her degree at Whitewater. She is doing work with Paul Deerlove at Lake Ripley. Jeanne enjoys the research and teaching aspects of monitoring. She described the May 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting she has arranged with a frog research scientist at Zeloskey marsh.

### Old Business:

- **Treasurer's Report:** Suzanne noted that the Budget Summary numbers will look bad until November/December numbers from last year come in. Jim Koepke and Scott Taylor obtained additional corporate memberships (now at 8, with 15 targeted) shown on page 2 and we are at the highest level of funding in several years. Suzanne reviewed the Grant Summary. Use of Quirk Foundation funding will be completed this month. Membership is the highest ever. We have 35 affiliate members (40 targeted). 39 family memberships (30 targeted) and 55 individuals (42 targeted). Patricia moved. Jane seconded acceptance of the report. All votes in favor.
- **Jennefer Hanneman's replacement:** Jennifer has accepted an employment offer from Johnson Controls. A replacement position has been posted and resumes are arriving. Scott, Suzanne and Jim K. will review candidates. They plan to interview candidates May 15, 16 or 17<sup>th</sup>.
- **Lisa's position on the board:** Lisa is very busy and will be leaving the board. She expects to remain in touch with the organization. We are grateful for her many contributions, including her service as President.
- **Suzanne's Report:**
  - **Summer Newsletter:** Jane and Jim K. are responsible. Normal deadline is July first but both Jane and Jim will be gone that week.
  - **RRC business cards:** Suzanne can make them up for anyone.
  - **500 names removed from the newsletter list.** Suzanne suggests other board members can get involved in sending a "did you miss us" letter to these former members.

- **Confluence:** Per Patricia the event is coming together. About 19 people registered so far. Nancy is working to bring in others. Lake Mills Community Center, Saturday, May 8 at 8:15 AM. Those involved should be there at 7:30 AM. Jane will help with registration. Patricia will follow up with Kris Stepenuck to identify a Road Salt speaker. Scott will welcome attendees. Recognizing 5 and 10 year lake and stream monitors. Tasting and tour of Tyrannena Brewery at 1:45 is open to other guests too.
- **Executive Residence Shoreline Restoration:** Governor did an Earth Day press release on this, including RRC as the contact for volunteers, though Patricia had intended to serve as the contact. (Any calls will now go to Suzanne's old line at UWEX.) Patricia's team will meet this week to decide if they can arrange funding and pursue completion by this September.
- **SYLDR:** Patricia has been very busy and has not been working on this. Need a location. Scott has some potential sites he would like to check out soon. Patricia will check on the Mud Lake area near Waterloo, Yaharra south of the beltline, (from Bourbon Street Grill, Rutabaga or Lottes Park if not held on a busy Friday or Saturday. . Jeanne has been there during high water and noted it is beautiful. Restaurant or shelter must be nearby. Take out at Lake Farm or come back. Mad City paddlers
- **Potentially Restorable Wetlands:** Scott and Jane have been looking into this potential project discussed at our board retreat. Based on a DNR map of restorable wetlands. Want to winnow it to a small number of high potential sites. Project would identify parcels and verify potential based on development status. Working with Tom Bernthall (DNR) and Dave Taylor (MMSD) who is interested in reducing phosphorous loadings. Overall thrust is to refine it to an achievable plan. Scott estimates it to be a \$10,000 project but will have to wait a year if funded by a DNR river protection grant. Lisa suggested the Bradley Foundation as a potential funder through the Sand County Foundation. Per Patricia Wisconsin Association of Lakes and Wisconsin Wetlands Association have DNR partnership contracts and we could pursue something similar. (Suzanne suggested Ken Wiesner as a potential go-between.) Lake grants are another possibility per Patricia.
- **TMDL:** Suzanne was asked to volunteer for plan outreach coordination on the TMDL and she attempted to plant the seeds for a funded position which could involve RRC.

#### **New Business:**

- **Annual Meeting:** We need to replace 3/4 board members (Lisa-3, Peter-3, Paul-1 and possibly Jim Koepke-3 (who is willing to stay on as a board member if needed) or move Jim to an advisory capacity. Suzanne suggested we look for someone from Dodge County. Jane will talk to Paul Lange, who was previously on the board. Mike Poppenrath was a founding board member Suzanne will talk to and other board members are invited to . We could contact members by postcard announcing it with a meeting invitation. Suzanne and Patricia will work on this. Suzanne needs inputs and a cover photo by 5/7 and Scott will work on the annual report --- listing members, financials, president's note. Need a screen – Patricia will check.
- **Climate Change:** Rebecca Kingslinger of Environmental Law Institute requested contacts with local communities that could participate in a project to address. Watertown mayor Ron Krueger preferred to "stay on the fence" about the issue, so Scott wanted the board to discuss our position. At issue is whether the cause is human. We discussed whether the board wants to take a position that includes causality. Scott will draft a statement for discussion.
- **Water Star funding for Beth:** Per Suzanne, Beth's Gehred's work on Water Star will be funded by UW Extension and will include \$500 for our newsletter. RRC will pay an invoice from Town and Country RC&D
- **Letter of Support for Jefferson Parks Project:** The Parks Department contacted Patricia about the landing and 208 feet of shoreline at Rock River Park, which is deteriorating. They want to apply for a Lake/River Protection Grant and requested our support for their application. Reconstruction would protect the river from erosion and benefit the Glacial Heritage Area. Suzanne moved we support the application, Jane seconded. All votes in favor.
- **RRC Support for Horicon Marsh Bus Tour for Farmers:** Wendy Froelich of approached Scott requesting that we provide funding for a bus tour and lunch for farmers and other landowners to inform them about the Horicon Marsh adaptive management project. Scott feels this would cost about \$1000. Jane suggested DNR funding, and possibly funding from the city of Waupun. Suzanne suggested producer coops in the area. Suzanne moved we provide \$100 from our sponsorship line and Jane seconded. All votes in favor.
- **Adjournment:** Scott adjourned the meeting at about 6:46 PM.