



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 Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Next Regular Meeting: TBD, 4:30 PM – UW Extension, Jefferson

Attending this meeting: Patricia Cicero, Jim Kerler, Scott Taylor, Suzanne Wade, Joleen Stinson, Roxanne Witte –
Administrative Assistant

Absent: Jane Carlson, Jim Koepke

- **Call to Order:** President Patricia Cicero called the meeting to order at approximately 4:40 PM.
- **Approval of Minutes from April 28th and May 14th (annual membership) meeting:** Joanne moved approval of the April 23rd minutes. Scott seconded. Motion passed with all votes in favor. Minutes from the membership meeting will be approved by the membership at next year's annual meeting. Jim Kerler will prepare minutes from the short board meeting (to elect officers) held during the annual meeting.

Announcements

Rock River TMDL: Suzanne is now under contract to write the education portion of the Rock River TMDL. She will develop phone and web surveys for input on how to reach key audiences, especially agriculture. She is looking for names of people to interview.

Tabling at Lake Monona Riverwalk – Suzanne is still looking for help Saturday, July 7th.

Treasurer's Report – Suzanne: Suzanne reviewed the spreadsheets. She explained that we are still lagging on income which should not be of great concern at this time of year. Per Patricia some of the checks starting to appear (e.g., \$500 from Sal Troia in this month's report) will be associated with the Executive Residence Shoreline Project. We have just received a Citizen Wetlands Monitoring grant for \$4967 from DNR Citizen-based Monitoring Program which will be managed under a contract.

Stream Monitoring Report – Patricia: Patricia distributed Nancy Sheehan's 5 page Stream Monitoring Report dated 6/17/12. Nancy is in need of a volunteer to help coordinate monitoring in Dodge County. County Conservation, DNR and UWEX do not have the capacity. Suzanne and Patricia will discuss options. Nancy has logged over 100 hours but expects to have lower than normal hours during the summer due to vacations.

Wetland Monitoring Report: Jeanne is getting established and learning priorities for the work. Suzanne will talk to her about which activities can be billable time. Monitoring hours must be with a volunteer.

Old Business:

Potentially Restorable Wetlands – Scott: Scott outlined the program which will refine the DNR's potentially restorable wetland map. Wetlands ecologists Pete Zigler and Art Kitchen are involved. There will also be student GIS work by the students under Steve Ventura at UW-Madison. Scott hopes for grant funding from a Lake Protection grant and the McKnight Foundation. Scope will involve several watersheds (not yet identified) in the basin.

Suzanne moved that the board authorize the pursuit of a Lake Protection Planning grant to fund the Potentially Restorable Wetlands project. Joleen seconded. Approved unanimously.

Send Your Legislator Down the River – Patricia: Suzanne is working with Senator Miller and Representative Taylor to identify a date for a paddle on the Yahara chain – Upper Mud Lake. Rutabaga to Lottes Park. Not on a Sunday. Senator Miller's options of August 16, 27 or 30 worked for board members at the meeting. Bourbon Street Grill (upstairs or outdoors) and Monona Gardens are potential sites for dinner. We will likely have participants order off the menu. Need to know basic information by June 29th with final details by July 13th when it goes to the printer. Patricia, Suzanne, Jim Kerler and Joleen will serve as the event committee.

New Business:

New Employee, Administrative Assistant Roxanne Witte – Suzanne: Roxanne joined the meeting for the Treasurer's Report and was introduced to the board members present. She works for Jefferson County Economic Development as well Rock River Coalition.

Newsletter – Jane: Jane has emailed a summary of the articles that we currently have available to publish or can pursue. Suzanne is working with these and other articles of which she is aware.

Madison Fishing Expo – Patricia: This event will be held at Alliant Center on February 22-24, 2013. We were offered a table at the event in exchange for providing a membership to Steve Hauge and Madison Fishing Expo, but we would need to find volunteers if we chose to man a table. A potential opportunity to advocate for water quality and to recruit monitors.

Membership Donation Request for Monitoring Program – Patricia: This idea is to develop a fundraising letter celebrating the 10th anniversary of the stream monitoring program. Consensus was that this would be a good idea. Joleen will help with editing Patricia's draft letter. Patricia will also get input from Nancy and Jeanne, and will involve Suzanne after the newsletter is done on July 9th. Target date for sending the letter will be August.

1% for the Planet – Jim K: Patricia sent an email about stimulating business involvement in this fundraising program. Jim Kerler submitted some ideas. There was not much enthusiasm for forming a committee so Patricia decided to make fundraising a standing agenda item.

Webpage – Patricia: Nancy included web page suggestions in her monitoring report. We can consider whether our current arrangement with Marsha is optimal. Joleen is willing to help later on this summer, after she's had time to peruse the website.

Horicon Watershed Tour – Scott: Scott met with spoke with NRCS contacts who are looking to improve water quality in the marsh. Currently available restoration funds are not being used by farmers so a bus tour has been conceived to encourage interest. We have committed to \$100 and will need to fundraise another \$400 or so from businesses in the area. Discussion centered around what to do if there are shortfalls or we collect excess funds. We agreed to include a free membership for businesses that donate to the event and another for attendees who send in an application form. (Each membership costs us \$10 annually.)

Wetlands, Wildlife Habitat, & Flood Hazard – Scott: Scott is involved, working with Rebecca Kinslinger of Washington, DC-based Environmental Law Institute. They are grant-funded to enhance habitat while preventing flooding. Attendees at last year's workshop will be invited to a call and encouraged to take the next steps. Scott will invite board members when more information is available.

Next Meeting, agenda & timing: Patricia asked if the current meeting schedule (4:30 PM start) is working OK. Others present responded that it is fine. Patricia will use Doodle to set up the July meeting.

Adjournment: Joleen moved adjournment, Scott seconded. All votes in favor. Patricia adjourned the meeting at 6:44 PM.