



#### **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"*

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### **Board of Directors Minutes Tuesday, September 27, 2012**

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

**Attending this meeting:** Patricia Cicero, Jim Kerler, Scott Taylor, Suzanne Wade, Joleen Stinson, Jane Carlson

**Guest/New Board Member:** Karla Eggink

**Absent:** Jim Koepke

**Call to Order:** Board President Patricia Cicero called the meeting to order at approximately 4 PM.

**Approval of Minutes from 8/1/12 Meeting:** Minutes for the 8/1/12 meeting were to be augmented after today's meeting following a loss of the file. They will be approved by email or at the next meeting.

**Treasurer's Report, incl. Water Star contract – Suzanne:** Suzanne reviewed financials distributed at the meeting. Joleen moved acceptance, Jane Carlson second, all votes in favor.

**Stream Monitoring Report:** Patricia reviewed Nancy Sheehan's report. Nancy has recruited several new monitors, among them a group of students from UW-Whitewater. In a 9/24 email to Patricia (distributed at the meeting) Nancy described 8 potential capabilities of an Interactive Community Map that could be developed by this group of students. It would track RRC monitoring activities to help monitors develop a sense of community. Nancy has a proposed server capacity for this application, but Suzanne suggested we evaluate whether it could be hosted on our existing server.

Nancy's report also discusses the potential for volunteer monitors to sample phosphorous in the Yahara watershed. (Nancy is working part time on related issues for the Clean Lakes Alliance on the Madison lakes.) Both periodic and event sampling are being contemplated. MMSD could do lab work, but DNR may require an approved lab be used before values could be entered into their SWIMS database (unless analyzed in DNR's lab). Per Suzanne this could begin in the Yahara basin but expand later. A meeting with DNR, MMSD, RRC, DNR/WAV and others will be held. Karla Eggink will attend.

**Wetland Monitoring Report:** Patricia reviewed Jeanne Scherer's report on Zeloski Marsh restoration monitoring of insects, birds and water quality. This has gone well.

**Send Your Legislator Down the River:** The event was held 8/27/12. 37 people attended. The talk by Jeremy Balousek was well received. Patricia sent a thank you to each involved sponsor and legislative attendee. It went very well and Suzanne suggested we run the event in Jefferson County next year. Several people from that area (Greg David, Walt Christensen, Carl Glassford) expressed interest in helping to select a location.

**Potentially Restorable Wetlands:** Scott reviewed the idea of identifying potentially restorable wetlands in the Rock basin. McKnight turned down our funding request which helped evolve the concept, but it doesn't score well on DNR lake and watershed grant evaluations. Scott is now looking at EPA's Wetland Program Development Grant for state agencies or national nonprofits. We would likely want to work with a qualified entity (DNR, Nature Conservancy, River Network, etc.) but

maintain control. Scott contacted Tom Bernthal at DNR. Jane suggested Madison Metro Sewerage District (MMSD) and Fund for Lake Michigan (who could benefit if the program worked and transferred there.) Per Jane this could require us to approach them in next year's grant cycle. Scott has already mapped the Badfish Creek watershed, which might engage MMSD's interest. Suzanne suggested the idea be shared with the Rock River TMDL group.

**Fundraising:** Per Suzanne our recent letter to membership asking for support of the Stream Monitoring Program has raised over \$600. More favorable responses are expected. Suzanne is finishing up the first step of sending hundreds of fundraising letters. She asked for suggestions of other entities to approach.

**New Board Member -- Karla Eggink:** Karla attended in consideration of a vacancy on the RRC Board. Karla is Administrator for the Walworth County Metropolitan Sewerage District and has a Civil Engineering degree. She is also a licensed Professional Engineer. Karla is interested in a watershed prospective, networking to inspire more working together to improve water quality. Jane moved Karla be appointed for an open one year board position, Scott seconded, unanimous approval.

**Employee Review:** We talked last meeting about reviewing the work of Nancy and Jeanne, and considering their ideas. Patricia and Suzanne will arrange this.

**Environmental Law Institute/McKnight grant/\$3,000 webinar work:** Scott noted we had committed to work with Town and Country to develop this if we got the grant. We are waiting for ELI's response. To codify this email decision and commitment, Suzanne moved we contact ELI to clarify our intent. Joleen seconded. Unanimously approved. Scott will report on subsequent communications.

**Wetlands meeting with Director of Wisconsin Wetlands Association:** Scott reported on the visit to Zeloski Marsh restoration with Jeanne Scherer and Tracy Hames of Wisconsin Wetlands Association who had expressed interest. Suzanne also participated, sharing the wetland monitoring sheets she had developed.

**Water Quality meter – analysis and possible repair:** We have a (multiple parameter) water quality meter that came from NRCS on "permanent loan". Batteries leaked causing damage. We decided to send it back to Hach for assessment of repair cost: \$146 (case) + \$1754 (meter) but some parameters (e.g., TSS) can be calculated without this repair. We need to evaluate exactly what we need, decide whether to spend \$500-600 for repair, buy a new meter (for ~\$7K) or use other equipment that may be available locally. Suzanne will contact NRCS before a decision is made. Jim Kerler will contact Ed Grunden to determine the status of the WAV3 Chloride monitoring they had participated in and the meter they had been using.

**Rain Garden Maintenance :** No one seems to have responsibility for maintenance of the UWEX rain garden in Jefferson, though Suzanne kept an eye on it prior to retirement. It appears that Jefferson County Parks Department has done some work on it but it has deteriorated due to nearby herbicide use, drought and neglect. Patricia will contact the County parks to explore the options for revitalizing it.

**Newsletter - Deadline October 5:** Joleen and Scott discussed several articles they have lined up to submit to Suzanne. Suzanne wants to begin to assemble the newsletter by Monday, 10/8/12 and intends to supply a draft by Wednesday. She feels we should be able to print it and distribute by 10/27/12. Jane will provide information about the upcoming Green Lakes

Alliance event. Marie is having knee surgery and won't be available to work labels, so Suzanne will need help (before our 10/24/12 board meeting.) Next deadline is January. Patricia and Karla will partner on this issue.

**Bark River Fish Monitoring:** Suzanne and Patricia took a trip on the Bark River with Dave Marshall who is sampling floodplain lakes for rare and endangered fish under a grant. Article in newsletter. Invasive plants they encountered were communicated to DNR.

**Adjournment:** Karla moved, Scott seconded, all votes in favor. Patricia adjourned the meeting at 6:02 PM