



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 Wednesday, October 4, 2012

Next Regular Meeting: November 28, 4:30 PM – UW Extension, Jefferson

Attending this meeting: Patricia Cicero, Scott Taylor, Suzanne Wade, Joleen Stinson, Jane Carlson, Karla Eggink

Guests: None

Absent: Jim Koepke, Jim Kerler

Call to Order: Board President Patricia Cicero called the meeting to order at approximately 4:35 PM. The following item was added to the agenda: Potentially Restorable Wetlands (PRW) update by Scott.

Approval of Minutes from 8/1/12 Meeting: Draft minutes for the 8/1/12 meeting were reviewed and a few corrections noted. These will be transmitted to Jim Kerler. Suzanne moved to accept the corrected minutes, Joleen second, all votes in favor.

Approval of Minutes from 9/27/12 Meeting: Draft minutes for the 9/27/12 meeting were reviewed and several corrections noted. These will be transmitted to Jim Kerler. Joleen moved to accept the corrected minutes, Scott second, all votes in favor.

Treasurer's Report – Suzanne: Suzanne reviewed financials distributed at the meeting. It was decided that a donation earmarked for "nutrient cleanup" will be put toward the newsletter. Suzanne will talk to Roxanne about this and showing the WDNR wetland monitoring grant. Suzanne will also work with Roxanne to see if there is a more intuitive way to present some of the financial information. Karla moved acceptance of the Treasurer's report, Scott second, all votes in favor.

Stream Monitoring Report: Patricia reviewed Nancy Sheehan's report. UW Whitewater will host the Interactive Community Map on its server until August or September, and Nancy will find out the requirements so we can see we can host it on our server after that. The map will not have data. If wastewater treatment plants or others are performing stream monitoring they could consider adding information about their program to the interactive map. Suzanne suggested Nancy contact Karla to find out what monitoring is required by permits and what is "above and beyond" or required for watershed adaptive management.

Wetland Monitoring Report: Patricia reviewed Jeanne Scherer's report. Jeanne is considering holding a Bioblitz at the Zeloski Marsh in the spring of 2013. She has developed a calendar of events and determined that this activity will fit into her budget. Jeanne is beginning to develop grant reporting products and Patricia circulated an example. Jeanne requested the board fund her registration fee and also consider funding a table top display at the upcoming Wisconsin Wetlands Association Conference February 12 – 14 in Sheboygan. We have \$100 specifically budgeted for this and approximately \$75 in other line items that could be used for this. The board agreed to fund \$135 if Jeanne has a poster or presentation at the conference, and up to a maximum of \$175 if a table top display is also included. Suzanne moved acceptance, Scott second, all votes in favor. Suzanne will also talk to Jeanne about how much conference time can be billed.

Fundraising: Per Patricia our recent letter to membership asking for support of the Stream Monitoring Program has raised \$825. We expect another \$100 from an association. Suzanne has developed a letter for corporate sponsors and a draft is in Patricia's hands for review. Suzanne intends to send the letter to a select list after November 15. Our 20 year reunion will be in

2014 and Suzanne suggested we discuss this at the board's winter retreat. Patricia is considering inviting one or more employees to the retreat. Patricia encouraged all to keep thinking of fundraising ideas.

Review of Stream and Wetland Monitors: Jeanne's review is complete and went well. Nancy's will be scheduled for after November 15. Both employees are doing well, are thoughtful, and follow through with commitments.

Rock River Recovery & MMSD Adaptive Management Pilot ("Yahara WINS") - Stream Monitors and Phosphorus Sampling: Nancy will write a proposal to the Yahara WINS to integrate citizen monitoring into their overall monitoring plan, and will have a draft proposal in about two weeks. Patricia and Karla agreed to review it. Patricia and Suzanne met with two individuals from the Clean Lakes Alliance. Citizen monitors may be able to collect Level 1 data for two years in the pilot watershed and then "graduate" to Level 3 phosphorus data collection, which can benefit wastewater treatment plants and others involved in Yahara WINS. The wastewater treatment plant labs can analyze the data. There is a side-benefit to using citizen monitors because they improve understanding and awareness among citizens. Ultimately, the RRC told the CLA that we will attend a few meetings on this topic to see if we can assist with citizen monitoring efforts. Eventually other wastewater treatment plants in the basin may partner with the RRC on this type of arrangement.

UW Whitewater Interactive Mapping Project for Sampling Programs: See discussion under **Stream Monitoring Report** above.

Water Quality Meter Update: Suzanne contacted the NRCS but they did not want to take the non-functioning meter back. They apologized for our time and expense troubleshooting the meter. Hach recycled the meter at no charge/payment.

Rain Garden Maintenance: Patricia talked with the Jefferson County Parks Department and they are willing to maintain the rain garden if we can provide them with guidance. Suzanne is working on developing the guidance and will ask former board member/landscape architect Margaret Burlingham for assistance with plant identification and control.

Potentially Restorable Wetlands: Scott is continuing to look into EPA's Wetland Program Development Grant. He spoke with Tom Bernthal of WDNR and Tom agreed that the WDNR could be the fiscal agent. Tom would like to do more than this but doesn't have the available time. The grant solicitation is in the spring and requires a 25% match. It may not be possible to use other federal grants as the match, and various other potential sources were discussed. Scott was invited to attend a WDNR meeting on problems with the current scoring system for state lake grants, and this may be a source for matching funds if the system can be revised in time. Scott asked the board to send any additional matching fund ideas to him.

President-Elect: Patricia had contacted Jane to gauge her interest in being President-Elect, and Jane expressed interest. No other meeting attendees expressed interest in the position. Joleen moved Jane be President-Elect, Karla seconded, all votes in favor.

Additional Board Member Ideas: Jeanne has suggested a few names to Patricia, including some from UW Whitewater. Patricia will follow up with Jeanne to find out more about these individuals. Additional ideas should be sent to Patricia.

Clean Lakes Alliance Meeting: See summary under **Rock River Recovery...** above.

Next Meeting Membership Mailing: Patricia will update last year's letters (at least two – one for current members and one for others) and send them to the board for review. Any suggestions for changes or additional letters should be sent to Patricia. Suzanne noted there is a new category for small municipalities and this should be updated in the letter(s).

Adjournment: Scott moved, Suzanne seconded, all votes in favor. Patricia adjourned the meeting around 6:15 PM