



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"

Rock River Coalition
Board of Directors Meeting
UW-Extension, Jefferson, WI
August 12, 2009

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 4:40 pm by President Lisa Conley.

Attendance: Board members in attendance: Lisa Conley, Patricia Cicero, Peter Hartz, Scott Taylor, Suzanne Wade, and Ken Wiesner. Staff in attendance: Ed Grunden, and Stephanie Hoffman.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes were approved on a motion from Wiesner and second from Wade. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: The treasurer's report was accepted by a motion from Wade and a second from Wiesner. Motion carried.

Old Business

a. Send your Legislator Down the River - Report

Wiesner provided an Income Statement and Summary of the event: the revenues were more than the expense by about \$280. The 2010 event will be planned by Cicero, Hartz, and Wiesner. Possible locations for next year include the Rock River from CTH B to Jefferson, Turtle Creek, Bark River, or the Lower Yahara River.

b. Basin Educator Budget/Priorities Situation - Suzanne

Wade reported that the UW-Extension Chancellor will cover any budget shortfalls for the Basin Educators program during the next 2 years.

c. Volunteer monitoring report - Ed

Stephanie Hoffman, the new Monitoring Assistant, was introduced to the board members.

Grunden reported that volunteers who participated in the Snapshot Day have not all entered their data – so it is unknown how many participated. **ACTION: Grunden will e-mail all the monitors to remind them to enter their data.** Grunden said that he and the other organizers are considering have 2 snapshot days in 2010: May and September.

Grunden reported that the Horicon Marsh project (measuring inflow/outflow of sediment & nutrients) is moving forward. The USGS will hold a training for volunteers at the end of September or beginning of October. Grunden is recruiting volunteers. In addition, he is soliciting money donations to help increase the sampling effort.

Grunden will hold a training for stream monitors in Johnson Creek.

Grunden has assembled a fundraising folder of information on the RRC for businesses to be sent to his “inside” contacts who will get the folder to the appropriate person. Approximately 50 will be sent out. **A request was made by Conley to get a list of the businesses to the Board.**

d. River Education Center update - Peter

Hartz reported that the Village of Johnson Creek met with the newly formed task force.

e. Waterstar update - Suzanne

Wade reported that she is having meetings with some municipalities to work on refining and ground-truthing the program. A grant was received for \$20,000 to establish a website, logo and on-line application form. The grant will cover a portion of Wade’s time spent on the project.

f. Rock River TMDL update – Suzanne

The TMDL will be released in December probably. The next step will be to determine now to implement the TMDL. A “TMDL 101” meeting is being held on September 22. **There could be openings for RRC Board members to attend the meeting - if anyone is interested please contact Wade.**

g. GFlow

The GFlow model is now on the web. There will be a meeting in October or November for funders to obtain more information on its use.

h. Rock River Stormwater Group

The RRC is a partner organization of the Stormwater Group. Wade is assisting with the development of a storm drain stenciling program that includes an informational door hanger.

i. Grant reports

The Quirk Foundation e-mailed their funding application recently. A discussion was held on whether to request funding this year. The RRC received \$10,000 last year and is still using the money. It was decided that we would not ask for additional money. **ACTIONS: Cicero will send the funding application to the board. Who? will e-mail the Quirk Foundation to thank them and let them know about our decision.**

j. Newsletter

The newsletter article deadline is Friday, October 2, 2009. Article ideas include a report from the Friends of Badfish Creek Watershed, and information on land trusts. It was noted that the costs of the newsletter will now be shared between RRC, UW-Extension, Town and Country RC&D, and the Rock River Stormwater Group.

New Business

a. Project Red Training – Patricia

Cicero reported the that Project Red Training hosted by RRC and given by the River Alliance will be held on Saturday, August 29th from 9am to 1pm at the Lake Mills Community Center. **Anyone wishing to attend should contact Cicero.**

b. Johnson Creek Rain Garden removal – Suzanne

Wade reported that the rain garden near the Johnson Creek municipal building was removed without following the MOU signed by the RRC and the Village. **ACTIONS: Wade will visit the remaining rain garden site to determine if it needs maintenance. Conley will set up a meeting with the Village President to talk about possible remedies which could include improving the remaining rain garden and protecting it with a new MOU.**

c. Policy Updates

c. i. Wetland Tax Incentives – Scott

Taylor presented a letter drafted to a legislator concerning possible legislation to correct the property tax disincentive for wetland restorations. Wade motioned and Cicero seconded the motion to send the letter. Motion passed. **Taylor will check on any updates with the Wisconsin Wetland Association before sending the letter.**

c. ii. County Lake & Watershed Commissions - WAL

The Wisconsin Association of Lakes is working with a state legislator on possible legislation that would allow all counties to form lake and watershed commissions similar to Dane County.

c. iii. Glacial Heritage Area – Jefferson County – Patricia

Cicero reported that the Jefferson County Board voted to accept the Glacial Heritage Area Plan. The next step will be the Natural Resources Board meeting in October.

c. iv. Independent DNR Secretary hearing – SB113

Conley will send a letter supporting a DNR Secretary appointed by the Natural Resources Board. No motion was necessary as the RRC Board previously voted to take this position.

Future meeting dates

It was decided to not have a September meeting. Instead, **Cicero will try to schedule a tour of Rosy Lake Holsteins in Watertown on September 21 or 23.**

RRC Board meetings were scheduled for **October 14 and November 16 at 4:30** at the UW-Extension building in Jefferson.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 pm on a motion from Taylor and second from Wade. Motion carried.