



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"

Draft Annual Meeting Minutes – Wednesday, May 14, 2012

Attending this Meeting: 24 members of Rock River Coalition

Call to Order: Board President Scott Taylor called the meeting to order at 6:06 PM.

Approval of Minutes from 2011 Annual Meeting: Lisa Conley moved approval of the 2011 minutes. Patricia Cicero seconded. Motion passed with a voice vote of the members present.

Treasurer's Report: Suzanne Wade reviewed the numbers presented in the annual report. She summarized saying we are looking good on membership revenue and grants. Carl Glassford moved approval of the Treasurer's Report and Lisa Conley seconded. Motion passed with a voice vote of the members present.

Activity Reports:

Stream Monitoring: Nancy Sheehan reported on the work she has just begun as the newly appointed Coordinator. Her background includes forestry, environmental management and education. She has taken advantage of recent training opportunities and is enthused about the dedication of volunteers she has met. She has begun to organize this year's effort.

Wetland Monitoring: Jeanne Scherer noted that she has counted 57 species of birds at Zeloski Marsh today with the help of Audubon Society members. She is planning an upcoming visit to the marsh with a UW-Whitewater professor and encouraged attendees to join this event.

Friends of Badfish Creek: Scott Taylor discussed the work this friends group, a chapter of Rock River Coalition, is doing on invasive species – especially Japanese knotweed. They will be also be surveying users of the creek and advocating for its use and protection.

Send Your Legislator Down the River: Patricia Cicero discussed this last year's event in Beloit. It attracted about 10 public officials to canoe and kayak the rock with our members. The next event is being targeted for August 2012. Upper Mud Lake, south of Madison, is under consideration, with participants paddling from there to Lake Waubesa and back. More information will be released in the near future.

Rock River Recovery: Jim Congdon, who retired recently from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, reported on the Rock River Recovery Plan. He and Suzanne Wade will be volunteering to help move it forward this year. Jim explained the meaning of Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) and outlined the process to be followed. Mike Vollrath is the new DNR leader for the TMDL. Jim emphasized the need for advocates from the public to help move the plan toward fruition. Industrial and municipal permittees are currently writing their plans to reduce discharges of phosphorous and solids. Rock River TMDL will be a pilot project as the first large river TMDL to be approved by the Environmental Protection Agency.

Board Election: Terms of two current board members, Lisa Conley (who served many years) and Peter Hartz, are ending. (Paul Benjamin previously resigned his position due to workload demands.) Suzanne Wade nominated Joleen Stinson of Rock County Parks to a three-year term. Jim Congdon seconded. Motion passed with a voice vote of the members present.

Liesa Kerler nominated Jim Koepke of Koepke Brothers Farm for another three-year term. Lisa Conley seconded. Motion passed with a voice vote of the members present.

Adjournment: Carl Glassford moved adjournment of this year's Annual Meeting. Lisa Conley seconded. Motion passed with a voice vote of the members present.