

## **Friends of Badfish Creek Watershed**

Plan Committee Minutes  
Tuesday, February 10, 2009  
6:30-8:00pm  
Oregon Public Library

Attending: Sharon Beall, Lynne Diebel, Caroline Werner

Lynne discussed additional details for the invasive species proposal suggested by partners and collaborators. The proposal has been revised to include this additional input. The proposal also includes the list of partner organizations and leaders and individual volunteers who support the effort to eradicate Japanese Knotweed at Riley Road. Organizations and volunteers committed to supporting FBCW with the project and listed in the proposal include the following: the River Alliance of Wisconsin, the Rock River Coalition (RRC), Dane County Conservation League, Environmentally Concerned Oregon Students (ECOS), Mad City Paddlers, Prairie State Canoeists, Invasive Plants Association of Wisconsin, Stoughton Boy Scout Troop #167, Sue Reindollar of Prairie Enthusiasts, Agrecol and landowners Keehn, Martin and Graham.

Suzanne Wade of RRC has reviewed the proposal and the RRC Board has signed forms required for proposal submission. Sue Graham from DNR reported to Lynne that the DNR process to rank submitted grant proposals will allow for grant awards as early as mid-March or April 1, 2009.

Caroline suggested, if the grant is awarded, that media outreach occur at the time of the first workgroup meeting and that any RRC newsletter articles about the project might be submitted to local media to keep all partners and local communities informed. Caroline will pursue a plan to include WOW cable channel filming portions of the project, if the proposal be funded.

Tasks for the first workgroup were discussed. Japanese Knotweed stalks are currently about 8 feet tall and 1 inch in diameter. Work teams will be able to easily break off stalks or loppers can be used to trim short. Stalks will then be transported up the creek bank to fields a short distance from the creek. Landowners have agreed to allow stalks to dry in the fields; team will return later (few days/weeks—depending on weather) to burn the stalk piles.

E-mail and web site messages will be used to post messages about work group dates, times and sign-up for volunteers. Lynne anticipates that mid-April and mid-June will be stalk removal by volunteers. Scott Taylor is a certified sprayer, spraying will be done when volunteers have completed their chores to reduce chance of chemical exposure. In August spraying will occur for re-growth and if re-growth is vigorous, spraying may be necessary in September as well. If funded for this proposal, the FBC/RRC will be responsible for paying for goods and supplies, submitting receipts quarterly then receiving a quarterly grant payment from DNR.

Lynne indicated the need to carefully record the efforts of the volunteers via photographic coverage and extensive notes for each stage of the project. It is imperative that markers for photos be determined prior to the initiation of the project to ensure that photo views for each work session reflect thoroughly the activities and results over each year of the eradication process. This will be especially helpful for other groups attempting to eradicate Japanese Knotweed.

Caroline suggested that an educational meeting about Japanese Knotweed and the eradication process be held at the Porter Town Hall or the Cooksville Community Center for volunteers and community members. When the grant awards are announced, the educational session will be scheduled.

Lynne has also provided information about recent articles in the River Alliance newsletter and a national publication regarding efforts of Conservation Volunteers. Lynne will provide sources or web links via e-mail this week to keep members posted. The River Alliance project and FBCW/RRC initiative have been named "Project RED" and will continue to be described in various conservation articles as a pilot project.

A brief discussion was held that furthers an interest by Friends in posting signage along the Badfish Creek to identify the creek for community members and travelers. At this time signage criteria, procedures and cost are unknown and will need to be investigated. Sharon wonders how the economy will affect this effort as counties and municipalities struggle financially to provide current services.

It was decided that the March meeting be cancelled. Communications will occur via e-mail. Next meeting date unknown at this time. If DNR grant is awarded to RRC, meeting may be arranged for April.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sharon Beall