

Friends of Badfish Creek Watershed (FBCW) Planning Committee Meeting
June 17, 2008, Oregon library
Present: Caroline Werner, Sharon Beall, Scott Taylor, Lynne Diebel
Absent: James Danky

Agenda:

1. Dane County grant
2. Fall cleanup
3. Membership drive
4. Publicity
5. Badfish Creek Tour
6. River Alliance training possibility
7. Future Dane County Grant
8. List serve
9. Next meeting

1. Grant

Caroline will take care of getting \$350 check reissued and mailed to RRC.

Dane County authorized all expenses except t-shirts. We budgeted \$180 for RRC inserts, \$85 for business cards, and \$85 for cleanup supplies (gloves, garbage bags and cups).

2. Cleanup

Sharon will speak to Village Board on Monday, June 23 at 6pm. She'll give them our handouts and RRC newsletters and present a brief overview of group's evolution, RRC chapter status, grant monies, and outreach efforts. She'll ask Board for approval to clean up Butterfield Creek between South Perry Parkway and CR-138, emphasizing working with Village Board and local businesses. She'll ask if Village will haul away trash.

Sharon is concerned about access to creek because of brush and she reports that Public Works head Jon Lourigan is concerned about heat in September. She proposes holding cleanup in October. (Not the weekend of October 4-5) After she hears from the Boy Scouts (meeting June 18) and the Girl Scouts, she will email us suggested dates.

Lynne will ask Stoughton Hospital and State Farm to donate t-shirts and will write letter to businesses along the creek explaining project, asking approval and requesting refreshment donations. Her husband Bob (and possibly sons Matt and Greg) will help, and they'll bring two size 10-11 chest waders.

Scott will contact RRC about liability issues and forms, and provide size 12 chest and hip waders, brush cutter to clear access to creek, and beverage dispenser. He will purchase supplies (gloves, bags, cups). Scott said creek bed is firm and water shallow, so volunteers should be able to wade.

Caroline will handle cleanup publicity (Cable, Oregon Observer, etc) and contact ECOS about possible participation.

James emailed that he and his wife will help with cleanup. We'll ask him to speak at opening and closing of cleanup.

Note: James emailed after the meeting that he will take on the speaking duties.

3. Membership Drive

Sharon reported that a Summerfest table costs too much.

All agreed that a mass mailing would be good for contacting potential members, but we have only \$265 for all our membership drive expenses.

Scott said online County GIS maps may yield addresses of landowners along creek. As RRC Board Member, he will propose a membership drive to RRC at July meeting. If approved, Scott will potentially work with James on the distribution.

4. Publicity

Caroline arranged to have Frank Caruso of WOW Cable TV film a short publicity piece on June 17 by Butterfield Creek. This piece will be aired several times during the summer. Caroline will send Frank our website to include.

Lynne will update the web site with minutes of this meeting (when approved) and cleanup info, when available. She'll remove the note about Summerfest.

5. Badfish Creek Tour on 8/16

Bill Livick has consented to assist with the tour. Lynne is not available 7/24-8/8 for planning; and publicity needs to get out as early as possible. Caroline will ask Bill to make contact with Lynne as his earliest convenience.

6. River Alliance Training possibility

Lynne proposed that FBCW consider the following: the River Alliance (Laura Lueders) and the DNR are offering training on early detection (by canoe) and eradication of four invasive aquatic plants (Japanese Knotweed, Common Reed Grass, Purple Loosestrife, and Japanese Hops) that destabilize stream banks. Training follows DNR Wisconsin Weed Watchers protocol. We don't have a timeline yet, but this project would most likely happen next year. If FBCW is accepted, all RRC members would be welcome to join the training as well.

Lynne, Caroline and James are interested in participating. Sharon and Scott support the idea but will not participate. Sharon reminded the group that we need to contact RRC about adding any activities to our work plan. Scott wants to wait for more members before proceeding.

Related note about RRC: Sharon also reminded the group about the Board requirement for activity reports. Caroline said she would check on that and be sure they were sent in accordance with the requirements.

7. Future Dane County Grant

Lynne reported that Dane County Environmental Council member Jeff Maxted would welcome a grant application from FBCW for the Capital Equipment Program (project budget up to \$5000). The deadline is Feb 28, 2009. Requires matching funds, and in kind donations would apply to this amount. This would be a larger project than our 2008 cleanup.

Scott is concerned that we would be taking on too much work for our small number of members. Lynne proposed that we generate a list of possible projects and offered to write a letter to Oregon businesses asking for financial support. Consensus was to consider it again at the July meeting.

8. List Serve proposal

Scott proposed setting up two List Serves (subscription email groups), one for internal use and one for announcements. Advantages: archive all materials, integrate new members, give members options for level of participation, and facilitate announcements. Three possible ways to access: sign up for all emails; sign up for daily or weekly digest; go to list serve web site and read.

Consensus was that it sounds promising. Scott will look into the process and we'll talk about it at July meeting. Lynne will ask son Greg about a traffic counter for our web site to gauge current interest.

9. Next Meeting: July 24 at 6pm (Caroline will email us about location.)