



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
Monday, July 24, 2013**

Attending this Meeting: Jane Carlson, Patricia Cicero, Jim Kerler, Jim Koepke, Joleen Stinson, Suzanne Wade, Dan Lynch,

Guests: None

Absent: Eric Compas, Scott Taylor, Joe Zakovec

Next Regular Meeting: Wednesday, September 25, 2013, 4:45 PM -- UW Extension, Jefferson

Call to Order: Patricia called the meeting to order at 4:46 PM. Jane introduced Dan Lynch, former director of city of Janesville Wastewater Treatment plant, to the board. Dan is on the Rock River TMDL team. He noted that Janesville was one of the first cities to generate electricity and methane to run city fleet vehicles using anaerobic digestion.

Approval of Minutes from June 24, 2013 Board Meeting: Suzanne moved approval as amended, Jane seconded. Voice vote with all votes in favor.

Decision on Appointment of New Board Member: Jane nominated Dan Lynch to a three year term on the board. Suzanne second. Voice vote with all votes in favor.

Treasurers Report: Suzanne distributed documents and reviewed them. We are still running behind on membership and dues income. Distribution of the current newsletter should help improve this. Travel expense is moving faster than budgeted because more money has come in from projects. We are still OK but will have to watch Nancy's time as the year progresses.

Patricia has submitted the final report for the three Horicon Marsh projects to the DNR, so we should receive the balance of those funds, plus additional funds associated with lab testing. Closed projects will remain on the report until yearend. Joleen moved approval of the Treasurer's Report. Jim Koepke second. Voice vote with all votes in favor.

Membership: Suzanne distributed a membership summary, noting changes in membership levels for some people.

Stream Monitoring Report: Nancy's report was distributed by email last week. Work with Friends of Lake Wingra has been extended to use the excess hours that remained. Per Patricia the group is interested in forging a new contract with us. They may also be interested in increasing the scope of Nancy's work, but she and the RRC Board will need to assure this follows our mission.

Fundraising Letter to volunteers of Bioblitz: Still pending per Jane. She has been waiting on newsletter completion.

20th Anniversary Celebration: There will be an article in the newsletter per Suzanne. She has received some interest on the part of the Quirk Foundation. Grant application due August 15th. Joleen moved we apply for the grant. Jim Kerler second. Voice vote with all votes in favor.

Review of Employee Policies: Scott and Jim Kerler have discussed this further. Jim has noted some items that might be challenging for a small, volunteer-based organization like ours. Suzanne suggested that part time employees (less than 20 hours) might be exempted from some of the policies. Dan noted some IRS concerns for 501c3 charitable organizations, and Suzanne stated they have been addressed in our policies. Jim and Scott will write up some specific items for additional discussion.

Send Your Legislator Down the River: At Monday's special conference call Patricia, Suzanne, Jim and Jane determined we *can* proceed with this event on August 26th, 2013. River Bend Resort will be the meal site and we can bring in our own food. The final price for the room remains to be negotiated. The paddling site will be at the confluence of the Beaver Dam and Crawfish Rivers, at Glacial Heritage Area Put-in/Take-out (PITO) #30, Mud Lake State Natural Area. The event includes both Dodge and Jefferson Counties. Local legislators (Fitzgerald and Jagler) declined to be cosponsors so we will simply invite all legislators directly. Jane, Suzanne, Patricia, Joleen and Dan stated they are able to attend.

SYLDR Tasks were discussed:

- Suzanne is preparing a flyer from information used in the newsletter.
- Patricia will provide last year's letter (with database info) to Jane to update and adapt for the webpage.
- Jane and Joleen will work on a press release.
- Suzanne will provide last year's voucher to Joleen to update.
- Joleen will confirm Dodge County canoes.
- Patricia will contact DNR warden for safety boat.
- Jim Kerler work on map for mailing/email.
- Joleen will contact DNR SNA people to request a person for interpretive support.

Website: We are looking for easier direct update by staff and board. Joleen is interested but not available to work on it until the end of August. We may want to consider a new platform. Marsha Vomastic also needs to receive more information about items that could go on the website. (She does not receive board communications.) Patricia will discuss this topic with Eric Compas.

Waterloo Regional Trailhead: No new information.

Wetland Mapping Project: Scott will be moving ahead with this.

New Chapter Possibilities: Suzanne met with representatives Matt Siotica and Peter Hartz, of the Waterloo and Johnson Creek groups respectively. She outlined the requirements (provide a board member) and benefits (501c3 status, insurance, etc.) of being a chapter of RRC. They are interested in doing work on the Maunasha River and found the chapter prospect favorable. They intend to write up an action plan which we require. Patricia stated she could represent one of the groups on the board.

New Membership Brochures: Suzanne and Joleen will discuss this further after Suzanne returns from vacation in early August.

Rock River Recovery Update: Suzanne outlined four forums that are planned. The areas covered generally coincide with DNR discharge permits that are coming due. The RRC member forum fees will be \$5 for one day, \$8 for two, \$10/15 for non-members. The first forum is for technical people associated with the middle Rock from Watertown to Lake Koshkonong. Day 1: Sharing knowledge through and expert Panel, Q&A, discussion on how to work together. Day 2: Citizen involvement through presentations, and afternoon planning or touring Rock Lake in the local watershed. There is not enough time to plan a Rock River Trail field trip. Nancy has asked about attending the forums to network and recruit potential monitors. We would need to compensate her for her time.

Jim Koepke attended the ag sector team meeting – the only farmer there. The agency people were concerned about potential resistance to the project. Jim encouraged them to consider that we are fortunate to have the water supply we do, and noted that phosphorous is actually a limited resource.

Friends of the Yahara River Headwaters Per Joleen (who now heads DeForest Parks and Natural Resources) the Friends of the Yahara River Headwaters is a river group in DeForest. They just elected a new president who would like to learn more about how we operate. He was unable to attend this meeting. The group may be interested in partnering with us.

Newsletter: Joleen and Dan will assemble articles for the next newsletter (October). Focus on groundwater. Rock River Stormwater Group is aware and Suzanne provided other contacts for groundwater articles.

Future Meeting Dates – 4th Wednesday of each month? We will continue with this schedule for now. August meeting is 2 days after SYLDR so *there will be no August meeting*. (Next meeting September 25th.)

Adjournment -- Patricia adjourned the meeting at 6:56 PM.