



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
Wednesday, September 25, 2013**

Attending this Meeting: Patricia Cicero, Eric Compas, Jim Kerler, Dan Lynch, Jim Koepke, Joleen Stinson, Suzanne Wade, Joe Zakovec

Guests: Barry Eichinger, president of Friends of Yahara Headwaters.

Absent: Jane Carlson, Scott Taylor

Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 23, 2013, 4:45 PM -- UW Extension, Jefferson

Call to Order: Patricia called the meeting to order at 4:46 PM.

Approval of July 24, 2013 Minutes – Joleen moved acceptance of the minutes as amended. Suzanne second. All votes in favor.

Announcements

Endangered Fish: Patricia noted she found a Wisconsin endangered species in Rock Lake this week – a tiny near shore fish called the slender madtom.

DNR Grants: DNR is changing grant submission deadlines. After the February 1, 2014 lake grant deadlines, there will be no further applications until December 1, 2014, and annually on that date afterwards. Grants will be awarded by March. (Today it takes about two months for an award.)

Wetland Poster: Jeannie Scherer has completed the wetland poster that was funded by a grant we received, completing her obligations to Rock River Coalition.

Stream Monitoring Coordinator Event: Nancy is attending a 9/26 event with other stream monitoring coordinators. She has ideas to share with other attendees. (Also see Treasurer's Report.)

Newsletter: Outline passed around for review at the meeting. Deadline for articles is 10/4.

Treasurer's Report – Suzanne reviewed handouts:

Budget vs YTD Actuals: Nancy's spending on travel is a little over budget. Suzanne and Patricia will review this with her. We have \$10.3K in non-restricted funds for project work. This will go to \$12.0K after Horicon #3 receivables come in.

Grant Summary: DNR Horicon grant (3rd column) gave us more money than needed. We transferred \$523 from lab to project cost which shows up as a negative. Completed projects will no longer appear on the report. Dan Lynch moved acceptance of the Treasurer's Report. Joleen second. Voice vote with all votes in favor.

Membership Report – Per Suzanne, a couple of new members have joined.

Stream Monitoring Report – including updates on Friends of Lake Wingra and Yahara WINS

See report in Patricia's 9/19/13 email. Patricia noted the following updates:

- **Friends of Lake Wingra** prepaid some of Nancy's hours which worked out well but they've decided they will not need all of that time, so Patricia will work out a settlement with them. Patricia explained that they used Nancy more for events than for monitoring, and will be hiring Jeanne Scherer for some of that ongoing work.
- **Clean Lakes Alliance** is moving forward with lake sampling per Patricia. Currently, we have money from Yahara WINS to work on stream sampling for their adaptive management pilot. CLA has suggested that this program be continued next year through CLA fundraising on lake and stream monitoring. Patricia is arranging a meeting with their representatives, Nancy and herself to discuss how to proceed. We will want to look closely at their fundraising approach if it is used to fund our work.

Fundraising – Jane wrote a letter to Bioblitz volunteers who are not members, encouraging them to join. RoxAnne sent the letter and was directed to track them as new 2014 members.

20th Anniversary Celebration – Suzanne discussed plans for this celebration, currently conceived as covering a two-year period. She sent out a draft business fundraising update today. RRC started in 1994 and incorporated in 1996, so she's planning a number of events and looking for board members to partner with other groups as event cosponsors. So far two Rock River Recovery meetings are planned for Jan/Feb 2014. Ruth Johnson would like to present on climate change and is looking for a cosponsor as an early event in the anniversary celebration. Suzanne asked board members to think of events that would teach and inspire. She has held one lightly attended meeting to begin organizing a committee. Dan and Patricia offered to participate going forward.

Patricia provided Suzanne a copy of the River Alliance's "River Bash" 20 year event celebration. Some discussion centered on whether our event should be done in a single year to simplify planning and focus interest – Suzanne will consider this.

Review of Employee Policies – Jim and Scott have reviewed the policy, but need to complete their follow up by documenting specific items for additional discussion.

Send Your Legislator Down the River Recap – Board members who attended noted Mike Ayers' knowledge and interest in the area was very well received. A financial report on the event is pending. Other thoughts: Suzanne suggested more paddling, less time sitting. She also noted switching to Monday to accommodate legislators didn't foster their attendance. Patricia heard a suggestion to have the event every other year. (Holding it next year would avoid state budget debate impact.) We

could alternate with another paddling event (as done in years past.) Implementation planning period was compressed. Patricia will put this discussion on the agenda for our next meeting.

Website – Eric has discussed potential changes to the website with Marsha Vomastic. WordPress seems like the most reasonable platform. Board would have 4-5 templates to work with. Platform and service provider (Alex Drucker today) will need to be decided. There are cheaper alternatives but we have a good relationship, though is not prepared to support WordPress. We should also have a web/email/social media strategy including whether we host RRC chapters on our website. We could have a couple of people approve submitted content. We will move forward under the assumption of using WordPress, and collect cost information from Alex and other sources before making a decision.

Wetland Mapping Project – Scott applied for grant funding on August 1 and awaits a response. Patricia explained that the maps created would identify potentially-restorable wetlands. Consultants would be hired for field verification. Scott would donate his time.

13. New Chapter Possibilities (Johnson Creek, Maunasha River) – Suzanne reviewed the Quirk grant request (see below) which includes facilitation for new chapters – \$2500 for chapter development. Assumes 4 meetings for each chapter and an in-kind contribution. Suzanne is willing to do the work, donating a portion of her normal fee as an in-kind contribution of \$5600, or we could hire an outside contractor. Our bylaws require disclosure of the relationship when a board member materially benefits from a project. Since a similar question came up in Board Effectiveness Training (see below), Patricia will seek advice from the River Alliance and River Network.

New Membership Brochures – Suzanne will meet with Eric (I thought this was Joleen, not Eric?) to discuss.

Quirk Foundation Grant – Suzanne submitted a Quirk Foundation Grant to fund the following: development of 2 new Chapters, the 20th Anniversary events, and a web-based tour of the Rock River Basin. We are waiting on their response and may hear something soon. (See New Chapter section above.)

16. Rock River Recovery Update – About 30 people attended the forum held September 6-7. Most were municipal employees and some were wastewater treatment consultants. The team had hoped for a broader audience. We should make about \$200 on the event. There was some mix-up in DNR's promotion, and they have decided not to hold an event in October until they can evaluate attendance alternatives. DNR personnel will change -- a TMDL management person will be hired for the Rock and Milwaukee River watersheds. Suzanne will no longer be a contractor, though she will stay on the education outreach committee. Andy Morton is the current DNR contact for project communications. Joe gave his perspective on the trading challenges facing municipalities.

Friends of Bad Fish Creek Watershed – Patricia discussed activities the group has pursued. Membership is growing slowly, with small numbers of people attending their events. They have some grants they should be completing – Patricia will follow up on these.

Friends of the Yahara River Headwaters – Barry Eichinger, president of Friends of Yahara Headwaters, attended the meeting. Barry has been president for 3 months after 3 years as a director. He is concentrating on building relationships and increasing effectiveness through working with larger groups like ours. Their challenges are similar to ours. A good deal of funding comes from the Village of DeForest, for stormwater control related education and other activities. The Village is spending \$40K to remove storm debris, the value of which is a point of discussion for them. Park Town Realty has been a partner in some very good river development projects. The group has 30-40 members but about 7 are actively involved. They host an annual river cleanup and post-storm surveys. They sponsor citizen road salt monitoring and levels 1, 2 and 3, with high schools doing level 1. Joe Parisi, Dane County Executive, will be announcing a \$¾ million for the Yahara. The group is researching development of a paid executive director. Barry asked if there is anything RRC would like from his group and Suzanne noted our interest in Yahara Pride, in which he is involved.

Board Effectiveness Training Recap & Action Items – Patricia and Eric attended River Alliance/River Network training and learned much useful information, including emphasis on new board member orientation, committees, meetings and reviewing organizational effectiveness. They will share more in a future meeting. Eric will look into developing a new board member manual.

Adjournment: Dan moved adjournment, Joe second. Voice vote with all votes in favor. Patricia adjourned the meeting at 7:05 PM.