

## THANK YOU TO OUR 2017 MEMBERS, DONORS AND GRANTORS

### \$1,000 and Over

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Department of Natural Resources  
WEA Insurance Corporation  
Yahara WINS

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Russell Marr  
Sarah Chase  
Stephen Nass  
Steven Wurster  
Tim Sprecher  
William Boettge  
William Taylor



## 2017 ANNUAL REPORT



### Protector Award recipients:

State Representative Mark Spreitzer as Elected Official,  
Dr. Anna Courtier of UW-Whitewater as Educator, Su-  
zanne Wade as Individual, Dave Taylor and Kathy Lake  
for Yahara WINS as Organization, and Scott Taylor for  
Taylor Conservation LLC as Business

### Mission of the Rock River Coalition

To educate and provide opportunities for people of  
diverse interests to work together to improve the  
environmental, economic, cultural and recreational  
resources of the Rock River Basin.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

2017 was another successful year for the Rock River Coalition. We continue to expand and develop our citizen monitoring program. We have completed Year 5 of the Yahara WINS citizen monitoring program, to help the Yahara River Basin communities establish a water quality baseline and assess progress in achieving the adaptive management program goals of reducing phosphorus delivery to our waters. We also continue to look for innovative ways to raise money for the Coalition to expand our work in the Rock River Basin.

I would like to thank our hardworking Board Members who volunteer their time and talent to support all the good the RRC does. I would also like to thank our talented employees Nancy Sheehan, Stream Monitoring Program Coordinator, and Tara Callis, Administrative Assistant and Bookkeeper. Also, I would like to thank all of our volunteer stream monitors for the wonderful work they do as well.



This year we will be working on existing grant-funded projects, growing our citizen monitoring program, and exploring ways to establish and support an executive director position for the Coalition. We look forward to making the Rock River Basin an even better place to live, work, and play!

Joe Zakovec, 2017 RRC President

### 2017 BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND STAFF

Joe Zakovec, President  
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Dave Hoffman, Secretary  
Patricia Cicero, Treasurer  
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Bob Hansis, Director  
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Andy Selle, Director  
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Nancy Sheehan, Stream Monitoring Prog. Coordinator  
Suzanne Wade, Newsletter Editor

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## ROCK RIVER COALITION FINANCIAL SUMMARY

For fiscal year ending 12/31/2017

### Support and Revenues

Memberships/Donations	\$16,517
Grant and Restricted Income	\$34,304
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$50,821</b>

### Expenses

Program Services	\$30,286
Management and General	\$ 8,532
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$38,818</b>

**Revenue over Expenses** **\$12,003**

### Net Assets: Unrestricted Funds

Beginning of the year	\$ 8,834
End of the year	\$ 4,782

### Net Assets: Project Funds

Beginning of the year	\$ 5,029
End of the year	\$20,937

## CHAPTER REPORTS

### The Friends of Badfish Creek Watershed—FBCW

The Friends of Badfish Creek Watershed completed two projects during 2017. The first was improving canoe and kayak access at Old Stage Road, a popular place to start a paddling trip on the Badfish. Re-contouring the stream bank both improved access to the creek for paddlers who walk down from the DNR parking area and also reduced erosion at the site. Funding was a gift from James Danky and Christine Schelshorn of FBCW.

The second project was the creation of a Badfish Creek watershed poster to raise awareness about the creek and its beauty. Jim Post of FBCW collected the various images and information and created a GIS layer for the background. Lauren Brown of LV Brown Studio ([lvbrownstudio.com](http://lvbrownstudio.com)) designed the beautiful poster. A weather-proof copy of the poster will be hung in the information kiosk at the Old Stage Road parking area, and paper copies will be printed for distribution to interested organizations. Funding was a \$402 grant from the Dane County Environmental Council's Community Partners program and \$750 grant from Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District.

### Johnson Creek Watershed Alliance—JCWA

The Johnson Creek Watershed Alliance recognized Earth Day 2017 by helping Johnson Creek Elementary students understand how our stream monitoring and creek clean-up activities promote a "healthy" creek. JCWA members were invited back to celebrate Earth Day 2018 on April 20th to repeat the program and help students pick up litter in our community.

The Village of Johnson Creek completed the expansion of the wastewater "interceptor" project. Because of the construction, our Fall creek clean-up was deferred until this year.

Our chapter suggested to the Village of Johnson Creek that a permanent trash receptacle be placed along Hwy B to minimize the amount of litter near the new school. The Chapter asked about having the JCWA logo on the receptacle and expect to learn about the cost and maintenance of the trash bin before Summer.

## 2017 STREAM MONITORING PROGRAM

The mission of the stream monitoring program is "to protect and improve stream and river health through our citizen based stream monitoring program." Our volunteers are committed to ensuring that our streams and rivers are swimmable and fishable for our children and our grandchildren. This is no small task when over 65% of our 2,932 stream miles are listed as "impaired" due to pollutants such as phosphorus. Since 1998, no waterway has been "delisted" from this list. We will have succeeded in fulfilling our mission when more waterways are removed from the list. We are taking some important first steps toward fulfilling this mission. Our volunteer stream monitors are collecting the water quality data necessary for science based decision making. We accomplished much together in 2017:

- The RRC stream monitoring program equipped, trained, and supported close to 150 volunteer stream monitors.
- Volunteer teams monitored close to 100 stream sites.
- Volunteers collected nutrient samples at 64 sites funded through WAV/WDNR as well as our grant from Yahara WINS.
- Over 40 volunteers and partners working in the Yahara River watershed attended a workshop in March 2017.

No one state or federal agency has the resources to collect sufficient data necessary to ensure that water quality standards are being met. The RRC and our volunteer stream monitors are proud to play a critical role in protecting our streams.