

Board of Directors Meeting Notes

Wednesday, June 22nd, 2016

Janesville Wastewater Treatment Plant- 3300 W Tripp Rd. Janesville, WI

Next Regular Board Meeting: Wednesday, July 27th, 2016- Jefferson UW-EX Jefferson Office.

Attending this meeting: Jane Carlson, Patricia Cicero, Joe Zakovec, Dave Hoffman, Carl Korfmacher, Karl Brandstaetter

Absent: Eric Compass, Andy Selle

Others Present: Nancy Sheehan, Ingrid West

1. Introductions:

The RRC board and others present went around the room to introduce themselves and the new board members. Karl was present but as a student member does not officially start his term until September; he will be traveling until then.

2. Approval of 4/19/16 minutes and 5/25/16 minutes:

Patricia moved to approve the 4/19/16 minutes; second by Joe; motion carried.

The 5/25/16 minutes documenting officer elections will be submitted in the future.

3. Announcements:

Patricia will have the RRC display at the Mason Jar Jamboree at Dorothy Carnes Co. Park that will feature aquatic wildlife there for kids.

4. Treasurer's Report:

Patricia reported as of 5/31/16 RRC has \$9,512.00 in unrestricted funds and \$33,063.00 in restricted funds. Some discrepancies were noticed for the differences of the year-to-date balance and the '16 Budget, but will be looked at and fixed. Patricia described some items on the budget, projects summaries and all grants to help new board members understand our budget.

Dave motioned to accept the Treasurer's Report with amended changes; Carl seconded; motion carried.

5. Membership Report:

Need to sift through memberships to see who joined through Testing the Waters. Ingrid changed the format slightly to combine all membership info under one database. We currently have 181 total members to date compared to 155 in 2015. Carl mentioned there are a lot of quick books applications that can be used to sync the membership info together.

Ingrid said she just started working on it today and is seeking board input on new layout of the membership report. Patricia mentioned not being able to see the past years of who joined and who didn't which is helpful for the board to recognize. Nancy would like to see the stream monitors who've become members.

6. Stream Monitoring Report:

Nancy started by reviewing the mission and vision the RRC's stream monitoring program and emphasized the importance of why we are doing what we are doing: to improve the overall impact in the basin and improve the water quality; to educate people basin wide and engage more people in decision making either locally or statewide.

Nancy described her position to new board members and all that's involved: training volunteers, selecting sites, workshop planning, equip inventory, working with DNR on mapping data, grant writing etc. Also reported there are 100 volunteer stream monitors compared to 102 last year. There is 78% retention rate for keeping volunteers since 2013. Nancy held 3 different training workshops in Cambridge, Clinton, and Madison with a total of 65 participants.

Patricia moved to approve the \$4,967.00 DNR grant request for year round stream temperature sampling; seconded by Carl; motion carried.

Nancy briefly discussed the Citizen Stream Monitoring Committee meetings which have been well attended this year. They plan on working more with wastewater treatment plants for sample analysis and to seek stronger relationship with them.

At the next board meeting we will have an update on the Report Card and additional Quirk Funds or RRC funds that may be needed for this effort.

7. Chapter Liaison:

MRA- With Jim Kerler leaving the board Carl K. volunteered to check in with this group periodically.

FOBFC- Ingrid reported they are continuing work with DNR on canoe/kayak launch.

FJCW- nothing to report.

OLD BUSINESS

8. Brief Updates:

- Rock River Recovery- Patricia will be able to attending the next quarterly forum meeting and Joe might go as well.
- Community Shares- Ingrid mentioned she went to last meeting and we should expect around \$1400.00 next year (2017). In 2018 we should expect around \$2800.00. This doesn't include funds raised through the Big Share. This year the financial review is roughly \$1700.00.
- Fundraising- This will be a topic of discussion for the board retreat.
- Hiring- Need to hire a financial assistant. Patty will begin to step away from this position. Jane has a job description that she'll send out to the board. We will come up with a hiring committee at a future date but Patricia volunteered to be part of it.
- TTW Final Report: a draft is available and Jane will send it to those interested. A final report will be available in August; Suzanne Wade has offered to present a summary to the board.

9. Board Retreat Planning:

- Planning Committee- Dave, Patricia, and Nancy. Jane will send out a doodle pool.
- Potential dates- TBD, but could a weekday evening.
- Location- TBD, possibly Turtle Creek Parkway

10. Newsletter:

Deadline is Sept. 1. Eric and Carl K. will solicit articles and Suzanne will do the formatting. Possible article on phosphorus water quality trading with Baker Cheese Co.

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The Rock River Coalition is a 501(c)(3) organization that provides equal opportunity in employment and programming.

There will be a lot on Testing the Waters.

NEW BUSINESS

11. Next Phase of Actually Restorable Wetlands Project:

Patricia talked with Scott Taylor on updates about the “Actually Restorable Wetlands” project. Scott worked with DNR and other wetland specialists on potential wetlands that have a good chance of being restored. Wondering if RRC still wants to help with this project and potentially help with future funding.

12. Water Words that Work potential training:

Water Words that Work is an organization whose mission is to ensure the American people enjoy clean and safe water, outdoors and at home. They do this by helping their clients and students succeed with their outreach and communications. Basically, they help with better communicating the cause with the public, elected officials, and others. Nancy brought up holding a training session for the board, employees, and volunteers. Board discussed and we should wait until 2017 when we could budget for this training. Will need to charge money to attendees to recover costs.

13. Technology needs including webmaster Ideas:

Database access issues that needs to be revamped.

Website updating- Marsha V. will be phasing herself out of doing this.

Pay pal account issues- example: registering for the TTW event.

Getting new equipment (software) is easier and sometimes cheaper rather than working and continuously updating old technology.

14. Midwest Environmental Advocates:

Nancy Sheehan introduced Tressie Kamp of MEA to Jane via email, and Tressie co-authored an article for our Rock River Reflections newsletter on Update on Citizen Clean Water Act Petition. The board agreed to invite Tressie to a future board meeting to give an update on the petition and other MEA activities.

Jane moved to adjourn meeting at 7:05; Carl seconded; motioned carried.

Following the meeting those who were able to stayed for a tour of Janesville’s Wastewater Treatment Plant guided by Joe Zakovec.