

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 28th, 2016

Next Regular Board Meeting: Wednesday, October 26th, 2016- Jefferson UW-EX Jefferson Office.

Attending this meeting: Jane Carlson, Patricia Cicero, Dave Hoffman, Eric Compas, Lindsey Schreiner, Karl Brandstaetter

Absent: Joe Zakovec, Andy Selle, Carl Korfmacher

Others Present: Nancy Sheehan, Tressie Kamp (Midwest Env. Advocates), Dave Marshall (MEA Petition Signer), Kate Hanson (MEA Intern)

1. Introductions:

Board and guests went around the room for introductions.

2. Discussion on Potential Areas of Collaboration with Midwest Environmental Advocates:

Tressie Kamp gave a thorough background on MEA and discussed the Petition for Corrective Action. In October of '15 the Petition for Corrective Action (PCA) was filed by 16 WI residents who share a commitment to hold the state accountable for the DNR's 75 deficiencies (given to WDNR by EPA in 2011) under the Clean Water Act, namely the DNR's compliancy with the Wisconsin Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (WPDES) permits. Since 2011 the DNR has not managed to address all identified issues listed by EPA, which MEA and the PCA are helping to resolve.

Dave Marshall, retired DNR employee, aquatic ecologist for Underwater Habitat Investigations LLC, and MEA consultant, put together a survey of WI rivers and discussed the poor quality of these rivers. Saw the positive impacts clean water of the Lower Wisconsin R. had to the public and continued his promotion of healthy waterways by signing the Petition for Corrective Action and working with MEA to ensure DNR's compliancy with EPA regulations. Continued to discuss his observations made over the years on depleting groundwater, poor water quality and the DNR's non-compliance with federal regulations.

Discussion continued on which of the 75 standards have been addressed the past few years and which standards still need consideration.

Nancy's mentioned ways to utilize our volunteers to help MEA. Jane said we could provide more info to our volunteers on these permits that would potentially impact their waterbody. Tressie said if they're reviewing a permit in the watershed they could certainly share it with RRC to help voice their concerns. Eric mentioned to Tressie about including a quarterly/biannual update every newsletter on the petition. RRC can also provide letters of support for MEA if activities align with our mission.

3. Approval of 8/24/16 Minutes:

Patricia moved to approve 8/24/16 minutes, seconded Lindsey; motion carried.

4. Announcements:

None.

5. Treasurer's Report:

Patty Lynch met with Tara to update her with the financial documentation process. Patricia had good things to say about Tara's commitment and insight for being the financial assistant.

Discussed budget, available funds, and grant summaries. Year-to-date RRC has \$18,751 of restricted funds and \$5,288 of unrestricted funds.

Discussion on moving our board reports to QuickBooks. RRC board decided to wait until Tara gets up to speed with our current database and other RRC work before making any major changes.

Dave moved to accept the Treasurer's Report; Karl seconded; motion carried.

6. Membership Update:

We will be sending out renewal membership letters in November. Noted in the '16 budget report that membership income is with our membership drive at the end of every year.

7. Stream Monitoring Report and Confluence Planning:

Nancy reported the majority of her work is focused on the '16 Confluence and passed around the draft agenda for the day.

Wrap up the DNR grant for the report cards. GIS work is pretty much done which Jefferson County's GIS specialist has been helping. The mapping question that remains is showcasing this map interactively on our website. Our website has somewhat become dormant over the years. Lindsey has some background in word press and said she could work with Tara on giving her a run-down of how to use it. Other board members may wish to be there for this as well.

Gave update on the Yahara WINS year 4 grant proposal and budget. Wants to increase the data analysis budget and decrease the equipment purchases. Will work with Patricia to finalize grant proposal.

Nancy discussed methods for volunteers to measure stream flow on low gradient streams. Many volunteer streams are very low flow and mucky, but the measurements are still useful and wants to determine a relationship between meter flow results and water level measurements.

Motion to give Nancy the authorization to submit the Yahara WINS grant proposal under Patricia's review and board notification by the date required by Yahara WINS grant deadline by Eric; Karl seconded; motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

8. Brief Updates:

- a. Rock River Recovery- Monthly update by DNR today.
- b. Rock River Storm-water Group- Andy will attend this meeting and Jane might be able to as well.
- c. Community Shares- Suzanne still our CS representative.
- d. Fundraising- tabled until later meetings when we have more time to discuss.
- e. Water Words that Work potential training- nothing to report as of now.
- f. Technology Needs- Need work on database by November mailings.
- g. Testing the Water- Suzanne will finish final report.

9. Next Newsletter:

Eric and Carl have all the articles together. The newsletter draft is out.

10. Next Phase of Actually Restorable Wetlands Project:

Patricia emailed Carl and Scott to present something to the RRC board in October. They will have something together by October meeting to see RRC's interest in continuing with them on the next phase.

11. Board Survey:

Eric passed out a document summarizing short term and medium term goals. Board will continue to discuss future short term and medium term goals each month and try and finalize during the winter retreat.

NEW BUSINESS

12. Yahara WINS Year 5 Grant Application:

Motion approved under Agenda Item 7.

13. Potential Areas of Collaboration with Clean Lakes Alliance:

Patricia gave a brief update on their meeting together. There was discussion on the Yahara WINS program and on use of interns and potential collaboration/work with Nancy.

Clean Lakes Alliance has a smart phone application where people can upload real time information on lakes for public to use. Board discussion on introducing this to our monitors and if this would be useful for them.

Nancy mentioned having strategic partnerships with like-minded groups would be a mutually beneficial relationship.

Adjourn at 7:45 PM.