

Rock River Coalition Annual Report

2006



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.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Rock River Coalition has had an excellent year and we are proud to report that the financial status of the organization continues in great condition. Generous support for our activities is provided by members, volunteers, and sponsors. In addition, we have always had good luck at obtaining State, Federal and private grants to assist with our mission. This year the Board of Directors responded to continued growth of the organization by adding staff and increasing our efforts at fundraising.

The Coalition continues as a volunteer organization and depends on the involvement of individuals, communities and organizations with an interest in the basin to help us complete our efforts. *"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."* We thank these volunteers for all their hard work.

The task of coordinating activities in a 3,800 square mile basin that includes many counties and numerous cities, villages and towns is formidable; however, the benefits also are great when we are successful. For example, we have been able to complete stream, lake and wetland monitoring, we have installed many effective and attractive rain gardens, and we have initiated the basin-wide GFLOW groundwater model. These activities continue because of our core of dedicated members and volunteers. We congratulate those who have helped us and share with you the success in a recent award, the Wisconsin Idea Award; we received from the Wisconsin Extension Environmental and Community Development Association Award Committee. The Wisconsin Idea Award is intended to recognize and honor individuals, communities and community groups who have been particularly vital to the success of an Extension educational program. The excellent work of all our volunteers makes it possible for us to be recognized for our basin-wide activities.

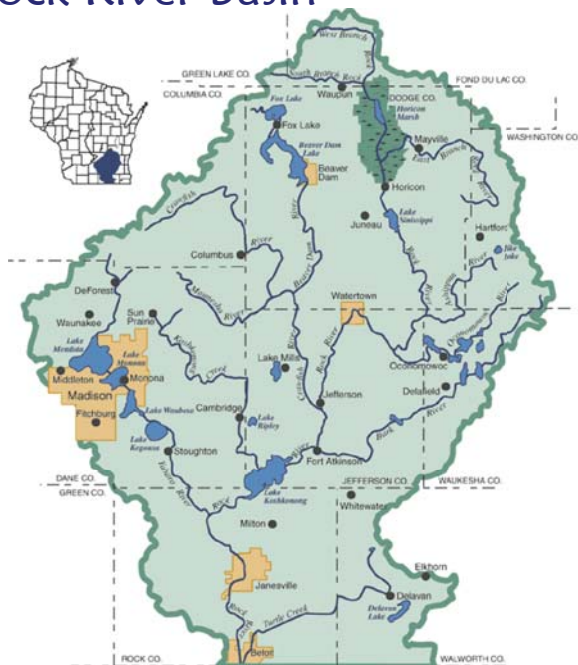
During upcoming years we want to expand our membership, extend our services into State-wide and National programs, and effectively meet the needs our members. Your help has been greatly appreciated and your continued help will be essential in completing these efforts.

Your President

Joseph M. Dorava



Rock River Basin



2006 Rock River Coalition Board Members wish to thank all of the volunteers and members who help make the Rock River Coalition a vibrant, active and involved organization. Top row: Ken Weisner, Tim Reel, Warren Topel, Suzanne Wade President Joe Dorava, Jan Ruster, Roger Kist, seated: Lisa Conley and Tracey Novak

A Word from our DNR Partners

WDNR will never have enough staff or dollars to be able to do everything that needs to be done to improve and protect our environment. That's why WDNR basin leaders were given the charge in 1998 to form more partnerships with citizen groups to accomplish common goals. We are very fortunate to link up with such a talented and dedicated group as the Rock River Coalition. Add in the help of UW-Extension's basin educator, Suzanne Wade and this is a partnership that is held up as a shining example of what can be accomplished when we work together and separately towards common goals.

Perhaps you've heard that DNR is no longer as interested in furthering Partnerships as it once was. Let me assure you that's not the case and in particular that's not the case in the Rock River Basin. We will continue to work vigorously with the Rock River Coalition to further this very successful Partnership. From the wonderful newsletters and educational programs to the wetland and waterway monitoring, from starting the groundwater modeling effort to rain gardens that were planted and wetlands restored, from the 'Sending Your Legislator Down the River' canoe event to planning for an environmental center, this partnership is on the move. With a growing RRC membership, even more will be accomplished!

Susan Josheff, Lower Rock Basin Water Leader

Wetland and Stream Monitoring

We are pleased to report that all of our goals for the wetland monitoring program are being met. We will be establishing transects now that the restoration is complete and have established photo reference points and other collection points for the Zeloski Muck Farm and Jefferson Marsh using GPS coordinates. These monitoring sites are to be used by both professionals and volunteers for longitudinal studies of ecological restoration. We continue to utilize local volunteers as citizen scientists to collect baseline data using approved and adaptive methodologies. Information has included vascular plants, invasive plants, water quality, benthic macroinvertebrates, amphibians, birds, small mammals, dragonflies, damselflies and butterflies.

The data is being entered online using web resources such as WI NatureMapping, e-Bird (Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society) and WDNR's Odonata and Small Mammal websites.

The stream monitoring program took a huge leap forward as we hired Ed Grunden to be our Monitoring Director. He has surveyed past and present monitors, established a new partnership with General Motors to work with Janesville High Schools and has enlisted new monitors for 2007. Our monitoring numbers dropped to 80 during 2006, but with Ed leading the way we anticipate having a full complement of monitors by 2008.

Watertown Riverwalk Mayor's Committee

RRC is proud to have played an important role in supporting The Watertown Mayor's Riverwalk Committee through the facilitation and logistic support provided by Ellen Rulseh. The Mayor's Committee has developed support for the riverwalk and provided recommendations for a design that will showcase and enhance the natural features of the Rock River. Now that the riverwalk planning is under way, the RRC will continue to be part of the effort, as a member of the committee and but not as the lead.



RRC new Monitoring Director, Ed Grunden, finding a new sampling site at Aztalan State Park along the Crawfish River.

Rain Garden Project Completed

After four years of work, the Rock River Coalition is pleased to report that through our efforts and the leadership of Ellen Rulseh, RRC Outreach Coordinator from 2002 - 2006, we have fulfilled the majority of our goal: to install a Rain Garden in Every Community.

As a result of the program more than 500 youth, 150 adults and many community leaders and elected officials now know about the impact of stormwater runoff to the Rock River Basin and their community and actions that can be taken.

Since the initiation of the RRC outreach projects rain gardens have been installed in Watertown,

Hustisford, Horicon, Jefferson, Middleton, Stoughton, Waukesha, Madison, Beloit and Johnson Creek.

More importantly, teachers from the schools now have stormwater curriculum and experience with teaching about it so they can continue to educate new classes of students in the upcoming years.

The environment has also benefited from this effort.



Whitehorse teacher, Kit Rittman works with students to design a rain garden. -photo by Ellen Rulseh

The 18,050 square feet of rain gardens infiltrate a conservative 3 million gallons of water a year.

Indirectly, many of the people who attended our workshops have gone on to install rain gardens or to multiply the educational outreach by holding their own workshops, talks and tours. One consultant reported encouraging developers to include rain gardens as part of their subdivision plans.

Stormwater is an important issue for the Rock River Coalition. We pledge to continue to support communities who desire to install rain gardens by providing suggestions on partnerships, letters of support for grants and assistance in planning educational events.



Beloit students learn-by-doing as they plant their rain garden in the shape of a turtle.

-photo by Ellen Rulseh

2006 Basin Issue Teams

Participants on all basin issue teams:

Jim Congdon, WDNR UR Water Leader

Ruth Johnson, WDNR RR Watershed Planner

Susan Josheff, WDNR LR Basin Water Leader

Suzanne Wade, UWEX RR Basin Educator

Groundwater

The Rock River Coalition began the development of a GFLOW computer model for the basin in 2006 holding numerous meetings with local municipalities. The model will be completed by September 2008.

Groundwater Issue Team Members

Stephen Ales, WDNR Regional Drinking Water Supervisor

Dennis Bries

Joe Dorava, GFLOW Coordinator

Rick Eilertson, Fitchburg Environmental Engineer

Peter Hartz, Johnson Creek Utilities Superintendent

Jeff Helmuth, WDNR Source Water Protection Manager

David Johnson, WDNR Hydrogeologist

Craig Kunkel, Kunkel Engineering

Dan Lynch, Janesville Utility Director

Paul Moderacki, Johnson Creek Administrator

Ed Morse, Wisconsin Rural Water Association Groundwater Specialist

Steve Nass, Jefferson County Board

Rick Wiertsen, Rock County Groundwater Program Manager

2006 GFLOW Supporters

City of Janesville

City of Lake Mills

City of Watertown

City of Whitewater

Dodge County

Friends of Horicon National Wildlife Refuge

Green Lake County

Jefferson County

Lake Sinissippi Association

Lake Sinissippi Improvement District

Rock Lake Improvement Association

Theresa Water & Sewer Utility

Town of Shields

Town of Sumner

Village of Johnson Creek

Planning the Rock

Protecting farmland and encouraging development near existing development drives the work of the committee. In 2006 they completed work on the second edition of the RRC Rural Development Policies and Guidelines Manual and hosted a Cost of Community Services workshop and computer decision support tools for land use decisions workshops.

Contributors to the successful events with more than 120 participants include UWEX Center for Land Use Education staff, Ruckert and Mielke, Virchow Krause, DNR staff Dana Lucero, and Dreux Watermolen.

Stormwater

The Stormwater Issue Team focuses on hosting educational activities for municipalities to reduce the impact of stormwater on the Rock River. Annually they offer Environmental Grant Workshops which have helped numerous cities write successful urban, river and runoff grants. The team held one stormwater roundtable discussion and one stormwater forum in 2006. The team is sponsoring the development of a new recognition program for the state: 'Water Star Community'.

Storm Water Issue Team

Jim Bertolacini, WDNR Storm Water Specialist

Bill Biesman, Vierbicher Associates

Ann Dansart, MSA Professional Services Inc.

Joe Dorava, Vierbicher Associates Inc.

Sue Jones, Dane County Lakes & Watershed

Pete Jopke, Dane County Land Conservation

Craig Kunkel, Kunkel Engineering Group President

Paul Moderacki, Johnson Creek Village Administrator

Tim Whittaker, City of Janesville, Stormwater Engineer



Thank you to the 2006 Rock River Coalition Members and Donors who help make all this happen!

Less than \$25

Robert Bokelman
Matthew Groppi
Tania Kane
Richard McLaughlin
Dana Meads
Elroy Mittelstadt

\$25-\$49

Todd Ambs
Mark Anderson, Friends of Allen Creek Watershed
Dennis Anthony, Upper Rock River Ecosystem Partnership
William & Cindy Arbiture
Michael Ayers
Jeff Bahls
Andy Bissonnette
James Briscoe
Dean & Kim Buchholz
David Carpenter, Dodge County Planning
Gina Castro, Green Scene/ UW Rock Cty.
Carl Chenoweth
James & Cheryl Congdon
Robert Crump
Liz Daines
Nelson Fischer
Kevin Freber, City of Watertown
Kay Gabriel
Thomas Ganfield
Steve Grabow
Tony & Annie Grillo, Northern Lure Hideaway
Bonnie Hamer

Jennifer Hanneman & Eric Janikowski
Paul & Grace Hauser
Mike & Kim Herro
Hugh & Frances Highsmith
Ruth Johnson, WDNR
Susan Josheff, WDNR
Dale, Kim & Evan Karow, Friends of Allen Creek Watershed
Chase Kelm
Paul Lange, Watertown Wastewater Treatment Plant
Carol Mankiewicz & Karl Mendelson
Ron & Marti Martin, Midwest Prairies
Jeanine Mason, Sciart Studio
Marshall Meier
Steve Nass
David & Sandra Neuendorf
Adam Paul
Charles & Evelyn Payson
Ursula Petersen, WI DATCP
Don Quarford, City of Beaver Dam
Kenneth Quillen
Brian Resch, NRCS
John & Terese Rhiel

Eugene Roark, WI Woodland Owners Association/
Nature Heritage Land Trust
Mark Roffers, Vandewalle & Associates
Rebecca Schettler-Peterson, Friends of Cam-Rock Park
Tom & Lois Shearer
Debora Sielski, Washington County Planning/
Parks Dept.
Scott Taylor, Friends of Starkweather Creek
Marsha Vomastic
Bob Weiland

\$50 - \$99

Karen Bailey, Friends of McCarthy Park
Bill Barthel, Upper Nemahbin Lake Management District
Steven Bogenschneider, City of Horicon
Curt Bolton, Village of Sussex
Brad Cantrell, City of Janesville Planning Department
Johanna Chworowsky, Rock Lake Improvement Association
Waupun Garden Club
Ralph Froelich
Donnell Geib
Dennis Guelig, Village of Theresa
Peter Hartz, Village of Johnson Creek
Green Lake County Land Conservation Committee
Mike Hoppenrath, City of Watertown
Thomas Jones, Friends of Riverfront
Roger & Denise Kist
Penni Klein, City of Middleton
Jeff Kranz
Roger & Margaret Martin

Daniel Moore
Tracey & Tom Novak, Pleasant Valley Acres LLC
Ray Potempa, Friends of Lake Kegonsa (F.O.L.K.S.)
Tom Presny, City of Janesville Parks
Tim Reel
Jan Ruster
Tom Schnaderbeck
Greg Searle, WI DNR
Penny Shackelford, Lake Koshkonong Wetland Association
Joel Shapiro, Rock Aqua Jays
Matt Trebatoski, Village of Johnson Creek
Patrick Vander Sanden, Village of Deforest
Mark Wendorf, City of Delavan
Ken Wiesner
Steven Wilke
Watertown Sunrise Kiwanis Club

\$100 - \$5,000

Bob & Lisa Conley
Madison Audubon Society
Mike Guiselman, Rock County Parks
Horicon State Bank
Kunkel Engineering Group
LanDesign by Margaret Burlingham
Rock Lake Improvement Association
Kenneth Rowley, Walworth County Farm Bureau
Warren Topel
Suzanne & Larry Wade
Roy Zastrow

\$5,000 - \$20,000

Environmental Protection Agency
Wisconsin DNR

Rock River Coalition, Inc. Financial Summary

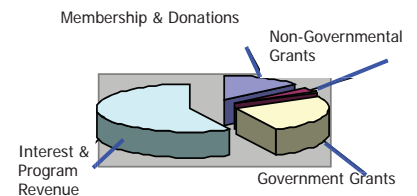
For the fiscal year ending December 31, 2006 (with comparative totals from December 31, 2005)

Support and Revenue	2006	2005
Membership & Donations	\$7,853	\$5,354
Non-government Grants	\$2,000	\$10,914
Government Grants	\$14,333	\$37,100
Interest & Program Income	<u>\$32,276</u>	<u>\$11,637</u>
Total Revenue	\$56,462	\$65,005

Expenses	2006	2005
Programs & Projects	\$51,657	\$59,911
Management & Operations	<u>\$4,940</u>	<u>\$3,347</u>
Total Expenses	\$56,597	\$63,258

Net Assets	2006	2005
Beginning for the year	\$36,522	\$36,666
End of Year	<u>\$36,387</u>	<u>\$38,413</u>
Change in Assets	(\$135)	\$1,747

2006 Support and Revenue



2006 Expenses

