

# ROCK RIVER COALITION ANNUAL REPORT

2004



## 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

Greetings from the heart of the Rock River Basin. The Rock River Coalition (RRC) is now in its 11th year of operation thanks to the dedicated work by our members and volunteers throughout the 10-County region. During 2004, Coalition staff, UW Extension, and DNR staff pulled together several wonderful meetings. These events had increased attendance as well as very positive feedback. The timely topics, programs, and hands-on experience provided citizens a lot of valuable information that can be applied to future environmental projects in the basin.

*"Water is the most critical resource issue of our lifetime and our children's lifetime. The health of our waters is the principal measure of how we live on the land" said Luna Leopold.*

*Protecting and Preserving our Natural Resources for the next generation is a must. The Coalition takes pride in working with all our volunteers, faithful members and friends in all the counties. I am always amazed by a small group of dedicated people who work on a local restoration project that mushrooms into other positive projects throughout the Basin. This past year the Coalition worked with two Department of Natural Resource LTEs whose expertise was of great value to the Coalition. The RRC directors have high hopes the state will continue to provide assistance to organizations like the Rock River Coalition.*

*The Coalition cannot operate without your support, if you're not already, I ask that you become a dues paying member. If that is not possible please consider volunteering whenever possible on projects that are of interest to you. On behalf of the Directors and our partners, UW-Extension and WDNR, we thank all our members and volunteers for your generous support. We look forward to meeting at events and working with you on scheduled projects during the year.*

Warren Topel, President

### Watertown River Walk

DNR River Protection grant to promote civic engagement in Watertown's Riverwalk provided the ground work for a new mayor's committee committed to developing an improved river front for Watertown. Through the efforts of RRC Outreach Coordinator Ellen Rulseh and UWEX Educator Steve Grabow, community leaders were brought together to prioritize actions for the river walk. As a result TIF funding was applied for to complete key aspects of the river walk. The RRC will continue to act as a catalyst for the river walk in 2005. The Quirk Foundation in support of our work helped fund both the Watertown Rain Garden and citizen stream monitoring in the Watertown area.

### A Word from Our DNR Partners

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) Basin Partnership with the RRC is the result of a visionary venture directed by then WDNR Secretary George Meyer. Secretary Meyer recognized that the Department could not accomplish its mission without the active support and involvement of citizens. Our basin partnership was an experiment to learn how to engage citizens in the protection and management of our basin's water and land resources. Our partnership with the RRC, and the UWEX that provides our basin educator, has been a big success receiving recognition statewide. We need to continue to build on our successes to meet the challenges we will be facing in future. The WDNR is facing additional staff cuts due to reductions in both state and federal budget allocations. George Meyer, at the Citizen's Monitoring Confluence in March 2005, emphasized that the role of concerned, involved citizens will become increasingly critical to address our resource protection and management needs. Ken Johnson, myself and our Rock River Basin staff will continue to work with the leadership of the RRC to accomplish our mutual goals of making the Rock River Basin an even better place to live, work and play. We look forward to working with all the RRC members and volunteers to accomplish bigger and better things this coming year.

Jim Congdon, Upper Rock Basin Water Leader

# Rock River Basin Issue Team Highlights

## Groundwater Issue Team

The Groundwater team worked with both youth and adults to make a real difference in 2004. They hosted the urban section of the Wisconsin Groundwater Festival where 600 5th and 6th graders learned about storm water runoff and the need to increase infiltration. They even planted a 715-square-foot rain garden at the Waukesha County Expo Center!

## Planning the Rock Issue Team

The team's Rural Development Guidelines Manual was a recipient of a 2004 Top Rural Development Initiative Award from Wisconsin Rural Partners, Inc.

In 2004, the Rural Development Issue Team changed its name to "Planning the Rock: Strengthening agriculture, enhancing natural resources while encouraging sensible growth".

After hosting a forum and completing interviews on new directions for the team, the group enlarged its scope to include promoting natural landscaping for rural non-agriculture landowners and more actively promoting the preservation of agriculture and open space in the basin. In June, Odyssey of Nature educational event for rural non-agriculture landowners was held. The 90 participants learned about prairie restoration, wildlife habitat and living closer to nature.



**A Source Water Protection Planning meeting brought municipalities together to discuss drinking water protection.**

## Shoreline and Wetland Protection Issue Team

As part of a DNR River Protection Grant, 8 native plant shoreline restorations were designed for public parks in Dodge, Rock, Walworth and Dane counties. The parks departments will follow through with implementation in 2005 and 2006.



**Lisa Conley, RRC Board member, kayaks past the Lac La Belle shoreline project.**

Thus a relatively small amount of money, \$10,000, will result in leveraging \$175,475 in grants, municipal funds and volunteer services resulting in 46,145 square feet of native plant restorations and almost 6,000 linear feet of shoreline protected from erosion.

When Cooper Power Systems, a Waukesha business was awarded \$2,500 for pollution prevention efforts, they asked the Rock River Coalition to identify a Waukesha area park that needed shoreline restoration. The money will be used in 2005 for a shoreline restoration project in Oconomowoc on Lac La Belle.

This brings the number of native plant shoreline restorations RRC has initiated in the past three years to 21.

## New program kicked off: Wetland Restoration Volunteer Monitoring

In Jefferson County two large wetland restorations will allow the Coalition to move towards its goal of being able to identify the best methods for restoring wetlands. The Wetland and Shoreline Protection Issue Team hired Bryan Huberty, a UW graduate to develop wetland restoration protocols. The main topics identified as critical to survey before and after this 1,492-acre farm is restored are: floristic survey (vascular plants), water quality, benthic macroinvertebrates, bird, invasive species and anuran calling (frog and toad surveys). Other protocols that are likely to be implemented include: dragonfly (adult and larva), butterfly, mammal, and cultural/historical. 20 volunteers kicked off the project in the fall with invasive species monitoring.

## Storm Water Issue Team

This team, working with other local groups, hosted a construction site erosion control workshop, two rain garden workshops and a Rain Garden and Natural Shoreline Tour. Ninety five people attended the educational offerings. The team also hosted an environmental grants workshop attended by fifty people focused on how to write successful DNR River, Lakes and Runoff Management grants.

**Erosion during construction is a significant contributor to river and lake pollution. Educating builders is one goal of the storm water team.**



## Water Quality Issue Team – Citizen Monitoring Project

The Rock River Basin Citizen Monitoring Program received the 2004 Wisconsin Water Action Volunteer Group Stream Monitoring Award!

In 2004, 120 citizens took measurements of wadable streams from April through November. Volunteers measured dissolved oxygen, temperature, flow, habitat and water clarity. They also collected and identified stream animals to determine a biotic index of water quality. Three training workshops were held, as well as an annual 'Confluence: a Gathering of Rock River Basin Monitors' for advanced training. In 2004, the RRC also piloted a new certification program for monitors to insure quality of data.

**Monitors hone skills in identifying stream organisms during the annual Confluence and in the field.**



## Other RRC Projects

### Send Your Legislator Down the River

The fourth annual "SYLDTR" was held on May 16, 2004. State Representative Steve Nass, State Senator Scott Fitzgerald, and Jefferson County Supervisors Kathleen Groskopf and Greg David along with other participants experienced a fast flowing Rock River and then listened to keynote speaker Dan Small of Outdoor Wisconsin about the importance of rivers.

### Bike Ride

On a beautiful fall day 25 bike riders took off on an 18 mile journey from Aztalan State Park, around Rock Lake and back as part of the first annual Rock River Coalition Bike Ride. A few riders enjoyed a shorter trip crossing the trestle bridges on the Crawfish and Rock rivers. The trip went through farm country, parts of Lake Mills, and along the Glacial Drumlin Bike Trail before returning to the premiere archeological site in Wisconsin.

### River Rain Gardens Take Central Stage

The RRC is actively promoting rain gardens in communities within the basin. During 2004 Ellen Rulseh, Outreach Coordinator, established rain gardens in Jefferson County, Watertown, Hustisford, Middleton and Horicon.

One hundred and fourteen people, including seven landscape consultants, attended extensive rain garden workshops sponsored by the RRC. Participants have already completed four rain gardens with five more in planning. Two people have hosted their own workshop and tour. The RRC is pleased to report a domino effect from these workshops; all ten of the people interviewed have encouraged others to install rain gardens and two were then built.

In addition to the DNR grant money which funded Ellen, other grants, donations and inkind services of \$29,000 were raised for rain garden installations. Most importantly, the rain gardens infiltrated more than 198,400 gallons/year of rain water. This water performed an important function of replenishing groundwater rather than running off into lakes and streams, adding to our flooding problems.

## Financial Summary

For the fiscal year ending December 31, 2004  
(with comparative totals from December 31, 2003)

### Income

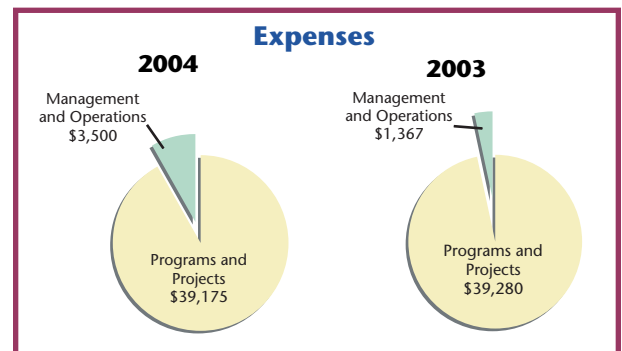
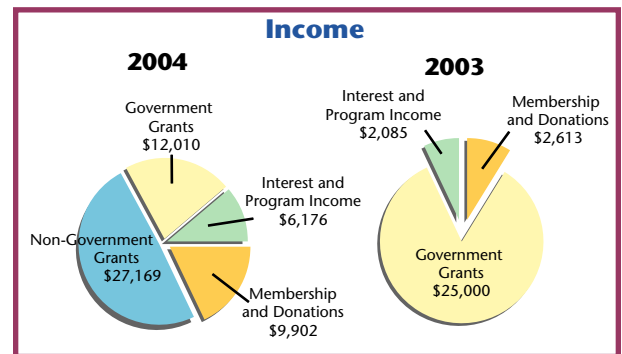
	2004	2003
Membership & Donations	\$9,902	\$2,613
Non-government Grants	\$27,169	
Government Grants	\$12,010	\$25,000
Interest & Program Income	\$6,176	\$2,085
Total Revenue	\$55,257	\$29,775

### Expenses

	2004	2003
Programs & Projects	\$39,175	\$39,280
Management & Operations	\$3,500	\$1,367
Total Expenses	\$42,675	\$40,647

### Net Assets

	2004	2003
Beginning of year	\$19,952	\$30,824
End of Year	\$36,666	\$19,952
Change in Assets	\$16,714	\$10,872



*Thank you to all  
our volunteers! –  
With you we make  
a difference in our  
Rock River Basin.*

## Rain Garden Projects

### Community Airport at Morey Field, Middleton

City of Middleton  
Middleton High School students  
Friends of Pheasant Branch

### Hustisford and Horicon

Hustisford School District  
Sixth graders and teachers  
Hustisford Public Works Department  
Lake Sinissippi Association  
Rock River Headwaters  
Wisconsin Women in Agriculture  
Dodge County Master Gardeners

Horicon Blue Heron Landing  
Horicon Parks Department  
Horicon Union Hall  
John Deere Corporation

### Watertown Senior Center

Watertown Parks Department  
Watertown Senior Center and seniors

### Watertown River Walk

Greg Flisram, Vandewalle  
John David, Watertown Mayor  
Greg David, Jefferson Co. Board  
Yvonne Duesterhoeft, Jefferson Co. Board

Scott Koegler, USDA  
Gail Towers Mac Askill, Main Street Project  
John Steber, Watertown Parks Dept.  
David Schaefer, Rock River Rescue

### Shoreline Restoration, Ledge Park

Henry Sillman Patricia Cicero  
Earl Hughes Corrine Deans  
Elinor Czarnacki Bill Ehlenbeck

## RRC Events

Tom Davies  
Ken Johnson  
Dana White-Quam  
Don and Mary Gadzinski  
Ron and Janet Niedfeldt  
Jeffrey and Janet Jenrich  
Nolan Kollath  
Cindy Spankowski  
Patricia Cicero  
Margaret Burlingham  
Hope Oostdik  
Ellen Rulseh  
Chris Kaplan  
Cindy Wagner  
Dale & Cris Trieloff  
Bill Hollstrom  
Ron & Marti Martin  
Peter & Tracy Layton  
Scott Graves  
Charles Graves  
Steve Bennet, Waukesha North High School and students  
Jenny Erickson  
Susan Priebe  
Linda Norderhaug  
Dixie Fera  
Mary Schwister  
Jen Youngblood  
Marilyn John

## Active 2004 Issue Team Members

### Participants on all issue teams:

Jim Congdon, WDNR UR Water Team Leader  
Ken Johnson, WDNR LR Basin Water Team Leader  
Ruth Johnson, WDNR RR Watershed Planner  
Suzanne Wade, UWEX RR Basin Educator

### Groundwater Issue Team

Paula Allen, WDATCP Environmental Hydrogeologist  
Tim Banwell, Rock Co. Health  
Dennis Bries  
Patrick Harrington, WI Rural Water Assn Source Water Coordinator  
Jeff Helmut, WDNR Source Water Protection Manager  
David Johnson, WDNR Hydrogeologist  
Ed Morse, WI Rural Water Assn Groundwater Specialist  
Dave Neuendorf, Dodge Co. UWEX  
Rick Wietersen, Rock Co. Health

### Planning the Rock Issue Team

Margaret Burlingham, LanDesign  
David Carpenter, Dodge Co. Zoning Director  
Greg David, Town & Country RC&D  
Gloria Hafemeister, Watertown Daily Times  
Daphne Holtermann, Rosy-Lane Holsteins, LLC  
Ron Martin, Midwest Prairies  
Ken Rowley, Walworth Farm Bureau

### Storm Water Issue Team

Jim Bertolacini, WDNR Storm Water Specialist  
Bill Biesmann, Vierbicher & Associates Inc. Engineer  
Joe Dorava, Vierbicher Associates Inc. Project Manager  
Sue Jones, Dane Co. Lakes & Watershed Coordinator  
Pete Jopke, Dane Co. Watershed Project Coordinator  
Craig Kunkel, Kunkel Engineering Group President

### Water Quality Issue Team

Lisa Conley, Town & Country RC&D, RRC  
Jayne Jenks, Waukesha Co. Conservation Specialist  
John Krug, City of Sun Prairie WWTP Superintendent  
Anne Miller, Rock Co. Conservation Technician  
Dan Rambo, Riveredge Nature Center  
Janice Redford, Friends of Cam-Rock Park  
Ellen Rulseh, Rock River Coalition, Stream Monitoring Coordinator

### Wetland/Shoreline Protection Issue Team

Tom Bernthal, WDNR Wetland Specialist  
Patricia Cicero, Jefferson Co. Resource Conservationist  
Audrey Greene, Walworth Co. Lakes Specialist  
Dan Hunt, WDNR Water Management Specialist  
Charlie Luthin, Wisconsin Wetlands Association  
Alice Klink, NRCS Wetland Biologist  
Mark Martin, WDNR Natural Areas Supervisor  
Lisa Reas, LJ Reas Consulting

## Rock River Basin Citizen Monitoring Program

### Training and Confluence

Kris Stepenuck  
Jim Peterson  
Kurt Welke  
Janice Redford  
Sue Josheff  
Helen Sarakinos  
Suzanne Wade

### Dane

Pete Jopke, Dane Co. Watershed Project, Coordinator  
Paula Allen  
Bill Biesmann  
Ray Cox  
Friends of Cam-Rock Park  
Friends of McCarthy Park  
Friends of Starkweather Creek  
Kay Gabriel  
Bret Hagemeyer  
Karen, Scott & Lance Johnson  
Jenny, Sam & Ben McGinley  
Fiona McTavish  
Don Nettum  
Ursula Petersen  
Dana Possin

Janice Redford  
Rebecca Schettler-Peterson  
Nancy Schlimgen  
Glenn Smith  
Vierbicher & Associates  
Joseph Washechek  
Debra Weitzel, Middleton High School

### Dodge

Ross Bachhuber  
Bob Behlke  
Jim, Sarah & Cheryl Congdon  
Laura Congdon  
John De Haan  
Rick Eckersdorfer  
Bill Ehlenbeck  
Gene Frings  
Cal Geiger  
Roger & Kim Gilligan  
Dan Heim  
Scott Hurlbert  
Jerry & Laurie Kiesow  
Hal Morgan  
Al Pater  
Kevin & Matthew Pea  
Kris Rigotti  
Tom & Doreen Schnaderbeck

Steve Schramm  
Paul, Carol & Roger Shirk  
Molly Stoddard, US FWS  
Kristen Waas  
Joel Wondra, Mayville High School

### Jefferson

Ellen Rulseh, Rock River Coalition Coordinator  
Douglas & James Bleecker  
Margaret Burlingham  
Shirley Ellis  
Scott & Teri Holloway  
Jayne Jenks  
Elvira Kau  
Les & Kennedi Kloss  
Matthew Loup  
Charles & Evelyn Payson  
Mary Wendt

### Rock

Anne Miller, Rock Co. Conservation Technician, Coordinator  
Taylor Ambrose  
Bill Barlass  
Brian Benson, Evansville High School  
E Cristina Carvajal

Becky Carvin  
Brian Davis  
Tim & Mary Dickinson  
Samantha Foster  
Lee Gamble  
James & Nancy Heidt  
Chuck & Lorraine Heidt  
Mary Johnson  
Jeff & Tracey Leider  
Carol Mankiewicz, Beloit College  
Carl & Aaron Mendelson  
Anne & Carolyn Miller  
Bruce Mulder, Rock County Christian School  
Ted & Mike Niehaus  
Jerry & Gloria Oleston  
Norman Pakes  
Elise Pope-Obeda, Beloit College  
Charles Schulte  
Penny & Gary Shackelford, Lake Koshkonong Wetlands Assoc  
Alan Siljenberg

### Walworth

Tania Kane  
Sheri Walz, UW Whitewater

### Washington

Steve Anderson, Slinger High School  
Stuart & Julie Bacon  
Steven & Raynelle Chmiel  
Stephanie Egner  
Bradley Hofmann  
Andrea Rose, Central Middle School

### Waukesha

Jayne Jenks, Waukesha Co. Conservation Specialist, Coordinator  
John & Beth Berchiatti  
Kathy & Juliana Bridge  
Lisa Conley  
Russ Evans  
Linda Foss  
Jeff Gryzwa  
Maureen McBroom  
Chip Meier  
Betty Jo & Jim Nelson  
Jerry & Kay Perkins  
Craig & Ann Runyard  
Richard Schlondrop  
Jeanne Weber  
Brad Weber  
Cheryl Woodworth

# Thank You to the Supporters of the Rock River Coalition

## Donors who have generously contributed in 2004:

### \$10-\$24

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Ruth Johnson, WDNR  
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Richard McLaughlin  
Steve Nass, Jefferson Co. Supervisor  
Ursula Petersen, WI DATCP  
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Kristen Waas, Courter Resource Group  
Larry Weidmann  
Ken Wiesner, WDNR

### \$25-\$49

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Tom & Lois Shearer  
Upper Rock River Ecosystem Partnership  
Vandewalle & Associates, Jennifer Kurt  
Village of Johnson Creek Green Committee  
Watertown Area Chamber of Commerce, Randy Roeseler  
Watertown Kiwanis Sunrise Club  
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Widmer's Cheese Cellars, Inc.

### \$50-\$99

City of Lake Mills, Steve Wilke  
City of Mayville, Sue Porter  
Green Lake Co. Department of Land Conservation  
Kunkel Engineering  
Village of Theresa  
Village of Johnson Creek, Water Utilities  
Warren Topel

### \$100-\$5,000

Cooper Power System  
Horicon State Bank  
Hustisford School District  
Glen Korntued  
Lake Sinissippi Association  
Laura Coleman - sponsorships  
Partnership for Rain Gardens  
Rock River Headwaters  
University of Wisconsin-Extension  
Larry & Suzanne Wade  
Wisconsin Women for Agriculture

### \$5,000 - \$20,000

Guardian Pipeline Settlement (Jefferson Fish Ladder)  
Quirk Foundation  
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

### Inkind Contributions

Many smaller items were received from individuals and businesses – thank you.

### \$50-\$500

Applied Ecological  
Designs by Drucker  
Midwest Prairie  
Prairie Nursery  
WalMart  
Wenonah Canoe

### >\$500

City of Watertown Parks  
Department of Natural Resources  
Dutch Designs  
Friends of Aztalan State Park  
Horicon Parks  
LanDesign by Margaret Burlingham  
Partnership for Rain Gardens, LLC  
University of Wisconsin-Extension



Rock River Basin



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### **Rock River Coalition Board of Directors**

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Cindy Arbiture – Past President  
Jefferson County Historical Alliance

Kevin Freber – Vice President  
Watertown Waste Water Treatment Plant

Margaret Burlingham – Secretary  
LanDesign by Margaret Burlingham

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Dave O'Malley  
Department of Natural Resources

Suzanne Wade  
University of Wisconsin-Extension Rock River Basin

### **2004 Staff**

Ellen Rulseh, Community Outreach Coordinator  
Scott Graves, Communications Specialist  
Tami Jackson, Communications Specialist

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Photo Credit: Ellen Rulseh, Suzanne Wade, & Margaret Burlingham