



Our 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"

Rock River Coalition
Board of Directors Meeting
UW-Extension, Jefferson, WI
June 15, 2009

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 4:40 pm by President Lisa Conley.

Attendance: Board members in attendance: Lisa Conley, Bill Biesmann, Patricia Cicero, Peter Hartz, Jim Koepke, Scott Taylor, Suzanne Wade, and Ken Wiesner. Staff in attendance: Ed Grunden.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes were approved on a motion from Wade and second from Cicero. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: The treasurer's report was accepted by a motion from Wiesner and a second from Biesmann. Motion carried. The most recent membership list was provided. IT was noted that the joint membership mailing done with the River Alliance of Wisconsin resulting in 11 new memberships.

Officer Elections: A motion was made by Wiesner and seconded by Cicero to re-elect Conley as President and Ruster as Treasurer. Motion carried. Wade motioned and Wiesner seconded to elect Cicero as Secretary. Motion carried. Wiesner motioned and Cicero seconded to elect Taylor as President-Elect. Motion carried. Wade requested that all members review the Board contact information and send her any additions or corrections. Home contact information should also be provided to create a contact list available for Board members only (it will not be shared with the public).

Old Business

a. Send your Legislator Down the River

Wiesner reported on the progress with planning the Send your Legislator Down the River (SYLDR) event and provided a handout. Wade and Conley will work on the program. Cicero and Taylor will work at the registration table. Biesmann and Grunden will handle photography. Board members should arrive at the event by 3:30 pm to help with set up.

b. Basin Educator budget situation

Wade explained how the UW-Extension and DNR have worked together to ensure funding for the Basin Educator positions. She provided a handout explaining how her time will be spent starting in July 1. Her work load will be mostly guided by grant money.

Wade mentioned that a survey of municipalities is being developed to determine their needs in terms of the GFlow model. Biesmann will assist in this effort. Hartz will be a Board contact for municipalities.

c. Volunteer monitoring report

The new Monitoring Assistant will start working in early July. Grunden reported that he plans to work on fundraising in July. The Board directed Grunden to share the names of businesses he plans to contact because Board members may be able to assist with businesses they personally know, and the list of businesses will be helpful when identifying additional businesses to contact. Grunden suggested starting a RRC face book site. Grunden reported that there are 2 potential donors for the Janesville school program: Seneca Foods and the Janesville wastewater treatment plant.

The Lake Mills Chamber of Commerce contacted Grunden about partnering on a biking event in the fall that would include stops at the Zeloski and London marshes. Grunden will get more information from them. The Board commented that a partnership could go forward only if there was a Board member (or perhaps Tim Reel) that wanted to take on this project. Another partnership that may go forward is with the Sierra Club who may recruit volunteers to do stream sampling.

Grunden reported that he received a great initial response from monitors about the Snapshot day which was held on Saturday, June 13. He will have more information on the success of the day after the data is collected.

Cicero stated that the intern in the Jefferson County LWCD office could possibly help with mapping the locations of the RRC volunteer monitoring sites.

d. River Education Center update

Hartz provided the history behind the concept of having a River Education Center planned on land owned by the Village of Johnson Creek. He already applied for a river planning grant and plans to revise the scope of work for a stormwater grant. The Village is assembling a planning team for this endeavor and Wade and Grunden will probably serve on the team.

e. Waterstar update

Wade reported that she is waiting to hear if the DNR grant is awarded for \$7,000 to cover the cost of sign development. The Town & Country RC&D is working on case studies.

f. GFlow computer purchase

The Basin Educator's laptop is being replaced, so the old one can be loaned to the RRC. Biesmann will determine if it can be used to run the GFlow model.

g. Governor's mansion buffer progress

Cicero reported that the Lake Leaders group working on the project developed and submitted informational materials to the DNR Secretary. The Secretary is supposed to present the information to the Governor.

h. Grant reports

Grunden stated that the phosphorus grant will be expiring at the end of June and he plans to close out the project. The sampling tubes were not tested.

i. Summer newsletter

The article deadline is Friday, July 3.

j. Glacial Heritage Area

Wade motioned and Koepke seconded to provide a letter of support for the Glacial Heritage Area. Motion passed.

k. Invasive species monitoring

Cicero reported that the RRC will host a training by the River Alliance of Wisconsin on Saturday, August 29 at the Lake Mills Community Center.

New Business

a. TMDL

Hartz will serve on an issue team or stakeholder group to help “think outside the box” for TMDL implementation.

b. Rock River Stormwater Group

Wade reported that the Rock River Stormwater Group is planning to help fund the cost of one RRC newsletter.

c. i. Possible new state initiatives: Wetland Tax incentives

The Wisconsin Wetland Association is talking to a state legislator on potential legislation.

c. i. Possible new state initiatives: County Lake & Watershed Commissions

The Wisconsin Association of Lakes is working with a state legislator on possible legislation that would allow all counties to form lake and watershed commissions similar to Dane County.

d. Correspondence

The Madison Metro Sewage District will be having a public input session on June 25th on future planning.

Future meeting dates

It was decided to not have a July meeting. August 11 or 12 was proposed as a future meeting date.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm on a motion from Cicero and second from Biesmann. Motion carried.

June 15, 2009 Board Meeting Report:

Ed Grunden – monitoring director

Activities and Results from January through June 15, 2009 are highlighted below:

- Training sessions held:
 - ~ Waukesha training session with Jane Jenks, individual training with Friends of Swan Creek and new monitors in Waukesha and Lake Mills
- Direct contact with monitors:
 - ~ through training sessions, field activities, and meetings in excess of 190 hours of direct contact has occurred
- Mapping of the Basin:
 - ~ 50+ monitors have been identified. Site visitation continues with photos and GPS recordings at each site. Ultimate goal is to have both computer (web page) and physical map of basin indicating monitoring sites
- Wetland monitoring activities:
 - ~ activities include: Annual Sandhill Crane Count, total bird surveys, marshland bird surveys, shorebird surveys, duck nesting surveys, and frog counts
- Educational contact with students:
 - ~ field event day was held for Johnson Creek 3rd Graders, and Janesville Craig 11th/12th graders
- Fund Raising activities:
 - ~ contact has been made with corporate personal from Seneca Foods, Jung Nursery, and field representatives from about twenty other basin located companies; with spring monitoring events being completed as of the end of June my focus for July is to request funding from all the contacts made
- New monitors added to the 'team':
 - ~ 16 new monitors have joined the team this spring with other showing interest but yet to commit
- Grant application work:
 - ~ at request of USFW a river grant to WDNR was produced and submitted, a resubmitting of the Senate and House of Representatives Appropriations Request was also submitted
- Networking activities:
 - ~ meetings with the WDNR, USFWS, USGS, UW-EXTENSION, and Sierra Club were held for various project discussions
 - ~ resident contact for various community concerns, bird identification, water issues, etc were made at the public's request (incidentally none of this was ever billed to Coalition as time)
- Conferences attended:
 - ~ State Conference for Monitoring Directors
 - ~ State Conference for Non-Profit Organizations (not billed to Coalition)
 - ~ personal time spent in Washington DC in Senate & House making key contacts with Senators/Representatives/ and aids (not billed to Coalition)

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<http://www.rockrivercoalition.org>

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

- Conference presentations:
 - ~ State School Board Conference – presentation help
 - ~ Regional Waste Water Operators Association Conference – presentation

- “Snap Shot Day”:
 - ~ this is an attempt to get all monitors out on one specific day (June 13th) between the hours of 8am – 2pm to monitor their local waterway. This is a copy of the program utilized in Iowa that has met with success and is an outcome of ‘think tank’ meetings between myself, monitoring coordinators of Rock, Dane, and Waukesha Counties, Kris Stepenuck (Tier I coordinator) and Chris Clayton (Tier II coordinator). Preliminary indications were that it was going to be a success, but actual success will be evaluated in July when Kris Stepenuck and I meet to review the event.