



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”

**Board of Directors Minutes
Wednesday, May 22, 2013**

Attending this Meeting: Jane Carlson, Patricia Cicero, Jim Kerler, Jim Koepke, Scott Taylor, Suzanne Wade, Joe Zakovec
Absent: Eric Compas, Joleen Stinson

Next Scheduled Meeting: Wednesday, June 26, 4:45 PM -- UW Extension, Jefferson

Call to Order: Patricia called the meeting to order at 4:50 PM.

Introductions: New board member Joe Zakovec joined the meeting and was introduced to board members. Joe is Wastewater Superintendant for the city of Janesville. He will provide contact information for the website.

Officer Elections: Following up on a task we did not get to at the Annual Meeting last weekend, Jim Koepke moved we reappoint existing officers for the coming year. Jane second. Motion passed by voice vote with all voting in favor.

Approval of Minutes from 4/23/13 Board Meeting: Changes were made to the minutes. Suzanne moved approval of amended 4/23/13 minutes. Scott second. Motion passed by voice vote with all votes in favor.

Announcements: Scott is a new father! He and his wife announced the birth of baby Cyrus.

Treasurer's Report: Fund Summary: Suzanne noted Accounts Receivable is still being adjusted. Unrestricted funds account has been updated since the last meeting but is still a little low. The total should end up at about \$11,000 as indicated under "Reconciliation". Budget: Per Suzanne we still need to find about \$1100 from new memberships to make our budget. Donations remain below years past. Scott moved acceptance of the treasurer's report. Jim Koepke second. Motion passed by voice vote with all votes in favor.

Membership Report: Report dated 5/15/13 distributed. Suzanne urged board members to contact people whose names they recognize (that haven't simply converted to family memberships) and request they renew their memberships. Board members should also encourage corporate memberships. Patricia asked for a volunteer to invite experts that participated in the Bioblitz to become members. **ACTION:** Jane agreed to draft a letter for this purpose.

Stream Monitoring Report: Patricia told Nancy not to put together a report because she has been very busy this Spring and didn't have the time.

Wetland Monitoring: A number of people at last weekend's successful Bioblitz expressed interest in continuing their monitoring work. However grant funding available over the last 7 years is coming to a close. The possibility of having a chapter to engage in this arose. ACTION: Patricia will ask Jeanne for her thoughts.

Jeanne has accepted a job with Wisconsin DNR. She still has some tasks to complete for us though there is some confusion about how many budgeted hours remain. Patricia is looking into this and has asked Jeanne to complete her remaining tasks including consolidation of lists of species, poster (including Bioblitz info) and web updates. Patricia noted this could entail some unbudgeted funding. Per Suzanne this kind of adjustment is not uncommon and the money could come from other areas that are consuming less funding than expected. Suzanne moved we allocate up to 30 hours from unrestricted funds to pay for additional required Wetland Monitoring tasks. Jim Koepke second. Motion passed by voice vote with all votes in favor.

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Annual Meeting Comments: The Annual Meeting elicited very positive impressions. Suzanne thought it the best ever due to ambience of the Korth Park location and the thoughtful comments made by members and awardees. (The Tyrannena beer also elicited its own positive comments.) Suzanne asked for photos of the event for the newsletter. **ACTION:** Suzanne will send an email soliciting photos be placed in drop box.

20th Anniversary Celebration: Suzanne intends to conduct a June 13th planning meeting and will announce a location soon by email. Current and past board members will be invited. The celebration itself will occur in 2014.

Review of Employee Policies: **ACTION:** Patricia asked Scott Taylor to join Jim Kerler in reviewing the policy and Scott agreed – Patricia will send a copy to all board members, along with a copy of the Bylaws.

Send Your Legislator Down the River (SYLDR): Patricia met with Steve Grabow, Jim Kerler and Mike Kelly to discuss possible locations for the event. The Crawfish River near Waterloo is desirable due to the new trailhead in Waterloo (see below) and the pre-settlement-like condition of the Crawfish north of Highway 19. There is concern however over water depth. **ACTION:** Jim Kerler agreed to query friends who plan to paddle the north section in the near future to determine conditions there.

Website has been down recently per Patricia. Suzanne has been looking into the possibility of making direct entries using WordPress. Alex Drucker, our webmaster, said it would work but he has no experience with it and could not provide technical support. He said he could identify people who support the package though.

Waterloo Trailhead: Across from Trek factory in Waterloo, under the auspices of the Glacial Heritage Area. Money has been raised toward a building but additional funds are being sought. Per Suzanne we might eventually gain office and meeting space in the building. **ACTION:** Joleen will be sending out a Doodle Poll to see when potential attendees are available to discuss this project.

Potential Johnson Creek Chapter: Suzanne reported that there are some people who might be interested in starting a chapter of the RRC in the Johnson Creek area. **ACTION:** Suzanne will be in contact with them.

Stewardship Fund: Reductions to bonding levels and potential sale of properties has been advancing in the Joint Finance Committee. Jane suggested we might want to send a letter supporting protection of lands that have been acquired to buffer runoff. **ACTION:** Jane agreed to look into this further and share findings by email. Suzanne moved that, depending on Jane's findings, we authorize her to write a letter regarding the selling of land that could affect water quality. Jim Koepke second. Motion passed by voice vote with all votes in favor.

Next Newsletter: July 5th deadline per Suzanne. Jane volunteered to be one of the editors to submit information to Suzanne. Joe Zakovec agreed to be the other editor. Potential topics for articles include SYLDR, Bioblitz, rainfall and agriculture, wastewater, TMDL controversy, tourism in the Rock River Basin.

Membership Brochures: Per Patricia we need to print more copies, and add some updates. Suzanne has done this in the past and is willing to enter any changes required. She suggested someone else's viewpoint might refresh the information. **ACTION:** Suzanne will ask Joleen to become involved. Jim Kerler agreed to assist depending on timing of the effort.

Board Meetings: Patricia is looking to incorporate new board member schedules into our timing.

Adjournment: Scott moved adjournment. Jane second. All votes in favor. Patricia adjourned the meeting at 6:29 PM.

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This was not part of Johnson Creek Chapter discussion. I would move it up in the Wetland discussion: A number of people at last weekend's successful Bioblitz expressed interest in continuing their monitoring work. However grant funding available over the last 7 years is coming to a close. The possibility of having a chapter to engage in this arose. **ACTION:** Patricia will ask Jeanne for her thoughts.¶