



#### 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 Monday, June 24, 2013

**Attending this Meeting:** Patricia Cicero, Jim Koepke, Joe Zakovec, Eric Compas, Suzanne Wade, Jane Carlson, Scott Taylor

**Guests:** None

**Absent:** Jim Kerler, Joleen Stinson

**Next Regular Meeting:** Wednesday, July 24, 2013, 4:45 PM -- UW Extension, Jefferson

**Call to Order:** Patricia called the meeting to order at 4:48 PM.

**Approval of Minutes from May 22, 2013 Board Meeting:** Patricia distributed the minutes that included her corrections. Jane moved to approve the corrected minutes. Joe seconded. All votes in favor.

#### Announcements:

- Patricia announced a training program sponsored by River Network and River Alliance of Wisconsin. The topic is board effectiveness. It is Monday, September 9, from 3 to 8 pm in Milwaukee, and is free for us because we are members of these organizations. Patricia and Eric tentatively plan to attend. Patricia will find out if there is a limit to how many people can attend from RRC for free and will let the rest of the board know.
- Jim Koepke announced that the USEPA and WDNR held a Rock River Recovery (TMDL Implementation Plan) meeting with the agricultural sector team on June 12 and Jim attended. Jim is a member of this sector team. They plan to meet every other month to work on TMDL implementation issues for agriculture.
- Jim Koepke announced that he and his wife will attend this Thursday's Water Management on Farms: A SWAN Bus Tour. Lisa Conley emailed the announcement about this tour to us on June 10. Jim will take photos and report back to the board.
- **Treasurer's Report:** Suzanne presented the treasurer's report, starting with the budget summary. She provided additional explanation for the benefit of new board members. We are low on new memberships and donations compared to what we budgeted. She explained we keep a close eye on unrestricted funds; the current balance is \$5,661.22 but work on a number of grants is finishing up and then we'll have unrestricted funds of \$16,532.35. Suzanne handed out and reviewed the separate grant summary. The first three Horicon Marsh grants have been in place several years. Patricia is finishing up these grants and money will be in soon. We originally got involved in the Horicon Marsh project to see if there was a way we could use volunteers to monitor phosphorus, but USGS and WDNR decided there was not. FBFCW = Friends of Badfish Creek Watershed, our chapter. Jim Koepke made a motion to accept the treasurer's report. It was seconded by Scott. All votes in favor.
- **Membership Report:** Suzanne distributed the Membership Summary and mentioned that Eric's membership payment was received but is not recorded yet. Sometimes people switch from individual to family or other category and these are noted on the summary. We have 39 individual members this year which is lower than normal. Family memberships are doing pretty well. In general, though, we are behind our budget goals this year. **ACTION:** Suzanne and the other board members will continue to work on encouraging former members to re-join and gaining new members.
- **Stream Monitoring Report:** Patricia chose not to ask Nancy for a report because of her schedule. Patricia noted that we received most of the money for our Yahara WINs contract with the possible exception of mileage, and we received all of the money for the Friends of Lake Wingra contract.
- **Wetland Monitoring Report:** Patricia distributed Jeanne's report which is in the form of an article for possible inclusion in the newsletter and local newspapers. It's a summary of the BioBlitz. If we need it

shortened or reformatted for the newsletter we should let Jeanne know. Jeanne has many photos as well; Joe and Jane should select around 3 or 4 (err on the side of more photos and Suzanne will see what fits in the newsletter). The board sincerely thanks Jeanne for her efforts on the BioBlitz.

#### **Old Business:**

- **Fundraising:** Jane will complete the letter to the BioBlitz participants which will be sent in late July with a copy of our summer newsletter.
- **20th Anniversary:** Suzanne reported that Patricia, Jim Kerler, and Suzanne met. Suzanne sent separate minutes to the board via e-mail that will serve as a more complete report than these minutes. Their meeting started with a history of the RRC. Our group started in 1994 as Rock River Corridor Coalition and focused on communities on the main stem of the Rock River. We dealt with issues like tourism, history, and culture, and held forums on municipal issues. Emphasis was on a river trail system. By the time of 1996 incorporation we were RRC but with a broader focus. In 1998 the board decided to expand basin-wide and WDNR asked RRC to be a partner with the WDNR and UW-Extension (Suzanne was the new basin educator) and become more water quality focused. Goals for future: more chapters, regular offerings either knowledge-based field trips, activities, or art. Suzanne sent additional information to the board by e-mail including a draft e-mail that she would send to potential partners and a list of ideas for topics/activities. Jim suggested partnering with UW students on how to feed the world or other topic such as fresh water. Eric agreed he wants to get the students involved. Joe suggested a Janesville WWTP tour. ACTION: board members should contact potential host organizations and submit ideas by November to gear up for a 2014-2016 20th anniversary celebration. Suzanne also mentioned that the WDNR would like us to partner with them on some forums tied to the WWTP permit reissuance schedule throughout the basin.
- **Review of Employee Policies:** Scott reported that he and Jim Kerler spoke and both were going to review the policies and then regroup. Scott felt the policies are rigorous and detailed. He gave an example of one activity contained in our policies that could be implemented to help avoid problems. Scott's wife is on the Fair Share board and he'd like to review their policies and see if there is anything to be learned from them. This item will stay on the agenda for further discussion.
- **Send Your Legislator Down the River:** Patricia distributed a timeline of action items. We're looking at Crawfish River - Mud Lake area. We are now thinking of launching at #30 and paddling up to Mud Lake. We may be able to use the Voyager canoes but there is no pier at these locations so folks will need to wade out and the gravel launch will need to be used. We will plan on not using them, but we will put in the literature that we will use them if we have sufficient water depth. Patricia has a call in to the WDNR biologist to ask about water levels, facilities, projects to highlight, etc. Scott contacted Scott Fitzgerald's office and spoke with a staffer but they were busy with the budget. Scott then sent an e-mail. Scott did the same with John Jagler's office. If Scott Fitzgerald's or John Jagler's offices say no to co-sponsoring because of the event name or other reasons, we may consider a local mayor or other state legislator to co-sponsor. We need to decide about a picnic or restaurant. Rock River pizza may be an option if it's a Monday. Joleen said she would work with Willy Street Coop again if we go the picnic route. Hubbleton Inn may be an option per Suzanne. ACTION: Board members should review Patricia's list and let Patricia know what they can do. Patricia will send Scott a sample letter we've used in the past. Scott will call CamRock in Cambridge for a canoe rental quote. Suzanne will contact Jim Congdon to see if he knows who at WDNR is in charge of the outdoor skills program from which we used to borrow canoes. We need updated officials for towns, etc. - we could pay Marie to do this if a board member doesn't volunteer.
- **Website:** Our volunteer webmaster, Marsha, has been using Dreamweaver. Marsha suggested changing the platform to something that will let people make changes more easily. Board members believe the web site needs to be updated more often. Joleen and Patricia met with Marsha when this first came up. Patricia will ask Joleen if she wants to work on this and if so will forward all the emails to her.
- **Waterloo Regional Trailhead:** Suzanne, Eric and Joleen met with Laura Cotting, an alder at Waterloo. As part of Glacial Heritage they are putting in a trailhead and wanted to make sure local groups have an

opportunity for displays. These would be by electronic bulletin board and alcoves with opportunities for display. Suzanne and Joleen gave input on the new room design, which is small. The site is adjacent to Garland Reserve which is a drumlin and a sacred Ho Chunk area. Laura will keep us in the loop and will ask for design ideas for a kiosk.

- **Johnson Creek Friends Group:** There is nothing new to report on this potential new chapter; Suzanne is trading emails with Peter Hartz. The Friends of Mauneshia River group is potentially interested as well - one of the alders at Waterloo is looking at this. We will need board members to be liaisons to each friends group (Scott is the liaison with FBFCW).
- **Newsletter:** The deadline is July 5th. Articles will include BioBlitz, SYLDR, introduction of new board members, Rock River stormwater group, blue-green algae, a few others, and back page announcements. It sounds like there will be enough articles. Joe will email Eric Compas for a summary of his background and a photo. Suzanne and Patricia reminded us not to edit any photos submitted for the newsletter. These and other instructions for submission of articles are on our web site.
- **New Membership Brochures:** There is nothing new to report; see last meeting minutes.
- **Potentially Restorable Wetlands:** Scott is considering applying for a \$3,000 lake grant for a scaled-back project possibly focused on the Horicon Marsh watersheds. Ducks Unlimited has \$1 million from a foundation for projects in the Horicon Marsh area and is excited about this. Applications for lake grants are due August 1. We would need a \$1,000 match and could approach a few larger businesses in the area for this. Scott made a motion that we should apply for the grant, Suzanne seconded, and all votes were in favor. Suzanne made a motion that we pass a resolution agreeing to be the fiscal agent and to abide by WDNR rules regarding the grant. Jane seconded. All votes in favor. **ACTION:** Scott will apply for the grant. Jim Kerler to assign a number for the resolution.

#### **New Business:**

- **Asian Carp:** Lisa Conley asked if we would like to sign on to letter of support from the National Wildlife Federation for HB 358 national strategy adding the Mississippi River and Ohio River basins to the Great Lakes plan for Asian carp strategy, and placing USFWS in lead on new effort with ACE, USGS, and other agencies. The HB 358 supports state and regional efforts and best practices for the control of Asian carp. We are in the Mississippi River Basin and certainly don't want Asian carp in our waterways. Scott moved to add RRC to the letter. Jim Koepke seconded. All votes in favor. **ACTION:** Patricia will add our name.
- **Stewardship:** Jane noted that she was too late to write a letter to the legislature but we could sign on to the Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters letter to Governor Walker to request a line item veto on the elimination of stewardship funds from the budget. Suzanne moved that we sign on to the WI League of Conservation voters letter, and Jim Koepke seconded. All votes in favor. **ACTION:** Jane will look into adding our name.

Joe noted that he will be gone the next meeting. Suzanne suggested we may be able to put labels on newsletters at the next meeting..

- **Adjournment:** Scott moved adjournment. Jim Koepke seconded. Patricia adjourned the meeting at 6:49 PM.