



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, January 23, 2013**

Next Regular Meeting: February 27, 2013 – UW Extension, Jefferson

Attending this Meeting: Patricia Cicero, Jim Kerler, Jim Koepke, Joleen Stinson, Suzanne Wade

Guests: None

Absent: Jane Carlson, Scott Taylor (Karla Eggink has moved and left the Board.)

Call to Order: Patricia called the meeting to order at 4:43 PM.

Approval of Minutes from 11/28/12: Joleen moved approval. Suzanne second. All votes in favor except Jim Kerler abstained, not having been present at that meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Suzanne reviewed the 3 reports distributed at the meeting.

Jim Koepke moved approval of the Treasurer's Report. Jim Kerler second. Passed unanimously.

GFlow Project Funds: Project deliverables were completed about 4 years ago. We did not charge management fees on the project. Suzanne proposes to convert remaining funds to unrestricted, using it on an entire newsletter that would have a groundwater focus. (Cost would be about \$1000.) Joleen moved we transfer remaining GFlow funds from the restricted account to unrestricted for use in funding a groundwater-oriented newsletter and that remaining funds be absorbed. Jim Koepke second. Motion passed unanimously.

Patricia noted that RoxAnne has asked that our tax forms be contracted out since she has not prepared them before. (She feels she could do it if shown how though.) **ACTION:** Patricia will ask River Alliance if they can help, and may discuss other options with RoxAnne.

Membership: Patricia suggested that when a member changes membership options (e.g., individual to family, municipal to affiliate, etc.) we show the previous option on a separate line and check the appropriate year boxes.

Stream Monitoring Report: Patricia reviewed the report. Nancy plans to go through the Stream Monitoring Committee to facilitate coordinators better understanding the linkages to the Rock River basin in each watershed. Jim Congdon has agreed to help with communications of our stream monitoring program. Nancy will work to expand the Yahara watershed stream monitoring with a proposal for funding to Yahara WINs. Suzanne moved the board approve Nancy submitting an application to Yahara WINs for Citizen Monitoring provided the application is approved by Patricia Cicero and one other board member. Jim Koepke second. All votes in favor.

Suzanne noted we are really low on equipment and should undertake an effort to raise funds for restocking – about \$300 per team. She suggested we could approach entities such as banks, Walmart and other businesses as potential donors. **ACTION:** Joleen will obtain names of Rock County banks (and their presidents). Patricia will do the same for Jefferson County, and Jim Kerler for Dodge County.

Suzanne also suggested we consider a budget item for fundraising expenses, to support RRC employee hours spent fundraising. (This is not currently part of the employee responsibilities but Nancy has requested funds for this.)

Wetland Monitoring Report: Jeanne has scheduled a "Bioblitz Weekend" at Zeloski Marsh for May 18th and 19th, 2013. (Bioblitz is a 24-hour study of a natural area with a public outreach component.) Other groups such as

Rock Lake Improvement Association may participate. **ACTION:** The DNR's Frog and Toad person may not be available that weekend so Patricia will direct Jeanne to Jim Kerler (who participates in the DNR program) as a potential backup presenter on frog and toad monitoring. Korth Park shelter will be made available by the county at no charge. **ACTION:** Suzanne and Patricia will make suggestions to Jeanne on the scope and focus for this event.

Employee Reviews: Suzanne and Patricia have met with Nancy who is doing excellent work. The board went into closed session to discuss salary treatment in light of our human resource manual, developed in 2006.

Board Retreat: Scheduled for March 9th, 2013. Patricia has invited Nancy to attend. Nancy asked for suggestions on items she should discuss.

Climate Adaptation Webinar Suzanne discussed the project being arranged with the Environmental Law Institute. We would subcontract T&C RC&D (Beth Gehred) to organize it. Per Suzanne RRC will get a few dollars per hour for our portion.

Friends of Lake Wingra: Patricia and Nancy will attend their 2/7/13 meeting, encouraging them to become an affiliate of RRC.

Rock River Stormwater Group: The group consists of 9 communities on the Rock River main stem. We are a nonpaying partner of the group. They are interested in hiring a local education coordinator to replace an out-of-state contractor. They sent out a request for qualifications per Suzanne. She suggests we apply, using her services, charging \$65/hour and paying Suzanne \$55/hour. We could offer Nancy and Jeanne the opportunity to be stormwater educators, as well as use an intern for some functions. Suzanne proposes 250 hours of her time and 200 hours of educator time, with more information in Suzanne's 1/22 email. Joleen moved Suzanne submit the proposal to Rock River Stormwater Group for up to \$37,000 in total project cost. Jim Koepke seconded. All votes in favor except Suzanne abstained.

Website discussion: Tabled until February meeting.

Board Member Recruitment: Jeanne provided Patricia with information on potential board members from the UW Whitewater staff. We have two open slots – one full three-year term and one remainder of a term. Patricia will approach one person who has shown related interests. She is looking for other names to consider.

Annual Meeting Awards – An article in the winter 2013 Rock River Reflections outlines the award classifications along with names of recent winners. Deadline for the next newsletter is March 22nd. Suzanne will approach Jane and Scott to serve on awards committee. It was noted we could present these awards at the annual meeting, which could occur coincident with the Bioblitz. Otherwise the date for the event would be the second Tuesday, May 14th.

Newsletter Editors for next issue: Jim Kerler will work on this. Patricia will email Scott and Jane to see if they can help.

Joleen moved adjournment, Jim Koepke seconded. All votes in favor. Patricia adjourned the meeting at 6:49 PM.