



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, February 27, 2013**

Attending this Meeting: Patricia Cicero, Jim Kerler, Jim Koepke, Suzanne Wade, Scott Taylor

Guests: None

Absent: Jane Carlson, Joleen Stinson

Next Regular Meeting: Wednesday, March 27, 2013, 4:45 PM -- UW Extension, Jefferson

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

Approval of Minutes from 1/23/13 Board Meeting: Copies of the minutes were not available for review, so they will be approved at the next meeting.

Announcements:

- Patricia has spoken to Eric Compas about possible board membership. He expressed interest in sitting in on a board meeting.
- Patricia and Jeanne have discussed having the annual meeting in concert with the BioBlitz at Zeloski Marsh and would like to move ahead with planning this.
- Patricia distributed a flyer for the *Wheel Against Weeds* event on May 11th
- **Treasurer's Report:** Suzanne reviewed the fund summary. We have \$6567.83 in unrestricted funds, which are expected to rise to \$16,700.48 after grant funds are received. A second spreadsheet handout details restricted funds. Suzanne also reviewed a Grant Summary. Several grants should be zeroing out soon -- Quirk and 2010 DNR Horicon Marsh grants have zero remaining grant funds now. Scott moved acceptance of the treasurers report. Jane second. All votes in favor.
- **Membership Report:** Suzanne distributed the Membership Summary. We are behind our budget goals this year. Many 2012 members have not yet renewed, though some just switched to family membership (as noted on the report). **ACTION:** Suzanne and the other board members will continue to work on this.
- **Stream Monitoring Report:** Patricia encouraged the board to read the report and ask questions.
- **Wetland Monitoring Report:** Patricia encouraged the board to read the report and ask questions.

Old Business:

- **Friends of Lake Wingra – possible contract:** Per Patricia they are already incorporated so are not eligible to become a chapter. (They are not a 501c3.) They could benefit by having Nancy do some work for them however. Nancy attended their meeting and they suggested an annual agreement for 400 hours/year (7.5 hours/week). Their board submitted a *draft* Memorandum of Agreement to us for this work, suggesting an annual up front payment of \$10,000. We would act as their fiscal agent. Patricia suggested we could develop a contract similar to what we have with Town and Country RC&D. Deliverables will need to be clearly defined, and will need to allow for changes based on workload. Board consensus was that Patricia should explore the opportunity further through negotiations. **ACTION:** Patricia will explore further.
- **Yahara WINS:** We will providing monitoring coordination for Yahara WINS. Per Suzanne, we submitted a proposal for at least \$21,000, with \$450 for administrative time by Roxanne. Nancy's time is for recruitment, training, equipment ordering and networking between groups.
- **Rock River Stormwater Group, Education Coordinator:** Suzanne has submitted a proposal in response to their email request. It includes work to be done by Suzanne, Nancy and possibly Jeanne. Patricia noted

Suzanne's presentation was well received by the group's interview panel. Suzanne feels the proposal should compete well with others the group received. Total proposed revenue is \$36,950.

- **Potentially Restorable Wetlands:** Scott discussed this project with Tom Bernthall at WDNR, including the possibility of an EPA grant (which would have to go to DNR, not RRC) funding the effort. Scott eventually concluded DNR's interest level might not be high enough to proceed. There may not be enough shared interest, and capacity on our part, to justify pursuit of the EPA grant as we would need to come up with \$15K. **ACTION:** Scott will talk with Wisconsin Wetlands about potential for McKnight or Lake Grant funding of a smaller scale project. Jane is also providing input on this project. Ducks Unlimited got \$1M for Horicon restoration work, so we might be able to pursue something in that area. Alice Klink is WRP person at NRCS – involved in planning specifics, though there may also be others we should discuss this with.
- **Board Retreat - Saturday, March 9, 9 am - 3 pm:** Patricia got an OK to have the retreat at UWEX in Jefferson, and Jane is checking into the possibility of a cabin on Rock Lake. **ACTION:** Patricia will provide the final decision on a site via email. **ACTION:** Patricia will bring veggie chili for lunch and circulated a signup sheet on which others agreed to contribute refreshments. Topics for the retreat include brainstorming award nominees (elected officials, businesses, educators, etc.) – **ACTION:** Scott agreed to help with nominees.

New Business:

- **Budget:** Suzanne reviewed the Income Statement, noting the options for addressing current shortfalls in funding. We are doing fine for this year, but if we don't increase memberships or donations above where they are now we will be in trouble next year. Budget is ready to be approved as long as we are aware of this concern. Patricia has been working with Jeanne and Nancy to make sure they are submitting their hours to the right budget lines. Scott moved approval. Jim Koepke second. All votes in favor.
- **Dane County Environmental Council Grant for Equipment:** We needed a partner so Nancy teamed us with the Friends of Pheasant Branch for a joint request. This grant request will be submitted tomorrow, and will total \$4210.38 for equipment used specifically in stream monitoring training. Jim Koepke moved we approve release of the proposal. Jane second. All votes in favor.
- **Update on Taxes:** Per Patricia, Roxanne is proceeding to obtain assistance with tax preparation.
- **Monitoring Conference Attendance by Jeanne and Nancy:** The Citizen Monitoring Conference is April 5-6 in Wisconsin Rapids. Both Jeanne and Nancy would like to attend. Cost is \$50 each for registration, While lodging is \$99/room, plus mileage. We could encourage carpooling. Suzanne moved we cover registration, shared hotel room and mileage with carpooling encouraged. Jane second. All votes in favor.

Scott moved we pay Nancy for one 8 hour day. Jim Kerler second. All votes in favor. Suzanne moved we pay for 4 hours of Jeanne's time at the Wetlands Conference, Scott second. All votes in favor.

- **Rock River Trail Initiative Council:** Jim Kerler reported the council is beginning to formalize its structure and responsibilities. Consensus on our board was that we will support the effort with promotion through our newsletter and/or website. We don't expect to be able to raise funds for the trail. **ACTION:** Jim will bring any other concerns that arise back to the board for discussion.
- **Greener Oconomowoc request:** The City of Oconomowoc proposing to extend a road ("Thackery Trail") through wetlands. Tom DePease of Greener Oconomowoc requested our help in assessing the impacts and supporting protection of the wetlands. Suzanne suggested that we don't have staff to assess impacts and without some specific involvement by one of our staff or board we aren't in a position to draw conclusions. **ACTION:** Patricia will respond to Tom DePease based on our policy which states this.

- **City of Delafield request:** Per Patricia, the city will be applying for a DNR river protection grant to remove and replace an above-ground pipe carrying fresh water from Nagawicka Lake to a historic fish hatchery. They would like to replace it with a buried pipe using directional boring. Suzanne moved we submit a letter of support. Scott second. All votes in favor. ACTION: Jim Kerler will prepare a letter for Patricia's signature.
- **Other Requests for Letter of Support:** We may receive other similar letters (to Delafield's) as DNR grant money is sought. ACTION: Jim Kerler will prepare responses once Patricia determines they are in line with our mission. If necessary she will contact board members to gain consensus.
- **Friends of Pheasant Branch request:** Per Patricia, Nancy wrote a grant to hire a naturalist to train teachers and students for stream monitoring. RRC is not involved but the action supports our mission. Jane moved Patricia send the letter Nancy has prepared. Scott second. All votes in favor. ACTION: Patricia will send the letter.
- **Town and Country RC&D Representative:** Lisa has offered to serve as our representative. Consensus is that would be a good thing. ACTION: Patricia will appoint Lisa to act as our representative.
- **Town and Country RC&D, ELI Webinars:** Per Suzanne, Town and Country would manage the work that Suzanne used to do. They would seek a \$4000 grant for Beth Gehred to run four webinars. Suzanne requested some money be added to support promotion via our newsletter. Scott and Suzanne would help organize the tasks.
- **Newsletter Articles - Deadline: March 22, 2013: ACTION: Jim Kerler & Scott will collect articles for this newsletter.** Patricia sent some feelers to Clean Wisconsin's Melissa Malott (handbook on P management). Suzanne recommended Earth Day articles (e.g., Sierra Club 50th). Jane will check whether Yahara WINS would like to submit an article. Annual meeting and award recipients can be announced in this issue.
- **Meeting Time for March 27th:** Patricia will talk to Joleen, then announce a date.
- **Adjournment:** Scott moved adjournment. Jim Koepke second. Patricia adjourned the meeting at 7:27 PM.