



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, April 23rd, 2013**

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

Guests: Eric Compas

Absent: Jane Carlson, Scott Taylor

Next Regular Meeting: Wednesday, May 22, 4:45 PM -- UW Extension, Jefferson

Call to Order: Patricia called the meeting to order at 4:45 PM.

Approval of Minutes from 3/27/13 Board Meeting:

Joleen moved approval of amended 3/27/13 minutes. Suzanne second. All votes were in favor.

Treasurer's Report: Suzanne shared a new set of reports, noting some apparent inconsistencies. **ACTION:** Patricia said she will complete Horicon project account activities before the next meeting, which should reconcile restricted and unrestricted funds. Per Jim Koepke, Waukesha Agribusiness will be renewing their membership and submitting \$300.

Membership Report: Report distributed. Per Suzanne we are doing quite well though we still need to increase memberships. Patricia noted that the letter discussed last time will be going out soon.

Stream Monitoring Report: Report distributed. Per Patricia the Water Action Volunteer program will donate four WAV1 kits to us. (Also see Yahara Wins notes below.)

Wetland Monitoring: Patricia noted that Jeanne was pleased with our Zeloski monitoring program being highlighted as a successful example at the Citizen Monitoring Conference. She is still making arrangements on the Bioblitz. (See below.)

Old Business:

Annual Meeting/Awards Planning: Patricia handed out a draft schedule for the Bioblitz and Annual Meeting.

The board discussed activities for the annual report – previous activity reports were provided in a handout.

ACTION: Patricia will contact Scott to confirm he can arrange for a report on Friends of Badfish Creek. **ACTION:** Suzanne will provide Water Star writeup and assemble the report. She needs input by May 9th. Patricia reminded everyone to purchase a meal for \$16, provided by Willie Street Coop in Madison. Award names are in the newsletter. Suzanne has a list of past awardees back through 1995, with a couple of years unaccounted for.

ACTION: Joleen will contact Sheila DeForest about potentially joining the board. **ACTION:** Jim Kerler will contact Mike Kelly. (**ACTION:** Patricia will send a reminder and an email reminder about the Annual Meeting and board vacancies to members who have provided email addresses. She will obtain addresses from Suzanne via DropBox.) Patricia described areas where help is needed and obtained Board volunteers.

Board Vacancy: Guest Eric Compas attended to gain familiarity with RRC and to consider a position on our board. He described the work he does as Professor of Geography and Geology at UW-Whitewater where he is seeking tenure. He has interests in cartography, environmental human issues and GIS. Has worked for Yellowstone National Park, and on marine issues in Australia, and started the Campus Sustainability Project, procuring it's funding, He is also involved with SAGE (Students Allied for a Greener Earth) program and student water monitoring.

Tax Filing: Roxanne obtained help from Jennifer and expects to have this complete by the end of April.

Yahara WINS Proposal: Patricia described our proposal for helping with adaptive management plan monitoring. Patricia, Suzanne and Nancy will attend the Yahara Wins meeting to present the proposal next week.

Review of Employee Policies: Patricia recently forwarded the policies to Jim Kerler and will check whether Scott or Jane can also review them.

Send Your Legislator Down the River (SYLDR): Patricia is working on putting together a planning session at Tyranena Brewery, with interested paddlers. Looking at a mid-August event date. We will need to look for a legislative sponsor.

New Business:

Waterloo Regional Trailhead:

This is an educational site associated with the Glacial Heritage area, funded by Trek, McKay and other businesses. Fundraiser to be held next week – see Patricia’s recent email. Patricia will meet with Laura Cotting, who is planning it, to get input on our interests, including our own display and those of others, as well as educational plans at the concept level – see current RRC newsletter article. Suzanne will be involved, as will Joleen, (and potentially Eric, if it is delayed until June.)

Website: Patricia and Joleen met with Marsha Vomastic (who implements website changes) in November to consider changes that would increase the ability for multiple people to update the website. One service they have considered is WordPress. The basic version is free but the billable version is required for plug-ins and other features. This would also require an additional hosting service. We paid \$296 to Alex Drucker for our current web hosting. **ACTION:** Suzanne will discuss WordPress options with Alex. Eric noted he is knowledgeable on WordPress and can provide some assistance.

20th Anniversary Celebration: Suzanne reviewed planning efforts and is looking to discuss this further on Tuesday, June 13th, as announced in the Newsletter. She will invite past board members and very active members, and plans to provide food and beverages. Potential meeting locations were provided, and Eric will check on availability of a city building on Whitewater Lake.

Future Wetland Monitoring: This project will be coming to an end based on grant funding. We may want to re-engage in a similar effort every 3-5 years, including running a bioblitz. We would need to plan for funding such an effort. Other restorations that could be candidates include Turtle Creek and a site near Jefferson.

Johnson Creek Friends Group: A group is forming around restoration of a Rock River watershed corridor in Johnson Creek. Suzanne is communicating with them through Peter Hartz around the possibility of becoming a chapter of RRC. She enumerated the requirements and advantages that would apply to the group and to the coalition.

Send Your Legislator Down the River: Patricia contacted several people who expressed interest in helping pick a 2013 location during last year’s event, but she received only one response. Rock Lake is a possibility. We will need to work around the state budget negotiations. Mid August seems most desirable. Patricia will arrange a planning session for these people and our board at Tyranena Brewing.

Adjournment: Joleen moved adjournment. Jim Koepke second. All votes in favor. Suzanne, having taken over for Patricia late in the meeting, adjourned the meeting at 6:32 PM.