

Friends of Badfish Creek Watershed

Plan Committee Minutes

Thursday, December 16, 2010

6:30-8:00pm

Stoughton Public Library

Attending: Lynne Diebel, Sharon Beall, James Danky, Marsha Vomastic, Christine Felton, Ingrid West

Excused: Scott Taylor, Caroline Werner

Welcome, new members!

Christine Felton lives in Evansville and works at Thoreau Elementary in Madison, where she helped start a Green Team. She may want to bring students from the team to help with projects. She likes to bird at MMSD's Nine Springs area.

Ingrid West and her husband live along the Yahara at the corner of Aaker Road and Taylor Lane and Ingrid works as a fisheries biologist with UW Extension. She also has experience with invasives, including battling knotweed in her yard. Her husband is interested in getting involved as well.

Old Business:

Knotweed:

Lynne reported on Riley Road knotweed. We cut in June, foliar sprayed with glyphosate in July, foliar sprayed in September with Milestone, injected in October with Milestone. Scott recommends Milestone foliar spray when leafed out in spring (May or June). Lynne will monitor the stuff and update the group by email.

Lynne proposed writing a letter to the city about knotweed on city land in Stoughton. Jim suggested talking with the mayor first. We decided to also offer to present to council. Ingrid suggested involving the youth group. Marsha offered to create a new FBCW brochure to include in the letter. Lynne will draft a letter and circulate for editing.

Wild Parsnip:

Lynne will talk with Maureen Rowe about where and when to dig parsnip this year and update the group by email. Jim, Sharon, Christine, Lynne and Marsha will help on the work day. Once we've set a date, Lynne will contact Boy Scout Troop 167 and the Dane County Conservation League members for additional volunteers.

Stream Monitoring:

Lynne and Sharon reported monitoring 3 times at Riley Road during 2010 for dissolved O₂, temp and transparency, plus a biotic index in spring and fall. Details are available at <http://watermonitoring.uwex.edu/wav/monitoring/database.html> After you enter the data base, the Waterbody ID is BADFISH CR (799500). Select all parameters. Marsha and Ingrid asked to be emailed about monitoring dates.

Facebook Page:

Everyone complimented Marsha on the page. Marsha offered these tips: lots of participation is best, add tidbits often, photos with captions are great, when talking to others about FBCW, say “see us on Facebook!” Be sure to add calendar items as soon as available. Lynne will email Marsha the minutes to include.

RRC page:

Marsha says we should update our page on the RRC site with new stuff, using this as an “anchor page”: a history of the group, mentioning accomplishments and grants, names of helpers, names of canoeists on the outings, and recent photos.

New Bridges:

Jim reported that after seeing a crane on County A, he discovered that MMSD and the USACE were constructing three new farm bridges over the Badfish between 138 and Old Stage Rd, replacing those built in the 50’s when the Badfish began receiving the effluent stream. The new bridges are built without center supports, thus no debris can gather. Marsha asked if they were careful to avoid transporting invasives into the sites. The group decided to monitor by canoe.

New Business:

Stream Clearing Project:

Jim reported that Bill Livick can’t help with clearing deadfalls from the stream. Jim will talk with Mike Simon for advice on methods to clear a path for paddlers. He also suggested a winch and cable for the large trees. Marsha suggested a John boat rather than a canoe. No conclusions reached but general agreement that it should be done.

In regard to the Cooksville access, Jim will talk with landowner Nate Gallagher about the possibility of an easement by the 138 bridge at Cooksville, both to protect the landowner’s property and to make it nicer for canoeists. Ingrid suggested an interpretive sign about river ecology and reminding paddlers to respect private property. Jim will ask MMSD or possibly Mark Hoppe to fund this. If project goes ahead, Ingrid will write copy for the sign.

Madison Girl Scout troop:

Christine talked with the troop leader who also does water testing. She said that the girls should probably work on a stream closer to their homes. However, Christine and another teacher started a Green Team at Thoreau Elementary where she teaches, and she may bring along a few students to help with projects.

After the meeting, Caroline added this: I suggest we find a way to incorporate the Oregon (thru Colleen Lourigan?) and Stoughton Girl Scout troops in stream monitoring under the guidance (perhaps?) of the Madison group, if possible?

Adopt-A-Highway:

Christine contacted Donna Sanford, who said there is a highway segment available on 138 from Hague Road to Aaker Road. She raised the liability issue. Lynne said that Rock River Coalition has insurance if we sign waivers. The Blackhawk Council may not want the girl scouts to be involved anyway. The group decided to go ahead with requesting the

segment as potential publicity. Christine wrote down all the questions (responsibilities, costs, equipment, etc) and will report at the next meeting.

Cooksville Community Center program:

Lynne emailed Martha Degner to see if we can be on the 2011 calendar: a slide show and explanation of the things our group is doing to improve the health of the creek, as well as an invitation to attendees to get involved.

2011 Calendar:

Canoe Outing in August rather than June

Big Event – The Something for Every Body Tour

Ingrid proposed that we do a watershed tour to raise awareness, a big picture trip sometime after April when new County Board supervisor will be in office: “Something For Everybody on the Badfish” She said that Kris Stepenuck leads trips and may be helpful in planning. The idea would be to showcase a series of stops (stream monitor site, knotweed project, Nine Springs facility, MMSD funding, kayaking/paddling, birding at Nine Springs (Dave Fallow) and others. Everyone is in favor.

Discussion:

Perhaps ask the mayor to go along?

Use a 15-passenger van (from Extension)?

The event will raise awareness about the Badfish Creek; one event for politicians and potential funders, another trip for the general public? Jim’s preference for the tour is with governmental folks, not a general event; think more would come from the first group and that something that brings in the public could follow.

Helps toward getting people to suggest watershed “needs”

Talk with county supervisor Denise Duranczyk about getting Dane County Board members involved (Lynne volunteered)

Check RRC dates with Suzanne Wade and other community dates to avoid conflict; June is Invasive Species month and is worth considering.

The first step is to choose a date! (preferably during next meeting)

50 Year Plan: restore mussel population

After the meeting, Caroline added this: include a conversation with Chris James (Dane County Land and Water Resources) in the January 13 Agenda re: the Dane County Parks and Open Space Plan (POSP) for 2012-2017. I anticipate that this will be valuable information for our group for long-term future planning.

Next meeting:

Thursday, January 13, 2011

6-7:30pm

Stoughton Library, 2nd floor small conference room

Respectfully Submitted,

Lynne Diebel

