

**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, February 25, 2015**

Next Board Meeting: 3/25/15

Attending this meeting: Jane Carlson, Patricia Cicero, Jim Kerler, Joe Zakovec, Dave Hoffman, Suzanne Wade, Eric Compas, Jim Koepke

Absent: Dan Lynch

Call the meeting to order at 5:06

Approval of 1/28/15 Minutes:

Jane motioned for approval of 1/28/15 minutes; second by Joe. Motion carried

Introductions: None

Announcements: None

Treasurer’s Report:

Suzanne reported our current unrestricted income year-to-date is \$2,726.25; we are about \$1300.00 below the amount received from memberships in 2014; and we’re currently on track for our budgeted expenses for the year. RRC will receive reimbursement for the FBCW-Aquatic Invasive Species grant soon and will be deposited by Patricia.

Joe moved to accept the treasurer’s report; second by Jane. Motion carried.

Membership Report:

Board discussed writing different follow up letters per different type of membership. Patricia stated we are down on memberships for the year. Total memberships received to date are 109. To encourage past affiliate and municipal members to renew their 2015 memberships, the board decided to send a letter with an invoice attached.

Stream Monitoring Report:

Nancy’s has requested a new laptop as the one provided from RRC has become outdated and inoperative. Suzanne moved to allow Nancy to purchase a new laptop and insurance up to \$750.00; second by Jim Kerler. Motion carried.

The Rock River Storm-water Group contacted Nancy to see her interest in working with them on their grant project. This project will offer storm-water curriculum for teachers to use in their classroom. The board agrees this may be a worthwhile experience, but will need more information from Nancy on what will be required of her and how much of her time will be needed.

The Kettle Moraine Land Trust has partnered with SEWRPC to create a watershed action plan for Jackson Creek in Walworth County. Included in this plan is the goal of developing 8-10 monitoring sites along Jackson Creek. The KMLT has asked Nancy to provide a Level 1 Training Workshop for potential volunteer monitors at Jackson Creek. The board agrees this is the purpose of Nancy’s job and to pursue this further.

OLD BUSINESS:

Community Shares:

Suzanne went over the Statement of Financial and Fundraising Practices that RRC needs to adopt to become members of Community Shares. Eric moved to approve the Statement of Financial and Fundraising Practices; second by Dave. Motion carried.

Suzanne attended the Community Shares orientation meeting and the February board meeting. This was an opportunity for her to meet with other members of Community Shares and to discuss the Big Share on March 3. Suzanne showed the board the Razoo online fundraising website where people can donate to RRC. The board will match up to \$675.00 amount of dollars to encourage others to donate.

Suzanne has done a great job coordinating with Community Shares and promoting the Big Share. She has sent one basin wide press release, posted on facebook, e-mailed potential supporters, will be on WFAW (940 AM) radio station on 2/27, making a video with Nancy on typical stream monitoring activities, and sending out e-mail blasts to RRC members.

Board Member Retreat:

The retreat will be held at the Rubietta's Game Farm. Patricia proceeded to go over the agenda for the day. Topics of discussion will include the citizen monitoring program, fundraising opportunities, and board transitions and goals of RRC. Eric mentioned including the discussion on how RRC can streamline their data collected from monitors better and make it available online. Jane mentioned including the topic of a Rock River report card, similar to the Milwaukee River's.

Rock River Recovery Updates: None.

Yahara 2070:

Suzanne attended their latest workshop. The board feels it's been difficult to connect our goals and mission with their project so RRC will no longer include the Yahara 2070 project as an agenda item.

Board Vacancy:

Jane may have found a student board member with an agriculture background that may be interested in being our student representative board member. Jane will follow up with the UW-Madison student on her interest in becoming a board member.

No other reports on other vacant positions.

Annual Meeting:

RRC Annual Meeting is planned for May 12. The awards committee (Suzanne and Dave) will meet Mar. 5 to discuss the award candidates. Patricia, Eric, and Jim Kerler are on the planning committee. Jane and Joe are working on the elections committee. All committees will need to provide their additions/articles for April's newsletter by the end of March.

NEW BUSINESS:

Environmental Law Institute Webinars:

They want us to work with them on their webinar series with Town and Country RC&D. RRC's responsibilities will be coordinating with T&CRCD to determine the focus of webinars, draft two separate contracts with ELI and T&CRCD, and to communicate with partners. Patricia will ask Dan if he can help with this.

Governor's Budget and RRC Response:

The board agrees, we need to communicate with our members about the Governor's Budget cuts and how it will directly affect RRC if passed. We will initially send an e-mail letting our members know our position on this issue, then follow up with a letter identifying the key budget cuts that will affect RRC's annual operations and goals. Eric will work on narrowing down all these negative details in the budget proposal to focus on what relates to RRC.

Conservation Buffers: Tabled.

Suzanne moved that RRC provide a letter of support to Eric's grant project that is developing probes to collect real-time data for water quality within the basin; second by Eric. Motion carried.

Adjourn at 7:15