

Meeting Minutes

Rock River Coalition Board of Directors

Aug 31, 2021 – 5:15pm

Webex Meeting - Held online due to coronavirus

1. Call to order and roll call
 - Patricia Cicero – Board Member
 - Montgomery Baker – Board Member
 - Ashley Roscoe – Board Member
 - Sue Josheff – Board Member
 - Becca Dymzarov - Executive Director
2. Approval of minutes from prior meetings
 - No minutes were presented or approved.
3. Announcements
 - a. Peggy Compton's move - (send thank you?) – Peggy Compton has taken a different job with UW Extension. The Board agreed to acknowledge her efforts with the Water Action Volunteers (WAV) program. Sue will send a thank you note.
 - b. Michelle Probst – (position in Dane County) – Michelle has accepted a new UW-Extension position. She has moved into Mindy Habecker's former Dane County position and will continue to work with us on our organization's strategic planning.
4. Reports
 - a. Executive Director Report (Becca) –
 - RRC received the \$2500 from the Lake Koshkonong Wetland Association to raise and release beetles to fight the purple loosestrife invasion.

 - RRC received a \$3000 grant from the River Network for the Ball Industries' river clean-up and a check for \$498.22 for expense reimbursement.

 - The Online auction raised \$3415. All auction items are paid for and all except one has been picked up.

Fall Membership appeal is being prepared for mailing.

Ashley and Kara are working on the next newsletter. Articles will be to Suzanne Wade by 9/1. Patricia has some distribution instructions. All board members on the meeting offered to assist with the distribution.

Monitoring continues to be running smoothly.

Yahara WINS Gathering is scheduled for 10/30, 8:30 am to 1 pm including lunch. Depending on Covid restrictions, Becca may suggest the Gathering be moved to a virtual conference.

AIS Snapshot Day was canceled. It was raining and only one person signed up. Jefferson County also only had one person sign up.

Addie trained a Lake Sinnissippi volunteer for sediment monitoring.

Addie presented at the Pheasant Branch's AIS Preventor Master Naturalist Class.

Addie and Becca met with Fox Lake Preservation. They discussed what RRC does and about our mapping.

Addie is mapping Purple Loosestrife in Dodge County.

Addie is taking the lead with Rock Co. AIS working with Jeanne Scherer (UW – Ext) and Andrew Baker (Rock County Conservation)

b. Treasurer's Report (Patricia)

There wasn't a new fiscal report from Tara to discuss. No additional reporting was needed for the Dutton grant.

5. Old biz

a. Ball River Clean Up report

Addie, Sue, Ashley and Eric Compas attended the Ball River Clean-up. Addie hosted at the park and provided the volunteers with bags and gloves and later lunch. Ashley and Sue cleaned up along the Riverwalk and most of the debris was cigarette butts. It was suggested that an article be included in the newsletter.

6. New biz

- a. Friends of Badfish Creek Watershed Grant – Patricia reported that Lynn Diebel has applied for the grants that she intends to.
- b. Shoreland Restoration at the Wisconsin Executive Residence - When Patricia was in the Lake Leaders, they proposed a project to restore the Governor's Executive Residence shoreline along Lake Mendota. The project received the necessary approvals but the project stagnated. Recently the Dept. of Administration (DOA) reached out to move the project forward.

Patricia attended a meeting to discuss the project held with DOA, Dane County Land and Water, Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District, UW Ext and Clean Lakes Alliance. RRC will be the Fiscal Agent for the project. Patricia is developing a timeline for the restoration by the end of September. Becca has restoration experience so she will likely be heavily involved. The project will need numerous volunteers.

A pamphlet needs to be developed to explain the restoration. Also, a maintenance plan will need to be written. RRC has some funding raised previously by the Lake Leaders for the project. Construction will happen in the Spring or Fall. Becca suggested that we apply for an Alliant Impact Grant to assist with the project.

- c. Surface Water (SW) Grants (Becca)
Pre-applications are required by 9/2 for the 11/1 applications. Becca met with Jim Amrhein (DNR) to discuss our proposed Surface Water grant applications. RRC intends to apply for DNR SW grants to address RRC Strategic Planning, Diversity Equity, Targeted Outreach in Dodge County and Dodge County monitoring. We are also applying for Lake Monitoring and Prevention grants for Rock and Dodge Counties.

The Targeted Outreach would be for disseminating and gathering info about the Dodge County stream monitoring to foster more confidence and trust with the farmers in the County as well as increase the general public's awareness of water-related issues.

- d. Quirk Grant – RRC applied for a Quirk Grant for and are waiting to hear if we will receive it.

Our mission:

"To educate and bring together people of diverse interests to protect and improve the economic, environmental, cultural, and recreational resources of the Rock River Basin in Wisconsin"

- e. Dutton Grant – Becca will apply for a follow-up Dutton Grant to continue work with steam monitoring in Dodge County.
- f. Announcement – Sue Graham (DNR Lake program) retired. Patricia was on the interview panel for Sue's replacement.

Board meeting

Next meeting is Sept 22, 2021, 5:15 pm online