

Meeting Minutes

Rock River Coalition Board of Directors

June 29, 2021 – 5:15pm

Webex Meeting - Held online due to coronavirus

1. Call to order and roll call
Eric Compas – Board Member
Patricia Cicero – Board Member
Montgomery Baker – Board Member
Sue Josheff – Board Member
Rebecca Dymzarov – Executive Director
Kathryn Jackson – Board Member
2. Approval of minutes from prior meetings
No minutes were presented or approved
3. Announcements
Online auction starts July 1. Sixty items have been gathered so far. Can accept items up until 7/9.
4. Reports
 - a. Executive Director Report (Becca)
Stream monitoring – 115 sites, 175 volunteers, 56 nutrient and 28 thermastors

August 21 will be AIS Snapshot Day

Becca and Addie will continue to meet with the Lake Associations & Districts in Dodge County to discuss AIS and RRC.

The Ball Industries' Rock River Clean-up will be August 1-7. Volunteers will be encouraged to collect trash on their own August 1-6. On August 7, volunteers will be encouraged to collect trash in Fort Atkinson followed by lunch. River Network is also funding this event.

Kara is working on story maps and the newsletter.

Kara's hours were increased by 40 hours for this year.

Premier Bank donated support for a stream monitoring team in Jefferson Co. Kara wrote an article about the new Jefferson team supported by Premier Bank for our July e-newsletter.

Employee 3-month performance reviews will be done by the end of the month. Becca will likely use forms used by the Mississippi Valley Conservancy.

- b. Treasurer's Report (Patricia)
No new report

5. Old biz

- a. Membership levels (Ashley)
Several changes were requested. Sue will work with Ashley.
 - Add \$250, \$500 and \$1000 membership categories
 - Change the Corporate rate
- b. Organizational assessment – check in (Eric, Becca)
The Organizational Review recognized four areas to address: Maintain/ Improve Partnerships, Maintain/Improve Stream Monitoring, Diversify Activities, and Improve Board Member Selection.

Discussion identified numerous activities: Rock River on Tap; Working with the Rock River Stormwater group; AIS work; Bus tour highlighting Rock River environment, culture, and businesses; Story maps; and Group paddles. Discussion also included the economic impact of water quality. The marketing group at Whitewater may be able to help us promote our activities. We may need a grant to do this work.

- c. Ball Corp/River Network River Clean Up (Becca)
Kara continues to plan for the Clean-up. There will be lunch and a band.
- d. New Website (Becca)
Becca presented possible home page styles using Brook's style guide. Board members discussed fonts, colors, etc. and will have one week to comment by email. Becca will send out the style guide and she will ask if there is mock "live website" for the board to view.
- e. Computer Request (Patricia)

Tara, RRC's bookkeeper requested a new computer for about \$1200. The current computer is old and extremely slow. Tara would like a Dell computer to connect to her husband's system. The Board thought that a newer computer could be purchased for less though it may not attach to her husband's system. Eric agreed to assist with finding a good computer for Tara.

Motion by Joe – RRC will purchase a computer for a maximum of \$600 and bookkeeper will sign an agreement to return the computer is she leaves RRC's employment. Second by Patricia. PASSED

6. New biz

a. Summer meeting schedule (Eric)

July 21 works for most for a July Board Meeting.

b. Quirk Foundation Grant (Becca)

Quirk of Watertown called Becca invite RRC to apply for a grant for Dodge County's monitoring. The Dutton and DNR grants are assisting with the 2021 work. The Quirk Grant would help pay for the 2022 Dodge County Monitoring work..

Motion by Patricia – Becca will apply for the Quirk grant with the treasurer's review prior to submittal. Second by Monty. PASSED.

c. Rock River Stormwater Group (RRSWG) (Becca)

Becca met with Wes Enterline (RRSWG sustainability coordinator), Maureen McBroom (Watertown stormwater coordinator) and Andy Dahl (Whitewater). RRSWG is considering using Kara Henderlight to support some of their communications. That would allow Kara to increase her hours.

Possible partnerships: Grant for rain garden demos (RRSWG would pay for plants, outreach, etc.); a wishlist of Green infrastructure; Educational economics; Story Maps (possible themes - stormwater issues due to climate change and impacts on water quality).

d. Chocolate Shoppe Fundraiser (Becca)

Other fundraising ideas were discussed. Chocolate Shoppe offers a 25% of profits for an event. They are located in the Dane County area. Becca is meeting with the owner and will include the idea of water-themed ice cream.

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"

Tyrannena beer event should be discussed for 2022;

e. Biocontrol of Purple loosestrife opportunity (Becca)

Lake Koshkonong Wetland Association approached RRC to raise plants and beetles to control Purple Loosestrife for \$3000. Addie & Marisa Ulman from Jefferson County Land and Water would head up the project. RRC needs to develop a contract and the Yahara WINS contract first page was suggested for the template.

Board meetings

Next meeting is July 21, 2021 online