



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"

Draft Annual Meeting Minutes – Wednesday, May 6, 2014

Attending this Meeting: 30 Rock River Coalition members including seven board members.

Call to Order: Board President Patricia Cicero called the meeting to order at 6 PM.

Approval of Minutes from 2013 Annual Meeting: Minutes were distributed and reviewed by Secretary Jim Kerler. Carl Glassford moved approval of the 2013 minutes. Marsha Vomastic seconded. Motion passed on a voice vote of the members present.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Suzanne Wade reviewed the summary financial statement found in the Annual Report distributed at the meeting. Total Revenue was \$15,243, Total Expenses were 52,690, while assets grew to \$33,257 at year-end, a change of \$17,727. Dave Carpenter moved acceptance of the Treasurer's Report and Ruth Johnson seconded. Motion passed on a voice vote of the members present.

Activity Reports:

Send Your Legislator Down the River (SYLDR): Patricia Cicero described the 2013 event, held August 20th, based at River Bend Resort on the Crawfish River. A town hall was held and attendees paddled the Crawfish River at Mud Lake. Mike Ayers provided excellent interpretation of the wetland functions along this section of the watershed. Patricia invited suggestions for the location of the next SYLDR event.

Protector and Friends Awards: Patricia explained that every other year we give awards in several categories. 2013 awards were at this past year's Bioblitz event. They went to Rock River Trail Coordinator Greg Farnham, Green Tier business Berres Brothers Coffee Roasters, Mayor Bob Miller of Monona, former Coalition president Lisa Conley, UW-Whitewater Professor Nic Tippery, birding enthusiast Brad Webb, Joe Hardgrove of University Lake School, Edgewood College Professor Jim Lorman and statewide Water Action Volunteer Stream Monitoring Coordinator Kris Stepenuk.

Friends of Badfish Creek: Marsha Vomastic described the group's successful efforts to control Japanese knotweed, which are winding down in the area of Riley Road bridge. Marsha emphasized that both plants are edible! The Friends have been making contacts with people at Badfish Creek Wildlife Area, had a good annual paddle outing and are discussing the addition of a canoe launch by Wisconsin DNR. Marsha thanked board member Eric Compas for assistance with the website.

Stream Monitoring: Nancy Sheehan described highlights from last year's program. 48 new volunteers were added for a total of 105. Her ultimate goal is to have a "stream steward" for every stream. Dane County provided most of the growth, assisted by a \$20,000 grant from the Yahara WINS project which is working to meet Phosphorous standards through "adaptive management". Data is collected through level 1 and 2 monitoring. A grant from Dane County Environmental Council aims at teaching youth. Nancy answered questions from the floor about our monitoring program.

Rock River Recovery: Suzanne described this DNR-led effort with municipalities and farmers to reduce phosphorous and particulates in the Rock River Basin. Ruth Johnson, Jim Congdon and Suzanne have been involved in education for this project. Board member Jim Koepke is on the Ag team.

RRC 20th Anniversary Celebration: Patricia noted the events we have planned to mark our 20th year. Our partnership with the Rock Lake Improvement Association, one of many, will lead to a tour of Rock Lake. An educational event will be held at DeForest River Fest in September. A 20th year party will be held on November 2nd at Koshkonong Mounds Country Club.

Board Election: The board nominees include Jane Carlson of Fitchburg, and Suzanne Wade of Monona. Dave Carpenter moved election of the slate. Tim Stimett seconded. Motion passed on a voice vote of the members present. Suzanne Wade noted we are looking for a student member to join the board in the fall.

Johnson Creek Chapter: Patricia Cicero described RRC's work with chapters. New chapters at the meeting included Johnson Creek Watershed Alliance, represented by Peter Hartz. Peter described four meetings that were held to build public interest and short term goals of a river cleanup next year, stream monitoring and social media presence. The group is meeting with Jefferson County and DNR, clearing obstructions on the creek and partnering with Mike and Ellen Klaus at their farm. Board member Jane Carlson moved that the board accept the group's charter. Dan Lynch seconded and the board approved the measure on a voice vote.

Maunsha River Chapter: The new Maunsha River Alliance was also present, represented by president Matt Ziaja. He described plans for stream monitoring and a second annual cleanup. The group has strong partner support from local business and looks forward to working with RRC to improve their river, promote tourism and economic development. They plan to promote themselves using social media. Board member Joe Zakovec moved the board accept the group's charter. Scott Taylor seconded and the board approved the measure on a voice vote.

Suzanne Wade thanked the Quirk Foundation for funding the work to help both new RRC chapters organize.

Adjournment: Jane Carlson moved adjournment of the annual meeting. Dan Lynch seconded. After an affirmative voice vote President Patricia Cicero adjourned the meeting at 6:52 PM.