



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"

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes Wednesday, January 22, 2014

Next Regular Meeting: Wednesday, February 26, 2014, 4:45 PM – UW Extension, Jefferson

Attending this meeting: Patricia Cicero, Eric Compas, Jim Kerler, Jim Koepke, Dan Lynch, Joleen Stinson, Suzanne Wade

Absent: Jane Carlson, Scott Taylor, Joe Zakovec

Call to Order: Board President Patricia Cicero called the meeting to order at 4:55 PM.

2. Approval of December 18, 2013 Minutes

Patricia suggested rewording one sentence and deleting another in the Stream Monitoring Report. Joleen moved to approve minutes as amended. Dan second. Voice vote with all votes in favor.

4. Treasurer's Report & Budget – Suzanne

Suzanne reviewed the 12/31/13 Budget and Grant Summaries distributed at the meeting. She explained that the difference between YTD income and budgeted income, shown as a negative number (\$14,014.25), actually represents income collected in excess of what was budgeted. Suzanne also noted that the unrestricted funds balance of 19,535.07 is about what we project to need during the coming year.

Per Suzanne the Grant Summary includes several projects that have been concluded. The next version will include only the three rightmost project columns (Yahara WINS, Lake Planning Grant Horicon Marsh Lake Sinnissippi, 2013/2014 Brandt Quirk Foundation).

Dan moved approval of the Treasurer's Report, Joleen second. All votes in favor.

5. Membership Report – Suzanne

Suzanne distributed a membership report formatted alphabetically and showing membership classes for each member during years 2010 through 2014. Consensus was that this representation provided a very useful breakdown. It will be combined with information on amounts paid or donated by each member so that our solicitations for renewal can include a thank you for past contributions. Dan has agreed to work with Suzanne on recruitment/ fundraising efforts.

6. Stream Monitoring Report

Suzanne asked if board members would be satisfied with a quarterly report rather than monthly. Consensus was that this would be fine though reports could be more frequent when a special issue arises as can happen during the monitoring season.

Old Business:

7. Board Retreat - Patricia

There is no date where all members of the board are available. After discussion it was determined that the most practical date is Saturday April 12. It will be scheduled from 9 am to 3 pm. At the preceding board meeting we will arrange with board members to bring food items. Patricia will look into available locations. She noted suggestions are welcome. Suzanne and Patricia will meet to determine the agenda. Another Board member is needed for this planning meeting. Patricia will ask Jane.

8. Contracting with Board Members - Patricia

Patricia has discussed this issue with Allison Werner of the River Alliance of Wisconsin. Allison reviewed our bylaws and stated that the section in our bylaws on conflict of interest is appropriate to address the instance when a Board member might be contracted to do RRC work. She suggested other actions such as comparing proposed rates to market rates, and making sure that our decisions are recorded in our minutes.

Suzanne left the meeting room while the other board members discussed the matter of contracting with Suzanne to facilitate the development of two chapters. Scott did some research and told Patricia that another facilitator would charge \$100/hour for the work. Suzanne's rate for nonprofits is \$65/hour. In addition, she would donate a portion of her fee (\$25/hour) as an in-kind contribution. Suzanne definitely has the experience with facilitating work plans for resource organizations, and understands the requirements for groups to become Chapters of the RRC. Another contractor would have to spend time reviewing our guidelines for Chapters. Dan moved that we use the funds as budgeted in the Brandt Quirk grant to hire Suzanne to facilitate development of the Waterloo and Johnson Creek Chapters as her \$65 fee is less than market rate and she is also providing a portion of her fee as an "in-kind" contribution. Joleen second. Voice vote with board members voting unanimously in favor. Suzanne returned to the meeting after the vote was concluded.

9. Quirk Foundation Grant – Suzanne

Suzanne reviewed a handout concerning the Brandt Quirk budget which is divided between Chapter Development (\$4173), "Google Earth" representing a UW-Whitewater mapping project (\$4000) and Monthly Educational Opportunities (\$1160). Components include \$1259 from an in-kind contribution, \$456 from RRC budget, \$5000 from Quirk and \$3187 of other income. Other Income shown for the "Google Earth" map work by UW-W students was corrected from \$2000 to \$1500 and Other Income for "Staff time to publicize offerings" was corrected from \$560 to \$500. Dan moved approval of the Brandt Quirk Budget. Joleen second. Voice vote with all votes in favor.
Patricia will contact some perspective candidates about doing the work in the grant related to publicizing our 20th Anniversary events.

10. 20th Anniversary Celebration – Suzanne & Dan

Suzanne and Dan will be meeting to discuss plans in the near future. Dan recently confirmed the reservation for the main celebration on November 2nd with Koshkonong Mounds Country Club.

11. Website & Design Lake Mad event – Eric

This was a highly successful endeavor. Board members have IDs and passwords to make updates. Several have confirmed that they could make updates to the new website, and we are almost ready to have it go live. The domain name is still owned by Alex Drucker, service provider for the old site though. Suzanne will approach him with our plans to transition to the new site and inquire as to whether if he will release the name.

12. Wetland Mapping Project - Scott

Scott is traveling and sent a report via e-mail to the Board members.

13. Idea of Student Board member or Student Chapter - Eric

Eric will review the input he received from Board members; and will update his document regarding the establishment of a Student Board member.

14. SYLDR – planning (Jane, Jim Kerler, Suzanne, others?) – Patricia

Patricia will communicate to the board members who have offered to help with planning. Patricia and Suzanne have agreed to give the group direction on the tasks that are required to implement the event. Joleen expressed willingness to help early on before her maternity leave which will be approximately May through July. Dan volunteered to join the team. Eric stated that he can help if he has the time.

15. Review of Employee Policies – Jim Kerler & Scott

Jim has shared recommended changes, which are not extensive, with Scott and Patricia. He will follow up with Scott to get his reaction before sharing with the board and employees.

16. Rock River Recovery Update

DNR is going to hire a person to coordinate the process. At the same time, communities are meeting to discuss their options for adaptive management and nutrient trading. The Rock River Coalition will continue to be engaged in this topic and pursue options for more involvement. Suzanne suggested that we meet with the new coordinator after he or she is hired.

New Business:

17. Hearing on Tax Changes to Wetland Reserve Program - Scott

Scott testified after obtaining a Board vote supporting his testimony by email. He provided a summary on the hearing to the Board via e-mail.

18. Economic Development Consortium's brownfield redevelopment letter – Patricia

The Board voted via email to support Jefferson County Economic Development Consortium's brownfields grant request with a letter of support. Suzanne explained that this fell in line with our previous positions advocating for brownfields development.

19. Request to Sponsor Glacial Heritage Area Water Trail Map - Patricia

Patricia explained that we have an ad in the current GHA Water Trails Map which is being updated. We have been asked to contribute either \$100 or \$200 toward the new version. Consensus was that we would not want to miss out on being listed on this map. Joleen moved that Rock River Coalition sponsor the new water trail map at the \$100 rate. Suzanne second. Voice vote with all votes in favor.

20. Environmental Law Institute Webinars – Patricia

The Environmental Law Institute secured funding from the McKnight Foundation to offer webinars in the Rock River Basin. They are interested in contracting us to do the work with the Town and County RC&D. Joleen volunteered to be the lead on this project. Another Board member will need to help during Joleen's maternity leave.