



## 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, December 18, 2013

**Next Regular Meeting:** Wednesday, January 22, 4:45 PM – UW Extension, Jefferson

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

**Absent:** Dan Lynch, Joleen Stinson, Scott Taylor

**Call to Order:** Board President Patricia Cicero called the meeting to order at 4:45 PM.

**Approval of Minutes from October 23, 2013 and November 20, 2013 Minutes:** Suzanne moved approval of the October 23 minutes, Jane second. Voice vote with all votes in favor. Jane moved approval of the November 20 minutes, with edits as submitted to Joleen, Suzanne second. Voice vote with all votes in favor.

### 3. Announcements

Patricia passed around organizational newsletters that might be of interest.

Patricia received a call from Dave Fowler of Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District concerning a grant we might become involved in. It concerned economic values of wetland restoration. She will follow up for more information.

### 4. Treasurer's Report & Budget

Per Suzanne we will know more about our 2013 results in January. When we add in about \$2440 in 2012 memberships that don't yet appear on the Budget Summary distributed at the meeting, we're close to budget. We show about \$14,000 income in the budget and more is coming in. The balance on the last line of the summary reports would show \$9790.83 if we collect all of our receivables.

The first five grants on the Grant Report have been closed out and will not appear again. (\$160 remaining shown for the USFWS Horicon project has since gone to zero.) Friends of Badfish Creek have a total of \$1400 remaining for their two projects. WI Citizens Based Monitoring is ready to close out after a \$40 discrepancy is resolved. Friends of Lake Wingra and Yahara WINS are ongoing. Joe moved acceptance of the report, Jim Koepke second. Voice vote with all votes in favor.

### 5. Membership Report

Patricia asked board members to consider donating more this year to help support next year's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration.

### 6. Stream Monitoring Report, Yahara WINS, Outreach and Education

Nancy had just returned from a meeting with Yahara WINS. Our funding for year 2 was unanimously approved. Discussion has taken place over whether DNR would willfully use citizen data, and Nancy assured them practices for WAV monitoring do have DNR approval. Patricia and Suzanne commented on Nancy's excellent work on the proposal and finding additional partners who are contributing through in-kind and monetary donations. 48 individuals have been trained out of 79 volunteers. Tracking is challenging but an Access database is being contemplated to address this.

Nancy provided a Stream Monitoring Report summarizing her work. Next year's water monitor Confluence will be Saturday, March 29<sup>th</sup> at the City of Fitchburg Community Center. Theme will be "Connections". An MMSD tour is planned for Saturday, March 8<sup>th</sup>.

Nancy has had communications from teachers interested in stream monitoring and would like to facilitate their access to resources and programs. This is not currently part of her responsibilities, and could be supported by a grant, but Suzanne emphasized the need to obtain ongoing annual funding to avoid leaving teachers hanging after the first year. Eric noted it is beneficial for students to receive this kind of information from a third party other than their class instructor. Suzanne encouraged Nancy to include this (and other activities) with projected costs in her 2014 work plan. Then the board could look at its funds and see which activities can be implemented and which have to seek additional funding. Eric offered to help work out a plan and suggested we form a committee. Patricia emphasized the value of our developing presentations that "get our name out there" and supported having an Education and Outreach Committee. Discussion will continue at our board retreat early next year. Suzanne moved we form a committee to pursue teacher programming. Eric second. Voice vote with all votes in favor. Eric and Patricia will participate with Nancy. Patricia will find a third board member to participate.

Suzanne noted we will want to train Nancy and board members who are interested in the Access database and Dropbox capabilities we have. Patricia asked for those who are interested to contact her.

### 7. Contracting with Board Members

Patricia has not yet connected with Allison Werner of River Alliance of Wisconsin but will advise the board when she does.

## **8. Website & Design Lake Mad event**

Good results from this full-day website design effort per Eric and others. The group also cleaned up our regular logo and 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary version. The beta version and applicable web tools for populating the site were shared in Eric's recent email. Eric would like board members to learn Word Press and take responsibility for populating various sections of the site. He and Marsha will be working on back end tasks. Jane moved we send a letter of thanks, with a T-shirt and one year membership to each of the 5 participants of the design effort. Jim Koepke second. Voice vote with all votes in favor.

The old website has been down for several days and Alex Drucker advised that it has been "hacked". Such outages have been a recurring problem. Suzanne moved we migrate off of the "Designs by Drucker" platform as soon as possible rather than trying to get it to work. Eric second. Voice vote with all votes in favor. Marsha has copied the old site onto our server but it is not fully functional. Donations work differently on the new site and need some tune up per Suzanne. Alex Drucker owns our domain name (RockRiverCoalition.org) which could be a complicating factor.

## **9. Newsletter Idea**

Deadline is January 7<sup>th</sup> per Patricia. No particular theme for this issue. RR Stormwater Group has been advised and board members were encouraged to submit articles. Suzanne will submit a 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary article and suggested our affiliates be notified, as well as Rock River Trail and Friends of Glacial Heritage Area. Jane will mention it to Scott in relation to the grant work he is doing and Nancy will work on a Confluence announcement.

Joe will work with Jim Kerler on the July newsletter.

## **10. Quirk Foundation Grant**

No news on this. Suzanne will relay info when known.

## **11. 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**

Public outreach and planning will be needed. About \$1400 would be available per Suzanne. Potential candidates: Jeanne Scherer, UW-Whitewater marketing club. Per Nancy Clean Wisconsin has a roster of young people interested in internships. Nancy will seek more information. Suzanne will handle this.

## **13. New Chapter Possibilities (Johnson Creek, Maunasha River)**

Per Suzanne we are waiting on actions by the local groups.

## **14. Rock River Recovery Update**

Suzanne trying to get information on status. 12/19/13 meeting at UWEX has been canceled.

## **15. Review of Employee Policies**

Jim Kerler recently submitted suggested edits and comments to Scott for review. Patricia asked that Jim send this copy to Nancy to obtain her ideas.

## **16. Board Effectiveness Training Recap & Action Items**

Per Patricia we can address at subsequent meetings or at the retreat.

## **New Business:**

### **17. Idea of Student Board member or Student Chapter**

Eric distributed a proposal by email and has received positive comments. Suzanne suggested the first year be a trial. Patricia suggested this be finalized, then adopted at our annual membership meeting as a motion from the board. The UW-W student organizations might provide candidates per Eric. Eric will update the plan. Discussion will continue.

### **18. SYLDR – planning (volunteers for next year)**

Patricia asked for volunteers. Jane, Jim Kerler and Suzanne offered to help.

### **19. Board Retreat**

Patricia will send an email to board members to determine a date.

### **20. Peer Learning Network – Patricia**

City of Fitchburg inquired to Suzanne about participating in a River Network 6 month water conservation program. They asked if they could participate under our membership since that would avoid a \$300 fee for the course. Patricia asked first if anyone on the board wanted to participate and none did. The City of Fitchburg is not currently a member so Patricia will notify them that they would have to first become an affiliate as a municipality or municipal department membership first. She will also ask that the contact there update us and provide a newsletter article based on the program experience.