



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"

Rock River Coalition
Board of Directors Meeting
UW-Extension, Jefferson, WI
January 26, 2011

The meeting was called to order by Scott Taylor at 4:40 pm.

Board Members in Attendance

Paul Benjamin, Patricia Cicero, Peter Hartz, Jeff Hruby, Jim Kerler, Jim Koepke, Scott Taylor, Suzanne Wade

Approval of Minutes

Wade motioned to approve the minutes from December 16, 2010. Koepke seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report

Wade reviewed the treasurer's report. A motion to accept the treasurer's report was made by Cicero and seconded by Koepke. Motion passed.

Volunteer Monitoring Coordinator's Report

Taylor provided Ed Grunden's report to the Board. **Action: Wade will work with Grunden on reviewing/finalizing the funding applications to Alliant Energy Foundation, and WE Energies Foundation.**

Water Star

Wade reported that there are now 22 municipalities who achieved Water Star status (6 gold, 4 silver, and 12 bronze). The application is currently off-line so that it can be re-written. There are over 100 success stories written about the accomplishments of the municipalities. In the Spring, there will be a series of webinars about Water Star.

Rock River Recovery Update

Wade reported that the public comment period for the report has been extended to February 15, 2011.

Rock River Trails

Wade reported on a new project on water trails in the Rock River Basin of Wisconsin and Illinois. A presentation on their effort will be held on February 3 in Rockford. Please contact Wade for the meeting information.

Friends of Allen Creek Watershed

Wade reported that the Friends of Allen Creek completed their grant project.

Rock River Stormwater Group

Wade reported on the publicity activities of the Rock River Stormwater Group: information sheets on snow removal and how restaurants can take steps to prevent their waste from being disposed of improperly.

Wisconsin Environmental Education Board

The grant deadline for the Wisconsin Environmental Education Board grant is February 1.

Groundwater Guardian

The Groundwater Guardian now requires a \$150 fee/year to be an affiliate member.

R545

A new organization, R545, has been using RRC rain garden materials on their website. **Action: Wade will contact them about their goals.**

Friends of Badfish Creek

Taylor reported that he will meet with the Friends of Badfish Creek and the City of Stoughton about a future grant to control knotweed. The Friends will have a booth at Canoecopia (March 11-12, 2011). Wade motioned and Benjamin seconded the motion to support the Friends of Badfish Creek in their work to develop a Natural Resource Area in Dane County. Motion passed. Wade motioned and Hartz seconded the motion to send a letter of support to Dane County for the efforts of the Friends of Badfish Creek to develop a Natural Resource Area in Dane County. Motion passed. **Action: Taylor will write & send the letter.**

Policy for Donations by Cities

It was pointed out to the Board that city departments can become affiliate members of the RRC, but there is no policy on RRC membership for a city. **Action: Hruby and Hartz will research and provide options for the Board to consider on city memberships. Taylor will contact the city that made the inquiry to let them know we are working on a policy.**

League of Conservation Voters

Cicero motioned and Wade seconded the motion to sign onto the conservation priorities of the League of Conservation Voters. Motion passed.

Facebook Update

Cicero showed the Board the facebook page. Board members were made administrators of the site. **Action: Cicero will add business affiliates that have facebook pages onto the "Favorite Pages" section of the page.**

Horicon Project Summary

Cicero briefed the Board on the last meeting of the Horicon project partners. The next step is a meeting to figure out fundraising to ensure there will be funds for a US Geological Survey scientific report and analysis on the sampling results and a comparison with sampling data from the late 1990s.

Send Your Legislator Down the River

Cicero and Kerler reported on their progress for choosing a site for this year's event. It will potentially be the Bark River from Burnt Village County Park to Fort Atkinson. It might be possible to take out at the fish hatchery. Rock River Canoe Company is a possible contact for canoe rentals. Dave Marshall could be invited to speak about the importance of rare fish and backwater areas such as oxbows.

Rock River Recovery Plan – Rock County

Benjamin explained that Rock County is exploring how pollutant trading could happen between municipalities and farms. **Action: Benjamin, Taylor, and Wade will arrange a meeting with Gary Becker, Ed Huck, and the Board to find out more about the effort.**

Closed Session

Koepke motioned, and Hartz seconded the motion, to go into closed session. Motion passed.
Koepke motioned, and Hruby seconded the motion, to end the closed session. Motion passed.

Annual Board Retreat

The annual Board retreat will be held on Saturday, February 26 at the Lake Mills Library. The basic format will cover: the roles that Board members see for themselves (including projects), how the RRC can accomplish its goals, and a discussion on fundraising and membership. **Action: Wade will e-mail the membership list to the Board one week prior to the retreat. Wade and Taylor will work on an agenda and send it out to the Board. Wade will also send out materials from previous retreats for the Board to review prior to the retreat.**

Upcoming Meetings

Board retreat – February 26
Annual meeting – May 10, location TBD

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the next newsletter is March 25, 2011.

The meeting adjourned at 7:37 pm after a motion by Kerler, and a second by Koepke.