



# Rock River Reflections

A publication of the  produced in cooperation with the University of Wisconsin-Extension Winter 2006 Volume 9, Number 1

## RRC News and Updates

### *RRC changing by-laws*

The Board decided to give the RRC By-laws a complete overhaul. After eleven years the activities and organizational structure was outdated. The major changes involved board structure. With an active organization such as ours, frequently the president isn't able to accomplish some of their favorite initiatives and then they leave office and the board. Therefore the Board has added a 'Past-President' position onto the board. They have also changed the Vice-President title to 'President Elect'.

Also changed are board member terms. The length for one term is now three years with staggered appointments. The Board will vote on the changes on January 30, 2006. If you would like a copy contact Margaret Burlingham at [landesign@centurytel.net](mailto:landesign@centurytel.net).

### *RRC welcomes new board members*

The RRC Board reluctantly accepted the resignation of Vice-President Kevin Freber in December. Kevin's work responsibilities at the new waste water treatment plant in Watertown have increased. Tim Reel, Fort Atkinson Waste Water Treatment Plant Foreman has been voted in for the remainder of Kevin's term.

Also accepted to the Board is Ken Weisner, formerly with the DNR and recently retired. We welcome them both. They will be profiled in the next newsletter.

Elections for new board members will be held in May. If you would like to run, please contact RRC President, Warren Topel at [wtopel@testamericainc.com](mailto:wtopel@testamericainc.com) or call 920-261-1660.

### *New monitoring director to be hired*

By the time you receive this newsletter the Coalition should have hired a new Monitoring Director to oversee all aspects of our monitoring program. The Director will be making calls to groups, businesses and organizations over the next few months. If your group would like a program on monitoring and water quality in the Rock River Basin, please contact, after Feb 1, the RRC office to set up a presentation at 920-674-7443.

### *DNR grant for wetland restoration monitoring awarded*

The DNR Citizen-based Monitoring Program has awarded the RRC a \$5240 grant to continue our wetland restoration monitoring program from January - June this year. For a complete calendar of wetland monitoring dates contact [bryan@rockrivercoalition.org](mailto:bryan@rockrivercoalition.org).

## Calendar of Events

### *Membership Renewal*

Jan 1, 2006 Time to renew your membership. The RRC is a membership driven organization. While projects are funded through grants, all other activities such as this newsletter are paid through membership fees.

### *RRC Board Meeting*

Jan 30, 2006 5:00 - 7:00pm, UWEX Jefferson County  
864 Collins Rd, Jefferson

### *DNR Grant Writing Workshop*

Feb 3rd, 2006 1-4:30, Dane County LCD/UWEX offices

### *Citizen Monitoring Confluence*

March 4, 2006 8:30 - 3:15, UWEX Jefferson County

### *Storm Water Roundtable*

March 7, 2006 9:30- 10:30 Johnson Creek Village Hall

### *Using the Internet for Land Use Decisions*

March 8, 2006 6:00 - 9:00pm Johnson Creek High School  
\$5/person for non-members

### *RRC Planning the Rock Issue Team*

April 5, 2006 1:30-3:30, UWEX Jefferson County

### *Newsletter Deadline*

Deadline for the spring newsletter is April 7, 2006

### *Cost of Community Services Workshop*

April 20, 2006, UWEX Jefferson County Rm 104 (top floor)

### *Send Your Legislator Down River*

June 19, 2006 (tentative) Janesville - Beloit

To register call 920-674-7297  
or email [kimb@co.jefferson.wi.us](mailto:kimb@co.jefferson.wi.us)



Jefferson County  
864 Collins Rd  
Jefferson, WI 53549

In cooperation with



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Watertown, WI 53094

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# “Using the Internet for Land Use Decisions” workshop

March 8, 2006, 6:30 – 9:00

Johnson Creek High School computer lab,  
Pre-registration required: call 920-674-7297

This session is designed for people with some familiarity to Internet Tools  
Fee \$5 for non-members

A number of free web-based Internet planning tools are available that anyone can access and use for community planning. In this RRC's third session, participants will work in teams or independently on tools presented in previous sessions.

Past participants of these workshops and those who are participating in the Internet Tools Wislines being held Jan 24 and Feb 28 will be able to practice with the help of a DNR professional.

In an effort to increase awareness of Internet resources available to local governments and citizen planners, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has initiated a technical assistance program focused on computer tools for planning, conservation and environmental protection. This program has been made possible by a water quality management grant awarded to the DNR by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

To learn more about these tools and the DNR's program go to <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/es/science/landuse/CompTools/>

## GFLOW Model moving ahead

Forty people attended a special meeting on January 12 for municipalities to explain how the Groundwater Flow Computer (GFLOW) model could be an asset to their community. The GFLOW model helps show how water is moving in shallow water aquifers. It can be used to show the impact of land use decisions such as new development of high capacity wells on local lakes, wetlands and existing wells. It also has the ability to trace probably paths of pollutants from spills or to show where pollutants might have originated.

Currently Johnson Creek, Lake Mills, Green Lake County, Theresa, Fitchburg have committed funds to the program. Many other communities are in the process of having their involvement approved.

The RRC has asked communities to commit to a two-year contribution based on population: 1-2,000 people annual contribution of \$500; 2,001 - 5,000 people annual contribution of \$1,000; 5,0001 - 10,000 people annual contribution of \$2,000 and greater than 10,000 people annual contribution of \$3,000.

Based on interest shown, the RRC is confident work on the model will begin in 2006 and will be completed in 2008. The GFLOW Proposal and other information can be found at [www.rockrivercoalition.org](http://www.rockrivercoalition.org).



*RRC President Warren Topel welcomes GFLOW Model audience and expresses his concerns regarding groundwater in the basin and his hopes for the future.*



## 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"*

### **PRESIDENT:**

Warren Topel

### **DIRECTORS:**

Margaret Burlingham, Secretary  
Jan Ruster, Treasurer  
Lisa Conley  
Joe Dorava  
Roger Kist  
Tim Reel  
Suzanne Wade

### **Outreach and Volunteer**

#### **Monitoring Coordinator:**

Ellen Rulseh, 920-674-7443, [ellen@rockrivercoalition.org](mailto:ellen@rockrivercoalition.org)

#### **Wetland Restoration Monitoring Coordinator:**

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#### **GFLOW Coordinator:**

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Suzanne Wade, [suzanne.wade@ces.uwex.edu](mailto:suzanne.wade@ces.uwex.edu)

**Photos:** Suzanne Wade, DNR and UWEX file photos, Dodge County Parks

*The RRC is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization, providing equal opportunity in employment & programming.*

*If you need special accommodation for programs please contact the RRC at least two weeks in advance.*

### *RRC Storm Water Roundtable Discussion*

A Rock River Basin Storm Water Roundtable Discussion hosted by the Rock River Coalition Storm Water Issue Team will take place from 9:30 - 10:30 AM on Wednesday March 7 at Johnson Creek Village Hall. This meeting is a chance to discuss municipal and developer concerns and rules and regulation issues with each other and DNR staff (Jim Bertolacini and DNR Water Team Leaders will be present). Discussion will be focused on stormwater plans, stormwater utilities and grants. The RRC Storm Water Issue Team meeting will follow for those interested.

Please RSVP if attending to 920-674-7297 or [kimb@co.jefferson.wi.us](mailto:kimb@co.jefferson.wi.us).

### **RRC Hosts:**

#### *Environmental Grants Workshop*

Learn criteria, tips and techniques for applying for DNR grants including Targeted Runoff Management, Urban Nonpoint Source and Stormwater Management planning, River Planning and Protection, Lake Planning and Management, Stewardship, Trails and Flood Mitigation.

Feb 3, 2006, 1:00 - 4:00  
Dane County LCD/UWEX Offices  
One Fen Oak Ct Madison,  
\$5 fee for non-members  
Call 920-674-7297 to register or email  
[kimb@co.jefferson.wi.us](mailto:kimb@co.jefferson.wi.us).

#### *Cost of Community Services Workshop*

The RRC's 'Planning the Rock' Issue Team is hosting an informational meeting examining the cost of providing services to new development.

Speakers will cover Cost of Community Services Studies, Impact Analysis and Establishing Impact Fees. They'll provide examples of how these tools have worked in area communities. Speaker Rebecca Roberts, UWEX Land Use Specialist will present preliminary data from new studies around the state. Presenters from Ruckert and Mielke, and Virchow Krause will discuss impact analysis and impact fees.

Thursday April 20, 2006  
6:30 - 9:00  
UWEX Jefferson County  
864 Collins Road, Jefferson  
Fee for non-members \$5  
Register by calling 920-674-7297 or email  
[kimb@co.jefferson.wi.us](mailto:kimb@co.jefferson.wi.us).

# The 'Natural Step for Communities' study group kick-off meeting

## *An Eco-Municipality Model for Sustainable Community Change*

by Greg David, Jefferson County Supervisor

The Jefferson County Economic Development Council (JCEDC) is initiating a study of The Natural Step for Communities, Eco-Municipality model for sustainable change. Each participating community has agreed to have a representative participate in the study group. Since the creation of a future study group is an important aspect of the model's success, I wanted to take this opportunity to invite you to our meetings.

### **What is Natural Step?**

The Natural Step (TNS) is an international non-profit organization in twelve different countries that uses a science-based, systems framework to help organizations, individuals and communities take steps towards sustainability. The mission of TNS is to catalyze systemic change and make fundamental principles of sustainability easier to understand and meaningful sustainability initiatives easier to implement.

### **What is an Eco-Municipality?**

An eco-municipality aspires to develop an ecologically, economically, and socially healthy community for the long term, using the Natural Step framework for sustainability as a guide, and a democratic, highly participative development process as the method.

### **What is a TNS for Communities Study Group?**

The Communities Study Groups are a method of creating awareness and action of the Eco-Municipality Model for sustainable community change. This method uses the book, 'The Natural Step for Communities', as a study guide. Study groups meet 10 times to review and discuss assigned chapters from the study guide, then record and implement action ideas from the group participants.

### **Why is this so important?**

Our human society is reaching a point of scarce resource (oil, water, etc.) and increasing demand. This is an unsustainable condition that will eventually reach crisis levels, unless we act soon.

**The Rock River Coalition** is looking for a RRC member to represent the Coalition at these meetings and reporting back to the board regarding the Coalition's participation in the effort.

*To make positive, sustainable change in your community,  
please join us:*

### **Sustainable Study Group Meetings**

for  
public officials, business leaders, responsible citizens

To learn what is being done in other parts of the world to evolve into a sustainable society. To meet in a democratic format for the free exchange of ideas and information. To create a critical mass of interest and concern for sustainable change in our communities.

For more information please contact Greg David at 920-262-9996 or  
<[prairiedf@globaldialog.com](mailto:prairiedf@globaldialog.com)>

## Citizen Monitoring Confluence

Each year the RRC offers a chance for monitors to come together and receive advanced training. This year it will be held on March 4, 2006 at the UWEX Jefferson County office.

The morning is dedicated to enrichment programs and the afternoon for certification of veteran monitors. If you are interested in becoming a monitor you too are invited to attend. Register by calling 920-674-7297 or emailing [kimb@co.jefferson.wi.us](mailto:kimb@co.jefferson.wi.us).

8:30 – 8:45 Registration

8:45 – 9:10 Welcome Monitors! Updates, Door Prizes: Warren Topel, RRC President; Suzanne Wade, UWEX; Vickie Wall, WAV

9:10 – 9:15 Reading, in honor of Aldo Leopold Day: Wisconsin Senator Neal Kedzie, R-Elkhorn

9:15 – 10:15 Keynote: Of Damsels and Dragons: Odonatas of the Great Lakes: Bob Dubois, DNR Aquatic Ecologist

10:30 – 11:10 Breakout Session I

- Monitoring Opportunities for Odonata: Bob Dubois, DNR Aquatic Ecologist
- Advanced Macroinvertebrates: Robert Bohanan, Director, UW Center for Biology Education
- Aquatic Invasive Species In Wisconsin: Kerrie Cunningham, UWEX/DNR Aquatic Invasives Educator
- Land Use Impacts on Streams: Mike Miller, DNR Water Resources Management Specialist
- Darters, Minnows and Other Small Fish: Randy Schumacher, DNR Fisheries Supervisor

11:10 – 11:55 Breakout Session II

This will be a repeat of Breakout I except that the Odonata program by Bob Dubois will be replaced by:

- Frogs and Toads of the Rock: Rori Paloski, DNR Conservation Biologist

Noon – 12:15 Meet with Your Coordinator and Other Monitors From Your Area

12:15 – 1:00 Lunch (organic chicken and beef, organic egg salad, salads, bars and beverages)

1:00 – 3:00 Certification Round Robin (four stations) for stream monitors with at least one season's experience: a. Dissolved Oxygen, b. Temperature and Turbidity, c. Biotic Index, d. Refill chemicals and replace equipment

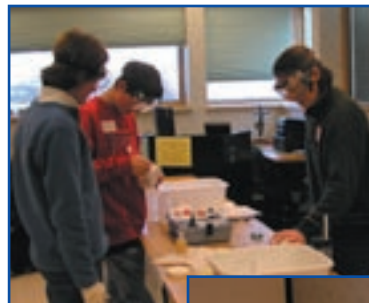
1:00 – 2:30 Wetland Monitoring Planning Advanced Frog and Toad Monitoring: Bryan Huberty, RRC Wetland Restoration Monitoring Coordinator



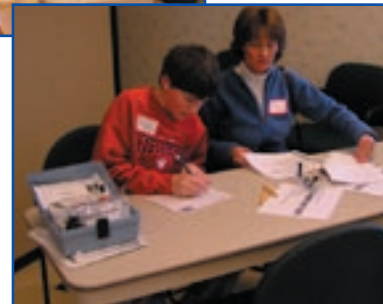
Confluence participants from 2005 receive certification in identifying insects and other critters, left and below on sampling from various places in a stream. Taught by Jayne Jenks, Local Coordinator Waukesha County.



Jim Peterson, UWEX Specialist, above left, tests thermometers to insure accuracy.



Left, a family of monitors first reviews a dissolved oxygen test with Rock County Local Coordinator, Anne Miller, and then, below left, performs the test themselves.



Below, two monitors discuss the upcoming year with RRC Monitoring Coordinator, Ellen Rulseh.



### 2006 Confluence Sponsors:

Dane, Dodge, Rock and Waukesha counties, WE Energy, Friends of Cam-Rock, Willie Street Coop, Standing Elm Farm, Frank's Organic Feed & Supply, Village Bakery and Coffee Shop

### Rock River Basin Citizen Monitoring Program Sponsors:

Rock River Coalition, UW-Extension, Department of Natural Resources, Water Action Volunteers, Riveredge Nature Center, Dane, Rock and Waukesha counties, Quirk Foundation and many organizations and individuals.

# Spring into action!

Spring is a great time to work on environmental action projects and now is a great time to begin planning. Below are some suggestions out of the RRC Environmental Action Resource Guide. Contact Kim at 920-674-7297 or at kimb@co.jefferson.wi.us to receive a guide. The guide has a complete Action Checklist for each activity.

## Storm Drain Stenciling

Stenciling storm drains or attaching messages to storm drains is one of the most popular activities for Rock River Basin groups.

The storm drains in streets or parking lots are how the city prevents flooding by moving rainwater and snow melt directly to your local river or lake. Most people think that these drains are connected to a wastewater treatment plant...BUT THEY ARE NOT!

**How Action Helps:** Some people pour oil, paint, fertilizer and other toxic chemicals down these drains thinking the city will take care of it. Instead, all this 'yuck' goes right into our lakes, streams or rivers. Your stenciled message will help people recognize this.

**What You Do:** A stencil is a large piece of plastic with the words: "Dump no Waste – Drains to River" (or Lake or Stream) and a picture of a fish cut out of the plastic. You use spray paint or dab paint on the letter and picture openings to leave a message on the storm drain.

## River or Lake Clean-Up

People care more about something when it looks appealing. Therefore, your work to clean up a public area can be rewarded both by the immediate improvement of an area and by longer term care and support for the area.

**What You Do:** First, get permission from the landowners. You remove all trash from the area, recording the amount and type and the final result is publicized.

Volunteers work in teams, each team with a designated leader. Volunteers need to wear heavy gloves, thick pants and sturdy shoes. Safety glasses may be needed if working in thick brush or when removing woody debris.



Students marking storm drains in Waukesha

-UWEX file photo

## Control Purple Loosestrife and Garlic Mustard

Purple Loosestrife is a beautiful but aggressive perennial plant that likes moist to wet soil. Garlic Mustard is an invasive biennial (takes two years to flower) that is smothering native woodland plants.

**How Action Helps:** Wetlands are one of our most biologically rich habitats in Wisconsin. Purple loosestrife can take over wetlands forcing out the native plants. In many ways the invaded wetland is then a desert to native animals.

Garlic Mustard has the same effect in woods. It takes over, and soon Spring Beauties, Trilliums and other wildflowers are gone.



-UWEX file photo

**What You Do:** Purple loosestrife is very difficult to control. Many people have luck with small infestations with pulling, cutting or digging plants in June, July or August before seeds are set. If not completely removed, the plant will regrow. An application of herbicide can prevent this but a permit is required. Large or high-density stands are best controlled by using beetles that eat only purple loosestrife.

Garlic mustard can be pulled, working from the outside of a patch in. Garlic mustard is best caught early when the patch is small.

## Is this the right project for you?

Before deciding a project, it is important to assess your or your group's abilities. Here are some questions to ask before jumping into a project that may not fit.

- 1) Is the project something everyone in the group wants to do?  
Yes  No  Maybe
- 2) Do you have the resources such as time, money and help, to get the project done?  
Yes  No  Maybe
- 3) Does your project help solve an important problem in your community or does your project enrich your community?  
Yes  No  Maybe
- 4) If money is needed, do you know where you can go for help?  
Yes  No  Maybe
- 5) Are other people, specialists or consultants available to help you with the project?  
Yes  No  Maybe
- 6) If the action calls for a long-term obligation, is your group willing and able to make the commitment?  
Yes  No  Maybe

Then ask yourself if there is anyway to turn a 'Maybe' to a 'Yes'?

After doing this self-assessment, you're ready to decide which environmental action is right for you!

## Other projects for the ambitious:

River, Lake or Groundwater Festivals

Monitoring

Rain Gardens

Prairie Restoration

Shoreline Restoration

Reduce, Reuse and Recycle campaigns

Become a Groundwater Guardian Community



## Help needed to refurbish barns

The Friends of Dodge County Parks, Inc in coordination with the Dodge County Planning, Development and Parks Department are currently seeking \$25,000 in private contributions for the restoration of 2 barns on the Harnischfeger County Park property. These approximately 80 year old barns were once part of 2 separate family farms in the Dodge County Town of Lebanon along the Rock River. The barns are structurally sound, but are in need of some care, including new roofing, new paint, some board replacements, foundation tuck pointing, windows and signs identifying the year they were built (currently being researched). The barns are currently used for storage and the south barn provides an area for a park office and workshop. Our plan is to maintain and preserve them as true aesthetic and functional assets to the park. The rehab and maintenance work is planned to begin in May of 2006 and should be completed by fall of 2006, subject to sufficient funding. For more information or to make a contribution of funds, labor or materials to help with this project, please contact Bill Ehlenbeck, Dodge County Parks Manager at 920-386-3702 or email: [behlenbeck@co.dodge.wi.us](mailto:behlenbeck@co.dodge.wi.us).



## Nineteen central Dane County municipalities work together on storm water media campaign

by Marcia Hartwig, MAMSWaP Storm Water Education Coordinator

You may have noticed talking umbrellas on your TV, or heard the memorable My Fair Lady theme song on your radio with different lyrics. The ads are part of a media campaign by nineteen municipal entities that have joined together to raise awareness of storm water impacts to area waters. Madison Area Municipal Storm Water Partnership, or MAMSWaP, is sponsoring the ads.

The media campaign, [myfairlakes.com](http://myfairlakes.com), urges residents to learn more about how their daily activities impact our lakes, rivers and streams. "In Dane, only the rain goes down the drain," is the mantra of the campaign, projecting that nothing but rain—no pollutants, no garbage, no debris—be allowed to go down storm drains or into ditches. Viewers are asked to log on to [www.myfairlakes.com](http://www.myfairlakes.com) to learn more about how their daily activities impact area waters. There, a menu of suggested actions explain how to positively impact our water resources.



County Executive Kathleen Falk said, "This is a wonderful example of how political boundaries are set aside in our county and municipalities agree to work together to be more efficient and to save money for taxpayers. Rather than recreating the wheel 19 times over, we've joined together to keep our lakes, rivers and streams clean. Storm water runoff from urban and rural areas is a primary problem for our lakes and streams. Preventing this pollution is a priority for all of us."

Jim Bertolacini, Storm Water Management Specialist for WDNR's South Central Region, said, "This group of communities is the first in the state to make an intergovernmental agreement like this. The cooperation demonstrated by these municipalities continues to impress the WDNR and is serving as a model for other regions in the state and country that need to address storm water pollution." Bertolacini oversees the WDNR's storm water discharge permit program in the Madison area. "The media campaign is partially funded by a grant awarded by the WDNR. The cooperation exemplified by the MAMSWaP municipalities was a major consideration when awarding the grant," stated Bertolacini.

Storm water, a major source of pollution to Dane County's lakes, rivers and streams, is untreated runoff from rainfall and snowmelt. Myfairlakes.com brings attention to how rain and melting snow washes off driveways, sidewalks, roof tops, streets and other hard surfaces, picks up a smorgasbord of pollutants—oil, grass clippings, leaves, fertilizers, pet waste, sediment and more—and carries it directly to Dane County's waterways.

As described on the website, there are many opportunities for citizens to become more involved in helping to address this problem.

Communities involved in the joint effort include the Cities of

Fitchburg, Madison, Monona, Middleton, Sun Prairie, and Verona; the Villages of DeForest, Maple Bluff, McFarland, Shorewood Hills, and Waunakee; the Towns of Burke, Blooming Grove, Madison, Middleton, Westport, and Windsor; Dane County, and the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

The campaign began last spring with radio and TV ads. More radio ads aired during the summer before another round of radio and TV ads in the fall. The fall ads were complemented by the "Love Your Lakes, Don't Leaf Them" campaign, sponsored by several watershed groups, MAMSWaP, and others, that used billboards, yard signs and pamphlets to raise awareness of keeping leaves out of the street gutters. More radio ads and internet ads will run this winter and in the spring of 2006. The campaign reaches far beyond the MAMSWaP municipalities and even Dane County. Twenty-eight Wisconsin counties and hundreds of thousands of viewers/listeners are in the media area and able to see and hear the "only rain" message. MAMSWaP is hoping to do a follow up survey to determine the effectiveness of the campaign.

To see and hear the ads, or learn more about the campaign, go to [www.myfairlakes.com](http://www.myfairlakes.com).

# Smart Growth Public Kickoff Meetings

Washington County, in partnership with the Towns of Addison, Barton, Erin, Farmington, Germantown, Hartford, Kewaskum, Polk, Trenton and Wayne and the Village of Kewaskum are working together in a single effort to develop a plan that fulfills the requirements of the state's Comprehensive Planning Law. The Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC) and the University of Wisconsin Extension are also involved in the process.

The primary content in a comprehensive planning document revolves around "nine elements": Issues and Opportunities, Housing, Transportation, Utilities and Community Facilities, Agricultural, Natural and Cultural Resources, Economic Development, Intergovernmental Cooperation, Land Use and Implementation.

All municipalities are required to adopt a comprehensive (Smart Growth) plan by January 1, 2010. This joint planning process will allow, for the first time, the development of an overall vision for the County and provide an opportunity for neighboring municipalities to work through tough issues to ensure the future success, economic vitality and quality of life in Washington County.

There will be six major public outreach efforts, over the next 3 years, to obtain comments from residents including a county wide survey, open houses, informational meetings, visioning sessions, focus groups and public hearings.

The first public outreach effort will be a "Kickoff" meeting for each partnering community to provide opportunities for citizens to learn about the Countywide comprehensive planning process, timeline and state law requirements. In addition, citizens will be able to share their perceptions regarding the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats in their community. Remaining meetings scheduled in partnering Washington County municipalities during the months of January through March:

Town of Germantown Kickoff Meeting  
Tuesday, February 14, 2006  
Riteway Bus Company  
W201 N13900 Fond du Lac Ave/Hwy 145  
7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Town of Farmington Kickoff Meeting  
Wednesday, February 15, 2006  
Farmington Town Hall  
9422 STH 144, Kewaskum  
7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Town of Polk Kickoff Meeting  
Thursday, February 23, 2006  
Polk Town Hall  
3680 STH 60, Slinger  
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Town of Hartford Kickoff Meeting  
Wednesday, March 15, 2006  
Hartford Town Hall  
3360 CTH K, Hartford  
7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Joint Town & Village of Kewaskum Kickoff Meeting  
Thursday, March 16, 2006  
Village of Kewaskum Annex Building  
1308 Fond du Lac Ave. Kewaskum  
6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Town of Erin Kickoff Meeting  
Tuesday, March 28, 2006  
Erin Town Hall  
1846 STH 83, Hartford  
7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

The meetings will start with a 15 minute open house to view informational posters and handouts regarding the planning process. A presentation of this information will be followed by a strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats workshop where citizens can share their thoughts/feelings/perceptions of their community and Washington County.

For more information, please contact Debora Sielski, Washington County Planning and Parks Department at 262-335-4445 or visit our website at [www.co.washington.wi.us/smartgrowth](http://www.co.washington.wi.us/smartgrowth).

## WinterFest, Feb. 11th at Harnischfeger Park

The 3rd annual WinterFest at Harnischfeger County Park near Ashippun in southeast Dodge County will take place Saturday, February 11th from 10am – 5pm.

Horse drawn sleigh rides, pony rides, a fur trader rendezvous, live music, disc golf tournament, silent auction and games and activities for young and old will highlight the event.

The gate admission of \$5 per car gets a ride ticket for all occupants. This is a fun and fundraising event with proceeds this year being directed to the barn restorations at the park (see story page 6).

Last year over \$3000 was raised along with the spirits of the 700 in attendance. Last year's funds assisted with the installation of the new playground at the park.

The event is sponsored by the Friends of Dodge County Parks.

For more information contact the Dodge County Parks office at 920-386-3700 or check the web at [www.dodgeparks.com](http://www.dodgeparks.com).



## RRC says thanks and good luck to a good friend!

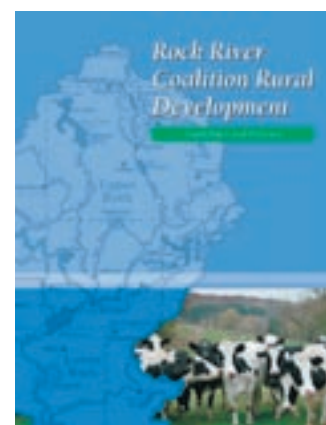
Ken Johnson, DNR Lower Rock Basin Leader and one of the key designers of the Rock River Coalition, DNR and UW-Extension partnership has accepted a promotion to DNR Southern Regional Water Leader. In this position he will oversee water management work in river basins in southern Wisconsin: Upper and Lower Rock; Grant, Sugar, Platte and Pecatonica; and the Lower Wisconsin. We have benefited from his leadership in the Rock, and know the other basins will enjoy his inclusive style as well.

While he will still be involved with the Rock, he won't be involved at the same hands-on level as before. We at the Coalition say thanks and wish him well!



## Planning the Rock

The Planning the Rock Issue Team is completing its rewrite of the award winning Rural Development Guidelines and Policies Manual. This new edition will have updated sections on ethanol and wind energy among other improvements. If you would like a copy please contact Kim at either 920-674-7297 or [kimb@co.jefferson.wi.us](mailto:kimb@co.jefferson.wi.us).



## RRC Volunteers Needed

The Rock River Coalition needs you. The Board gets many suggestions for activities we could be a part of; however, nine people can only do so much. Below are opportunities for you to get involved with us.

Some of the opportunities are activities we are involved in and could use additional help, others need people to step-up and help with development and implementation. Check to see if any interest you and give us a call.

- Send Your Legislator Down the River, (SYLDR) Tentatively set for June 19, 2006, paddling from south of Janesville to Beloit: help needed with planning as well as on the day of the event.
- September Bike Tour: Help with planning and publicity. While this is a long way off, publicity needs to get onto websites and into newsletters soon.
- Help develop field trips to Chicago Botanical Gardens and Prairie Crossing to view natural restorations and conservation subdivisions or a green roof field trip to Milwaukee.
- Develop an interactive citizen monitoring basin map for the website with each monitoring site linked to a photo of site, data, or other information.
- Participate on committees representing the RRC: current needs are for the Horicon Marsh multuse trail committee and Jefferson County Natural Step/Eco Municipality committee.
- Reorganize the RRC weblinks page to make it easier to use. Update links.
- Maintain the UW-Extension Rain Garden in Jefferson.



Volunteers serving food at SYLDR 2002  
-photo by Suzanne Wade

### Desktop and laptop computers needed:

With the addition of three part-time staff, the RRC is in need of computers. The computers need to have at least a Pentium processor with Windows XP. They also need to have software such as Microsoft Word, Excel and PowerPoint intact.

If you can help us out, contact Suzanne at 920-674-8972. Tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

## Plan now to keep invasive plants and animals out of our lakes

Clean Boats, Clean Lakes is a unique initiative by people who love lakes to keep invasive plants and animals from hitchhiking from lake-to-lake. This UWEX/DNR program works with teams of people who agree to talk to boaters at boat landings about removing aquatic plants, and other ways to protect the lakes.

Cambridge High School Ecology Club will be hosting a Clean Boats, Clean Lakes Workshop on May 13, 8:30 - Noon on Lake Ripley. Attendance is free, but workshop participants are strongly encouraged to purchase a volunteer handbook and resource tool kit at a cost of \$25.00. If interested in this workshop contact Ed Grunden at 608-423-3261 Ext 3112.

If you're interested in learning more about this program go to <http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexplakes/CBCW/default.asp>



Take action to prevent noxious weeds and animals, such as zebra mussels, from being moved from place-to-place by starting your own Clean Boats, Clean Water program  
-DNR file photo

## Become a RRC Member

In addition to supporting RRC work, members receive newsletters, notices of forums, conferences, and special events. To become a member, complete the following:

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Title \_\_\_\_\_  
 Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_  
 Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

### Annual tax deductible membership fees

Individual	\$ 25	
Family	\$ 35	
Student/Senior Citizen	\$ 15	
Classroom	\$ 25	
Affiliates*	\$ 50	
Corporate	\$ 200	

\*Includes small businesses, organizations, lake districts, and municipal departments

### Tax deductible donation

\$ 100	
\$ 250	
\$500 or above	

Donations are greatly appreciated and can be targeted towards specific projects.

Please mail this completed form with check to:

**Rock River Coalition**

**c/o Kim Buchholz**

**224 Connelly Dr**

**Jefferson, WI 53549**

or register and pay online with PayPal at:  
[www.rockrivercoalition.org/membership.asp](http://www.rockrivercoalition.org/membership.asp)