

ROCK RIVER COALITION ANNUAL REPORT

2003



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.

President's Message

The Rock River Coalition prides itself on being a ten-county River Basin Organization. It is inherent in our mission to listen to our members and volunteers and render them assistance in fulfilling our mission and goals. We are very much aware that only with the passion and efforts of our volunteers, issue teams, partners and sponsors, will our work be effective.

The Rock River Coalition is continuously evolving and we welcome our members and volunteers' feedback regarding our existing programs and suggestions for future initiatives. I invite you to be a member or volunteer in a River Basin Organization that can, and will make a difference in the quality of life in the Rock River Basin. Please feel free to contact us at anytime with your comments or suggestions.

Warren Topel, President

Community Outreach by Ellen Rulseh, Community Outreach and Citizen Monitoring Coordinator

In 2003 we helped implement the mission of the Rock River Coalition in schools, civic and friends groups, with individuals, the media, and RRC members in a variety of ways.

Among the many initiatives undertaken was an "Environmental Action" booklet that lists projects anyone can do to improve water quality in the Rock River Basin.

Two demonstration rain gardens were coordinated, one in cooperation with youth and staff at Centro Hispano and Saint Mark's Lutheran Church in Madison and the other with UW-Extension staff and workshop volunteers in Jefferson. School groups at Webster School in Watertown and Jefferson Middle School have undertaken rain garden implementation. Partnerships have been formed with Horicon Parks Department and Hustisford High School for demonstration rain gardens planned for early summer of 2004.

Another outcome of outreach to schools in Watertown, Jefferson, and Fort Atkinson is a new partnership with Wisconsin's K-12 Energy Education Program (KEEP) and the DNR's "Green Schools" program. Energy audits educate teachers, administration and students about how school buildings can save money by being energy efficient.

Early in 2003 we coordinated a "Sense of Place" meeting in Mayville with more than 15 people representing Watertown, Horicon, Hustisford, Waupun and Mayville to plan events. Juneau has also joined the initiative.

We are working with Watertown's Main Street Program, the Jefferson County Board Supervisors, and the City of Watertown to promote Watertown's Riverwalk in 2004.

2003 was a year of building relationships while developing new partnerships and continuously promoting the Rock River Coalition.

A Word from Our DNR Partners

A two billion-dollar deficit in state government has spurred lots of changes in 2003. The Department of Natural Resources has been asked to down size and cut many of its budgets. The task in front of the Department is to figure out ways to provide the same level of public service with less resources. While I'm confident we'll do the best job possible working with the resources we've been given, the partnership that we've forged with groups like the Rock River Coalition, now more than ever, needs to take center stage. The idea behind forming partnerships has always been to take advantage of synergistic and do more with less. I know I speak for Jim Congdon as well, when I say that the Department couldn't be more pleased with the continuing effort and development of the Coalition. Thanks

Ken Johnson, Lower Rock River Water Leader

Rock River Basin Partnership Team Highlights

Groundwater Issue Team

Groundwater Guardians & GFLOW Model

The Rock River Coalition (RRC) Groundwater Issue Team received the first annual Groundwater Guardian Team Award for their work on the Karst Display, Well Abandonment Workshops, and GFLOW Model proposal. The team continues to work on the development of a GFLOW model for the basin.

Rural Development Concerns Issue Team

Rock River Basin Rural Development Guidelines and Policies Manual

The Rock River Coalition (RRC) Rural Development Issue Team published the Rock River Coalition Rural Development Guidelines and Policies Manual. It describes the reasons for focusing development in specific areas and methods to protect and enhance agriculture in the Rock River Basin. Informational meetings were held in Watertown and Stoughton with 84 participants including elected officials, planning professionals, land trusts and other interested individuals. The team continues to make presentations on the manual contents to interested organizations and town board committees. Four town board committees and a county Farm Board committee were given presentations during 2003. The manual is on the web at <http://clean-water.uwex.edu/rockriver>.



Citizen stream monitoring at work

“Changing Landscapes: Anticipating the Effects of Local Decisions”

The Rock River Coalition was a co-sponsor for a number of events during 2003. The Changing Landscapes Workshop was one of the most important for our issue teams. Professional planners and others involved in encouraging citizen participation in local land use decisions came together to evaluate computer land use decision-support tools. This will be followed up with another workshop in 2004. The Rock River Coalition will then host citizen workshops in late 2004 or 2005.

Water Quality Issue Team

Citizen Monitoring

The citizen monitoring project was expanded in 2003 to include Jefferson, lower Dodge, Columbia and Walworth counties so all counties in the Rock River Basin now have citizen stream monitors. Streams in all ten counties were prioritized for those where information needs were most critical. In each county we have local coordinators who work with the monitors. The local coordinator works first to find monitors who will focus their efforts in these priority areas. The RRC also encourages monitors to select sites where they have a personal interest, their ‘home town stream’.

More than 150 citizens have been trained in monitoring techniques with 129 active stream monitors. Each year an advanced program is offered to veteran monitors. This event, “Rock River Basin Confluence, a Gathering of Citizen Monitors,” was held on March 8, 2003 with forty-six people attending. Suzanne Wade, UWEX Basin Educator received the Wisconsin Citizen Stream Monitoring Pioneer Award for her work in the Rock River Basin as well as earlier work in the Milwaukee River Basin.

Storm Water Issue Team

“Managing Storm Water in the Rock River Basin: A Practical Approach”

The basin Storm Water Issue Team hosted two workshops on Storm Water Management with 64 people in attendance. Rain garden workshops and demonstrations were developed at UW-Extension in Jefferson County.



The Pheasant Branch stabilization project

Dane County NR 216 Storm Water Information and Education Plan and Citizen Assessment

Nineteen communities in the greater Madison Area developed a Storm Water Information and Education Plan. Members of the RRC Storm Water Issue Team participated in the project. The effort won the Wisconsin Extension Community Development Association 2003 Team Award. The effort continues with a survey of attitudes, knowledge and actions concerning storm water, and the development of media messages.

Shoreline and Wetland Protection Issue Team

Shoreline Restoration Initiative

The Rock River Coalition Shoreline Restoration Initiative completed 5 shoreline restoration/erosion control projects in 2003. Since 2002 twelve natural shoreline projects have been installed basin-wide.

The 2003 restorations include the Pheasant Branch Stabilization Project, Stricker Pond Project, and Tiedemon Pond Project in Middleton as well as projects in Hustisford and on Whitewater Lake. The Middleton and Hustisford Projects were implemented through state grants and involved large-scale plantings. The Pheasant Branch Creek, Hustisford, and Whitewater Lake Projects are using innovative bioengineering techniques.

In the spring of 2003, the RRC received a grant to work with nine municipalities to design shoreline restorations in their parks. The design work is scheduled for 2004.



Before and after pictures of the Tiedemon Pond shoreline restoration project.

Other RRC Projects

Send Your Legislator Down the River

The third annual 'Send Your Legislator Down the River' educational event was held on June 16, 2003. Present were Representative David Ward, State Senator Judy Robson, Representative Steve Nass, Helen Forbeck (US Representative Tammy Baldwin's aide), DNR Secretary Scott Hassett and DNR Water Division Administrator Todd Ambs, along with 40 participants. The event began with Aztalan tours, the Rock River Coalition's Annual Meeting, a picnic supper, an overview of the Aztalan Master Plan and comments from the officials before everyone canoed from Aztalan State Park to Jefferson. The 2003 event was also co-sponsored by UWEX, DNR, Lake Mills-Aztalan Historical Society and the Friends of Aztalan.

Environmental Action Projects

Rock River Basin Environmental Action Guide

An environmental action guide for use by community groups in the basin was completed by Suzanne Wade, UWEX Rock River Basin Educator and Ellen Rulseh, Rock River Coalition Outreach Coordinator. The guide highlights activities such as controlling invasive plants, restoring prairies, developing rain gardens, and providing groundwater education.

Representatives David Ward & Steve Nass in the third annual Send Your Legislator Down the River event in June 2003



Financial Summary

For the fiscal year ending December 31, 2003
(with comparative totals from December 31, 2002)

Support and Revenue

	2002	2003
Membership & Donations	\$2,895	\$2,613
Foundation Grants	\$18,600	
Government Grants	\$22,500	\$25,000
Interest and other income	\$1,454	\$2,085
Total Revenue	\$45,449	\$29,775

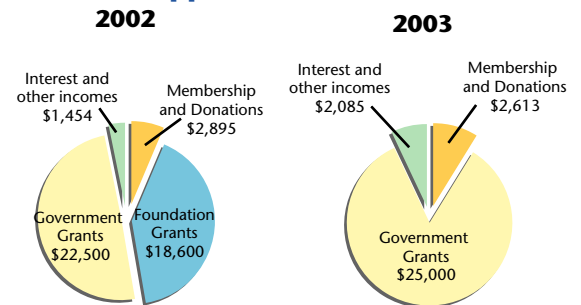
Expenses

	2002	2003
Programs and Projects	\$20,448	\$39,280
Management & Operations	\$3,090	\$1,367
Total Expenses	\$23,538	\$40,647

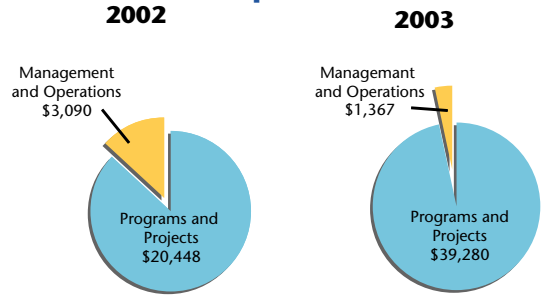
Net Assets

	2002	2003
Beginning of year	\$12,814	\$30,824
End of year	\$30,824	\$19,952
Change in Assets	\$21,911	\$10,872

Support and Revenue



Expenses



Grants completed

DNR River Grants

Business Outreach Coordinator 2 – Developed and began installation of Action Projects.

Citizen Monitoring Grant 1 – Establish the monitoring program in Rock, Dane Fond du Lac and Dodge counties.

Citizen Monitoring Grant 2 – Establish the monitoring program in Walworth, Columbia, Jefferson, and lower Dodge counties.

Community Outreach Coordinator Grant 1 – Develop environmental action projects in communities through out the Rock River Basin.

Greater Milwaukee Foundation Grant – Establish citizen stream monitoring in Washington and Waukesha counties.

Thank you to all our volunteers! – With you we make a difference in our Rock River Basin.

Send Your Legislator Down the River

Friends of Aztalan State Park
Lake Mills/Aztalan Historical Society
Bob Birmingham
Margaret Burlingham
Jim Congdon
Lisa Conley
Tom Davies
Randy Radtke
Cheryl Peterson
Ken Johnson
Dave O'Malley
Warren Topel
Ken & Donna Keiner

Outreach Projects

Pond Hill Dairy
• St Marks Rain Garden/
Storm Drain Stenciling
Centro Hispano Teens
Francelia Lara
Cecilia Cazares
Jamie Wichman
Pastor Mary Pharmer
Julia Weaver

UWEX Jefferson County Rain Garden

LanDesign
Dutch Designs
Matt Hanson
Partnership for Rain Gardens
Jefferson County

Active 2003 Issue Team Members

Participants on all issue teams:

Jim Congdon, WDNR UR Water Team Leader
Ken Johnson, WDNR LR Basin Water Team Leader
Ruth Johnson, WDNR RR Watershed Planner
Suzanne Wade, UWEX RR Basin Educator

Wetland/Shoreline Protection Issue Team

Dan Hunt, WDNR Water Mgt Spec, Chair
William Bremer, Ashippun WWTP, Superintendent
Patricia Cicero, Jefferson Cty Resource Conservationist
Audrey Greene, Walworth Cty Lakes Spec
Penni Klein, Friends of Kettle Ponds
Alice Klink, NRCS Wetland Reserve Program Biologist
Patti Meyers, US FWS Refuge Mngr
Hope Oostdik, Rock Lake Improvement Assn
Ron Pribnow, NRCS District Conservationist
Lisa Reas, LJ Reas Consulting

Also helping with wetland team activities:

Paul Hausmann, WDNR Wetlands Team Leader
Tom Bernthal, WDNR Wetland Ecologist
Charlie Luthin, WI Wetlands Assn Exec Dir
Joy Zedler, UW Professor
Graduate Students UW Wetland Seminar

Shoreline Restoration Project Volunteers

- Natureland Park, Walworth Co.
- Walworth Co. Highway Dept.
- Pike Lake Project
- Pike Lake State Park staff
- Lake Comus Arboretum Project
- WI School for the Deaf
- Phoenix Middle School
- Our Redeemer Lutheran School
- Delavan Lake Project
- Phoenix Middle School
- Hustisford Project (Lake Sinissippi)
- Lake Sinissippi Association
- Dodge County 4-H Club
- Girl & Boy Scouts
- Horicon DNR Staff
- Pheasant Branch Creek Middleton Project
- Wisconsin Conservation Corps
- Pheasant Branch Conservancy

- Stricker & Tiedeman Pond Projects
- Friends of the Kettle Ponds
- Madison Audubon Society
- Middleton Public Lands staff

Groundwater Issue Team

Paula Allen, WI DATCP Envir Hydrogeologist
Tim Banwell, Rock Cty Envir Health Officer
Dennis Bries, Farm Bureau Field Supv
Ron Curtis, WDNR Water Supply Spec
David Johnson, WDNR Hydrogeologist
Mark Krumenacher, GZA Hydrogeologist
Laurie Lambert, Dane Cty Conservation Spec
Rich Moen, Leisch Environmental
Ed Morse, WI Rural Water Assn, Groundwater Spec
Dave Neuendorf, UWEX CNRED Agent
Rick Wietersen, Rock Cty Groundwater Program Mngr

Rural Development Concerns Issue Team

Vernon Brummond, Dodge Cty Brd Supv
Margaret Burlingham, LanDesign
David Carpenter, Dodge Cty Planning and Zoning Dir
Ken Rowley, Walworth Cty Farm Bureau

Stormwater Team Issue Team

Jim Bertolacini, WDNR Storm Water Spec, Chair
Joe Dorava, Vierbicher Associates Inc Project Mngr
Sue Jones, Dane Cty Watershed Mgt Coord
Pete Jopke, Dane Cty Watershed Project Coord
Craig Kunkel, Kunkel Engineering Group

Water Quality Issue Team

John Krug, Sun Prairie WWTP Supt, Chair
Lisa Conley, North American Lake Mgmt Society
Dan Heim, WDNR Industrial Wastewater Spec
Jayne Jenks, Waukesha Cty Conservation Spec
Pete Jopke, Dane County Land Conservation Dept.
Anne Miller, Rock County Land Conservation Dept.
Sue Millin, Washington Cty Education Coord
Janice Redford, Friends of Cam-Rock Park
Ellen Rulseh, Rock River Coalition
Kris Stepenuck, Water Action Volunteers

Rock River Basin Citizen Monitoring Program

Dane County

Pete Jopke, Dane Cty LCD,
Coordinator
Bill Biesmann
Tim & Mary Dickinson
Bret Hagemeyer
Laura Hewitt
Scott, Lance and Karen
Johnson
Beth Meyerand
Chad Moritz
Don Nettum
John Nicol
Ursula Petersen
Janice Redford
Becky Schettler-Peterson
Nancy Schlimgen
Deb Weitzel (Middleton
High School)

Rock River Headwaters

Dan Heim, DNR,
Coordinator
Lorna O'Donovan,
Trisha Schwanke
Robert Behlke
Kristine Rigotti
Jason Gazdecki
Sarah Congdon
Laura Congdon

Gene Frings

Lisa Heim
Jerold & Laurie Kiesow
Walter Luttenberger
Alan Pater
Kevin & Matthew Pea
Tom & Doreen
Schnaderbeck
Kristen Waas
Cal Geiger - Mayville High
School
Jim Congdon

Waukesha County

Jayne Jenks, Waukesha Cty
Coordinator
Kathy & Juliana Bridge
Lisa Conley
Russ Evans
Linda Foss
Jeff Gryzwa
Paul Johnson
Chris Komanecki
Chip Meier
Kay Perkins
Craig and Ann Runyard
Richard Schlondrop
Ron Thomas
Kyle & Teri Villarreal
Cheryl Woodworth

Columbia County

Danelle Anderson
Jenny, Sue and Ben
McGinley
Sue Sewell

Rock County

Anne Miller, Rock Cty LCD,
Coordinator
Donn, Mat and Taylor
Ambrose
Susan Carroll
Becky Carvin
Aaron Combs
Thomas Feck
Bill Hallstrom
James & Nancy Heidt
Chuck & Lorriane Heidt
Elizabeth and Ethan Lee
Katie Klenz
Carolyn Miller
Bruce Mulder
Norman Pakes
Charles Schulte
Violet & Eric Schuster
Alan Siljberg
Ted & Donna Waech
Don, Connie, Danielle and
Derrick Zimmerman
Nancy Zolidis

Washington County

Sue Millin, Washington
Cty LCD, Coordinator
Steve Anderson, Slinger
High School
Stuart & Julie Bacon
Raynelle Chmiel
Steven Chmiel
Stephanie Egner
Bradley Hofmann
Jason Pokorny
Andrea Rose, Hartford
Middle School Ecology
Club
Fay Tess
Wayne Tess

Walworth County

Mary Linton
Peg Reedy

Dodge County

Jim Congdon
Bill Ehlenbeck
Daryl & Diane Frank
Cal Geiger
Roger and Kim Gilligan
Scott Hurlbert
Ruth Johnson
Wally Lutenberg

Ron Thomas
Bob Weiland

Jefferson County

Ellen Rulseh, Coordinator
for Jefferson, Columbia
Walworth, & Lower
Dodge Counties
Jim Baade
Shirley Ellis
Scott & Teri Holloway
Jayne Jenks
Mary Johnson
Emily Krueger



These are many
of the people
who have
worked on 2003
RRC activities

Thank You to the Supporters of the Rock River Coalition

Donors who have generously contributed in 2003:

\$300

Statewide Farm Equipment

\$200

City of Waupun

\$150

Town of Fulton

\$100

Larry & Suzanne Wade
Partnership for Rain Gardens, LLC

\$50

Phil Blazkowski, Rock County Planning Department
Cargill
Dennis Guelig, Village of Therese
Mike Kadig, City of Delavan
Tom Kautz, Rock County Parks
Cindi Keller, City of Jefferson Parks
Ron & Marti Martin, Midwest Prairies
Waupun Utilities
Sue Porter, City of Mayville
Frederick Schwertfeger, Horicon State Bank
Donald Smith, Onyx Glacier Ridge Landfill
Jon Strom, Fort Wisconsin Club
David Taylor, Madison Metro Sewerage District
Mark Wendorf, City of Delavan
Widmer's Cheese Cellars

\$25

Dennis Anthony, Upper Rock River Ecosystem Partnership
Wendy Apple, Vandewalle & Associates
Jim Baade/Carol Bohlman
Don & Alice Brockman
Margaret Burlingham, LanDesign
Rock Lake Improvement Association
Jim & Cheryl Congdon
Bob & Lisa Conley
Friends of Riverfront
Mr. & Mrs. Hugh Highsmith
Diane Hrobsky, Fort Atkinson Chamber of Commerce
Roger & Denise Kist
Larry & Jane Klawitter, Mayville Inn Inc.
Lake Sinnissippi Association
Ray Potempa, Friends of Lake Kegonsa

Christine Robout, Janesville Area Convention and
Visitors Bureau

Randy Roeseler, Watertown Chamber of Commerce
Ken Rowley, Walworth County Farm Bureau
Watertown Sunrise Kiwanis Club
Mike Rupiper, City of Fitchburg
Greg Seefeldt
Warren Topel
Dana White-Quam

\$20

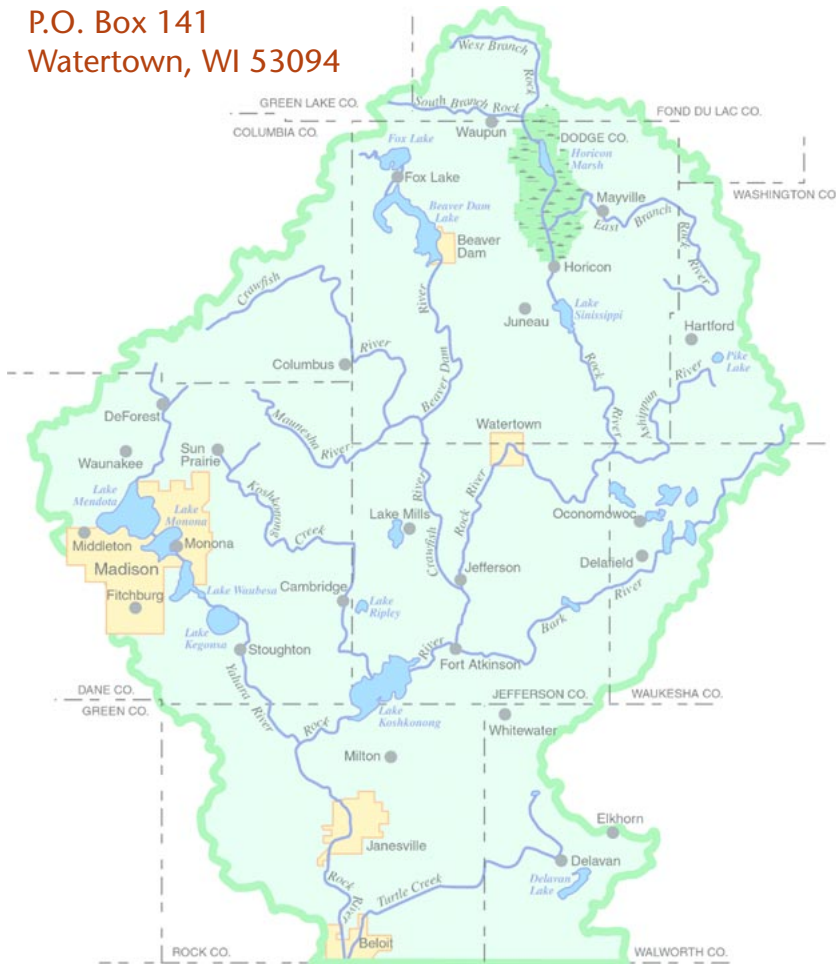
Brad Cantrell
Bill Ehlenbeck
Barbara Feeney, Wisconsin DOT
Scott Fitzgerald
Kevin Freber, City of Watertown
Thomas Ganfield
Steve Grabow
Mo Hansen
Mike Hoppenrath, City of Watertown
Ruth Johnson, WI DNR
Ken Kidder
Jeff Kranz
Paul Lange, Watertown Wastewater Treatment Facility
Sharon Mason-Boersma
Glen McCarty, Waupun Utilities
David Neuendorf
Christopher Pinkowski
Tom Presny, City of Janesville
Janice Redford
Debora Sielski, Washington County Planning & Parks Dept
Joseph Steier, Washington County Planning & Parks Dept.
Larry Weidmann
Ken Wiesner
Herbert Wolf, Washington County Planning & Parks Dept.

\$10

Robert Crump
Nelson Fischer
Dick McLaughlin
Eugene Roark
Ray & Ginny Seaholm
Don Waldvogel
Alan Zelm

Rock River Coalition, Inc.

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(We don't have new logo)



Rock River Coalition Board of Directors

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TestAmerica Inc

Cindy Arbiture – Past President

Jefferson County Historical Alliance

Steve Grabow – Vice President

University of Wisconsin-Extension Jefferson County

Margaret Burlingham – Secretary

LanDesign by Margaret Burlingham

Lisa Conley – Treasurer

Kevin Freber

Watertown Waste Water Treatment Plant

George Groskopf

Penni Klein

City of Middleton Parks

Dave O'Malley

Department of Natural Resources

Suzanne Wade

University of Wisconsin-Extension Rock River Basin

Staff

Ellen Rulseh, Community Outreach Coordinator

Scott Graves, Communications Specialist

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Photo Credit: Ellen Rulseh, Suzanne Wade, & Penni Klein