



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
Annual Business Meeting
Joseph Megaans Restaurant
Lake Mills, WI
May 8, 2008

Call to order: President Joe Dorava called the meeting to order at 5:40pm.

Attendance: Directors in attendance were Joe Dorava, Lisa Conley, Suzanne Wade, Tim Reel, Patricia Cicero, Ken Wiesner and Jan Ruster.

Agenda: The agenda was approved on a motion from Wiesner and seconded by Conley. Motion carried.

Minutes: The previous business meeting agenda from May 8, 2007 was approved on a motion from Ruster and seconded by Cicero. Motion carried.

Treasurers Report: Joe referenced the provided 2007 Annual Report. Joe noted that the large values, both debits and credits were due to the GFLOW program. Wiesner added that the "membership/donation" value is essentially the RRC operating budget. The treasurers report was approved on motion by Wiesner and a second from Wade. Motion carried.

Director Introductions:

Warren Topel~ Warren stopped in briefly to say hello and offer his positive remarks regarding the direction of the RRC.

Tim Reel~ Tim introduced himself and noted his municipal career with Whitewater. Tim also noted his strong interest in the nutrient related issues in the basin and how citizen monitoring can be of great benefit.

Suzanne Wade~ Suzanne works as the UW-Extension basin educator. She wears many hats in her role on the RRC board of directors. Suzanne thanked all those that have led to the continued success of the RRC.

Lisa Conley~ Lisa is very enthusiastic in all her environmental pursuits. Lisa also sits on the Town and County RC&D board, is a citizen monitor for Lac La Belle Lake in Oconomowoc and sits on the Water Quality issue team of the RRC.

Joe Dorava~ Joe works for Vierbacher and Assoc. and has spent much of his time on the GFLOW modeling project as its coordinator. Joe continues to be a strong voice for the RRC and the benefits that our group can provide.

Jan Ruster~ Jan works for Premier Bank and acts the groups treasurer. Jan a strong desire and interest in the conservation issues that the RRC is involved with.

Ken Wiesner~ Ken, who is retired from the WDNR is also involved in environmental issues as a board member of WAL (Wis. Assoc. of Lakes). Ken heads up our SYLDR event and has been invaluable in working with the WDNR on several issues.

Patricia Cicero~ Patricia works for the Jefferson Co. Land and Water Conservation Dept. Patricia is very involved in lake issues but is also interested in river and stream projects as well. Patricia has been very involved in the Phosphorus Sampling Project for RRC.

RRC Staff Reports:

Jennifer Hanneman~ Joe thanked Jennifer for her vital “behind the scenes” role in everything the RRC is involved with. “Administrative Assistant just doesn’t cover everything that Jennifer accomplishes for the RRC”!

Ed Grunden~ Ed is the Citizen Monitoring Coordinator for the RRC. Ed has worked to provide important funding sources for RRC in the area of citizen monitoring. This year has tremendous potential for the RRC and its members. Ed pointed out several upcoming grant possibilities that we hope come to fruition. Ed is also involved in a unique monitoring project at the Zeloski Marsh. Along with “birder” Nolan Kollath, Ed will be piloting a USFWS project at the marsh.

Michael Forster Rothbart~ Michael is the Water Star Community project coordinator. He clearly described the basis of the program and noted that it has been very well received and he has enjoyed the diverse group of people that he has had the opportunity to work with on this project. Michael thanked Suzanne W. for her guidance noted that there will be 3 pilot communities chosen in the near future.

Board Nominations and Elections:

Lisa Conley- President Elect, was again nominated for the board by Reel and seconded by Wiesner. Suzanne Wade- incumbent, was again nominated for the board by Wiesner and seconded by Cicero. Scott Taylor- member of Friends of Badfish Creek was self nominated and seconded by Rothbart.

Scott came to the Friends of Badfish Creek due a relocation and experience with the Friends of Starkweather Creek group. Several in attendance have worked with Scott in the past and all gave nice references. Scott Taylor provided his contact info to the group as well. It is P:608-444-7483 & sotaylor@taylorconservation.com

Also, nominated were Sandra Prebeg and Bill Biesmann. Bill is employed by Vierbicher Associates in Madison and his contact information is P:608-826-0532 & bbie@vierbicher.com. Both were unable to attend but expressed great interest in being involved with the RRC through outgoing president Joe Dorava. A motion was made to expand the size of the board to a minimum of 10 individuals by Wade and seconded by Dorava. Motion carried. Further, a motion was made to accept all nominations for the board by Dorava and seconded by Ruster. Motion carried. Cicero added that the next meeting will be held on June 3 @ 4:30pm at the Jefferson County UW-Extension Bldg.

Annual Report:

The annual report meets all 503(c) requirements and was approved on a motion from Wiesner and seconded by Ruster. Motion carried.

Old Business:

2007 Awards were presented to Margaret Burlingham for her past and current contributions to the RRC. Also, John David received an award for all his leadership and commitment to the Rock River Basin in his current and past roles. David thanked all the volunteers who make so much possible in every community. Both received framed outdoor photography pictures taken in the Horicon Marsh.

New Business:

Chapters of the RRC~ Dorava discussed the formation of “chapters” within the RRC organization in order to foster continued environmental needs. Dorava introduced and signed a charter agreement with the Friends of Badfish Creek (FBCW) president Caroline Werner. Caroline gave a brief history of the FBCW group and its enthusiasm for the future. Wade reiterated the great interest the RRC has in working with chapters in the future and also thanked Jennifer Hanneman (RRC Admin. Assist.) for all her help on this issue. A motion to approve the FBCW chapter was made by Wiesner and seconded by Cicero. Motion carried.

New Brochures~ New brochures with the “chapter” language were passed out to all at the meeting.

Other Business:

- Conley thanked outgoing president Dorava for all his hard work in the past couple of years!
- Past president Cindy Arbiture spoke regarding the importance of the RRC group. Especially with the increased development and growth pressures in the basin. Cindy noted the end result GFLOW model as an example of how we can help communities grow “smarter”. Arbiture also noted radium as a topic of interest.
- Wade noted that the GFLOW model will be done in Oct. '08.
- SYLDR will be June 23rd

Adjournment:

Wiesner made a motion for adjournment which was seconded by Conley.