

ROCK RIVER COALITION ANNUAL REPORT

2002



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

Welcome to Ellen Rulseh Community Outreach and Citizen Monitoring Coordinator

Ms. Rulseh joined RRC in December 2002. She will implement a DNR River Protection Grant to work with citizen groups and communities in the Rock River Basin to develop environmental action projects such as: river clean-up, shoreline restoration, educational events, storm drain stenciling, habitat restoration and water trail development. She will also develop community and business sponsorship for these program activities.

As part of a second DNR grant, Ms. Rulseh will coordinate fourteen Rock River Basin Citizen Monitoring Teams in Jefferson, Lower Dodge, Columbia, and Walworth Counties, while enlisting sponsors to support these initiatives.

Ms. Rulseh is a Wisconsin native, and graduate of the University of Wisconsin, who brings the Coalition a variety of community outreach and development experience from work done in New York State and in Wisconsin. In 1993-1995 she founded a regional network of farmers' markets on Long Island through the Peconic Land Trust. On accepting the position she said, "It's a privilege to be supporting the Rock River Coalition in executing its mission."

A Word from our WDNR Partners

When the Department of Natural Resources reorganized in 1995 the intent of the restructuring of the field organization by basins was to implement a watershed/ecosystem approach to resource management. The watershed approach is an interactive community process to develop a vision for the future of a watershed by working with its stakeholders – people who own the land, farm the land, live in its communities, and the resource agencies responsible for resource protection and management. Basin leaders were given the assignment of establishing basin partnerships. The Department's Upper and Lower Rock River Basin teams joined the Rock River Coalition as members.

The RRC/WDNR Basin Partnership has been a successful pilot effort to increase public/private participation and cooperation in resolving resource management issues in the Rock River Basin. Working through the RRC Issue Teams we have brought together private citizens concerned about the place they live, work and play with public agency staff to identify mutual concerns and implement projects to work toward resolving those concerns. Our partnership has been recognized as one of the more successful efforts in the state.

Do we have a long road ahead? Without a doubt!! We have much to do and much to learn about how to more effectively protect our land and water resources in the Rock River Basin. But, I think we are on the right road. Working together in partnerships people concerned about the future well being of the place they live, work and play can accomplish great things.

Jim Congdon, WDNR Basin Leader

Rock River Coalition Issue Team 2002 Accomplishments

The RRC Issue Teams originated following our 1998 basin forum: 'Partnerships for the Future'. Each team's focus was determined by the public's identification of the most important issues in the basin. The seventy issue team members include federal, state, county and local agency staff, University faculty and staff, elected officials, private consultants, lake, river, environmental and conservation group members, Farm Bureau staff, businessmen, farmers and interested citizens.

Groundwater Issue Team



Sinkhole formed near Palmyra after 2002 Alaskan earthquake

Drinking Water Education:

The Karst Brochure developed by the issue team won a national University Extension Gold Award for Excellence. Karst are areas with shallow limestone where sinkholes and crevasses lead to easy contamination of the groundwater. Display and brochures are being used at a number of local garden expos and county fairs.

The Groundwater Issue Team has submitted a grant to develop a basin groundwater flow computer model. This model will be a valuable tool for examining ground and surface water interactions. The model is particularly helpful during planning development or high capacity well locations. The U.S. Geological Survey will develop the model and provide \$36,000 of the cost. Fourteen basin communities have signed letters of support. Channel 52 WTTS TV highlighted the project on their public affairs program.

Water Quality Issue Team

Citizen Monitoring: 100 people were trained in citizen stream monitoring practices during spring 2002. The volunteers monitor wadable streams monthly near their homes for six indicators of water health: oxygen in the water, clarity of the water, habitat, temperature, water flow and stream critters. Volunteers are located in Rock, Dane, Washington, Dodge, Fond du Lac and Waukesha counties. The Rock River Coalition works in partnership with Washington, Rock and Dane Land Conservation Departments and the Rock River Headwaters Inc. to coordinate the program.

In the spring of 2003 the program will expand to Jefferson, Columbia and Walworth counties. \$40,000 in grants and equipment from the Greater Milwaukee Foundation, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, UW-Extension and numerous small grants supported the program in 2002.

Collecting critters in the Headwaters Region



Monitor training in Rock County

Wetland and Shoreline Protection Issue Team

Rock River Coalition Native Shoreline Restoration Projects: The RRC Wetland and Shoreline Protection Issue Team, the Department of Natural Resources, the University of Wisconsin Extension, and county and city park and highway departments sponsor these native restoration and erosion control projects. The DNR Upper Rock River Team Leader provided funding the consultant to design the plantings. Locations in planning or development during 2002 were:

Rock County: Sweet Allyn and Murwin County parks

Dodge County: Astico Park & Beaver Dam boat launch

Middleton: Tiedeman and Stricker ponds

Hustisford: Lake Sinissippi boat landing

Watertown and Waupun: Rock River

Lake Comus Arboretum

Delavan Lake

Pheasant Branch Conservancy

The 2001 project in Delavan resulted in additional native plant restoration in city parks and on Lake Comus in 2002. The Lake Comus Protection and Rehabilitation District funded the lake projects through a DNR Lake Protection Grant. Several restoration workshops have been held in Walworth County, in addition three are planned in Hustisford in 2003: two for contractors and landscapers and one for landowners.



Before and after pictures of the 2002 Hustisford boat landing shoreline restoration demonstration project.



Targeting Wetland Restoration:

The team is beginning a new project to target wetland restoration for water quality, flood reduction and wildlife habitat. The initial objective is to bring together those knowledgeable and interested individuals to develop a process to identify and prioritize drained wetlands in the Rock River Basin for restoration potential. Students from a University of Wisconsin graduate seminar developed recommendations on effectively restoring wetlands in the basin. The results of their work will be presented at a national conference in the spring.

Storm Water Issue Team

Environmental Grant Workshops: The Storm Water Issue Team sponsored three Environmental Grant Workshops with 98 people in attendance. A number of participants subsequently wrote successful grants.

Dane County Storm Water Education Plan: Team members worked with the nineteen municipalities applying for a storm water permit to develop a Storm Water Education Plan. Dane County received a \$100,000 grant towards plan implementation.

Rural Development Concerns Issue Team

Rural Development Guidelines: The team is finalizing guidelines on residential development and the protection of farmland and open space in the basin.

Send Your Legislator Down the River

The RRC Board of Directors annually sponsors this fun and educational event. In 2002 the event was cosponsored with the Green Rock Audubon Society, the Rock County Ice Age Trail Chapter and the Janesville Park and Recreation Department. Four legislators joined us for our tour down the Rock starting at the Indian Trails Boy Scout Camp north of Janesville. Fifty people enjoyed a cookout, music by EnRoute, discussions with the legislators and a presentation by the local DNR warden. Unfortunately a surprise summer storm shortened the trip, but our intrepid legislators made it to the halfway point.



Legislators, Judy Robson, Dan Schooff and David Ward, aboard the Voyageur Canoe before the storm hit during the 2002 Send Your Legislator Down the River.

2003's event is scheduled for June 16 on the Crawfish River starting at Aztalan and ending in Jefferson.

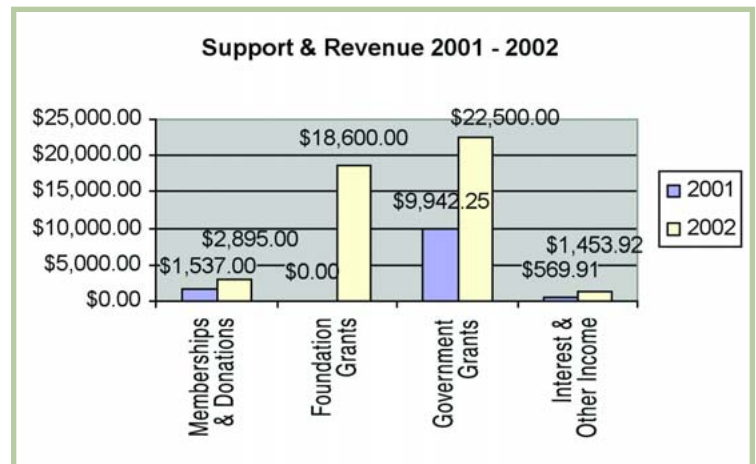
Call 920-674-7443 for more information.

Financial Summary Analysis

For the fiscal year ending December 31, 2002
(with comparative totals for December 31, 2001)

Support and Revenue

	2001	2002
Membership & Donations	\$1,537	\$2,895
Foundation Grants		\$18,600
Government Grants	\$9,942	\$22,500
Interest and Other Income	\$570	\$1,454
Total Revenue	\$12,049	\$45,449



Expenses

	2001	2002
Programs and Projects	\$18,151	\$20,448
Management & Operations	\$869	\$3,090
Total Expenses	\$19,019	\$23,538



Net Assets

	2001	2002
Beginning of Year	\$19,784	\$12,814
End of Year	\$12,814	\$30,824
Change in Assets	-\$6,970	\$21,911

Rock River Coalition Issue Team Members

Participants on all Issue Teams:

Jim Congdon, DNR Upper Rock Water Team Leader
Ken Johnson, DNR Lower Rock Water Team Leader
Ruth Johnson, DNR Rock River Watershed Planner
Suzanne Wade, UWEX RR Basin Educator

Groundwater

Paula Allen
Tim Banwell
Dennis Bries
Ron Curtis
David Johnson
Mark Krumenacher
Laurie Lambert
Ed Morse
Dave Neuendorf
Rick Wietersen

Recreation

Tom Presny, chair
Bill Ehlenbeck
Steve Falter
Steve Grabow
Thomas Kautz
David Liebl
Joe Nehmer
Jerry Richardson
Leonard & LaVern Schoonover
David J Walz

Rural Development Concerns

Vernon Brummond
Margaret Burlingham
David Carpenter
Ken Rowley

Stormwater

Jim Bertolacini, chair
Faye Amerson
Joe Dorava
Sue Jones
Pete Jopke
Craig Kunkel

Water Quality

John Krug, chair
Ann Brown
Lisa Conley
Mindy Habecker
Dan Heim
Jayne Jenks
Mark Jenks
Nancy Lannert
Sue Millin
Janice Redford
Brian Smetana
Diana Toledo
Peter Watts
Steven Woodman

Wetland/Shoreline Protection

Dan Hunt, chair
William Bremer
Patricia Cicero
Paula French
Audrey Greene
Dawn Horvath
Penni Klein
Alice Klink
Patti Meyers
Hope Oostdik
Ron Pribnow
Lisa Reas
Laura Stremick

Also helping with wetland team activities:

Paul Hausmann
Tom Bernthal
Charlie Luthin
Joy Zedler
UW Wetland Seminar
Graduate Students

Shoreline Restoration Project Volunteers

Natureland Park
Walworth Co. Hwy Dept.
Pike Lake Project
Pike Lake Sportsmans' Club
Pike Lake St. Park staff
Lake Comus Arboretum Project
WI School for the Deaf
Phoenix Middle School
Our Redeemer Lutheran School
Delavan Lake Project
Phoenix Middle School
Lake Sinnissippi-Hustisford
Lake Sinnissippi Association
Area 4-H Club Members
Girl Scout Troop Members
Boy Scout Troop Members
Horicon DNR Staff
Pheasant Branch Creek
Middleton Project
Wi. Conservation Corps
Pheasant Branch
Conservancy

Send Your Legislator Down the River

Pat Backe
Chris DeRemer
Neal Dupree
Bill Hallstrom

Tom Presny
Jeff Hazekamp
Steve Orlovski
Ed Rhinehard

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

*These people have worked on RRC activities
during the past 18 months.*

Rock River Basin Citizen Monitoring Program

Citizen Monitoring Workshop Trainers

Kris Stepenuck
Rick Rudey
Nancy Lannert
Suzanne Wade
Mary Holleback
Troy Kuphal
Matt Zoshke
Stephanie Egner
Dick Newsome
Tom Thostenson
Tom Koch

Dane County Volunteers

Pete Jopke, Coordinator
Bill Biesmann
Toni Dallwig
Jennifer Filbert
Megan Finnessy
Amy Forster Rothbart
Bret Hagemeyer
Henry Haugley
Laura Hewitt
Karen Johnson
John Madden
Dave O'Malley
Rick Plonsky
Janice Redford
Becky Schettler-Peterson
Deb Weitzel, Middleton High School Ecology Club

Rock River Headwaters Volunteers

Lorna O'Donovan, Coordinator
Dan Heim, Coordinator
Danelle Anderson
Robert Behlke
Sarah Congdon
Laura Congdon
Rick Eckerstorfer
Lisa Heim
Ruth Johnson
Jerold & Laurie Kiesow
Walter Luttenberger
Alan Pater
Kevin & Matthew Pea
Kristine Rigotti
Tom Schuaderbeck
Carol & Paul Shirk
Molly Stoddard
Kristen & Kyle Waas
Joel Wondra

Rock County Volunteers

Anne Miller, Coordinator
Susan Carroll
James & Nancy Heidt
Chuck & Lorriane Heidt
Katie Klenz
Carolyn Miller
Bruce Mulder
Norman Pakes
Charles Schulte
Violet & Eric Schuster
Alan Siljensberg
Donna Waech
Nancy Zolidis
Don, Connie, Danielle and Derrick Zimmerman

Washington County Volunteers

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

Waukesha County Volunteers

Jayne Jenks, Coordinator
Lisa Conley
Johanna Howard
Monica Lyons
Adrienne & Seth Pollen
Richard Schlondrop
Cheryl Woodworth



Thank You to the Supporters of the Rock River Coalition

Donors who have generously contributed in 2002:

\$20,000 and more

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Citizen Monitoring and Outreach Coordinator

\$15,000 and more

Greater Milwaukee Foundation – Citizen Monitoring
Presence of Grace Fund
William and Alicia Schoeneich Conservation and
Preservation Fund
Caroline Draves Fund
Gerda A. Debelak Fund

\$3,600 and more

WE Energies – Citizen Monitoring

\$500 and more

Wisconsin Water Well Association – Groundwater Model

\$300 and more

State-Wide Farm Equipment – Citizen Monitoring

\$200 and more

City of Waupun – Groundwater Model

\$100 and more

Town of Fulton – Groundwater Model
Suzanne and Larry Wade
Lake Sinissippi Association – Citizen Monitoring
Watertown Rotary Club

\$50 and more

Phil Blazkowski, Rock County Planning
John Brocke, Friskies Petcare – Nestle Purina
Cargill Financial Service Center
Robert Crump, Lake Mills Public Works Board
Dennis Guelig, Village of Theresa
Michael Kading, City of Delavan
Tom Kautz, Rock County Parks
Cyndi Keller, City of Jefferson Parks Department
Craig Kunkel, Kunkel Engineering
Randall Oren, City of Edgerton
Jerry Paulson, Natural Land Institute
Sue Porter, City of Mayville
Rotary Club of Fort Atkinson
Frederick Schwertfeger, Horicon State Bank
Donald Smith, Onyx Glacier Ridge Landfill
Jon Storm, Fort Wisconsin Conservation Club
David Taylor, Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District
Peter Watts, S.A.V.E., Riverside Middle School
Waupun Utilities
Mark Wendorf, City of Delavan
Joseph Widmer, Widmer's Cheese Cellars, Inc.
James Zillmer, Columbus WWTP

\$20 and more

William and Cindy Arbiture
Dennis Anthony, Upper Rock River Ecosystem Partnership
Wendy Apple, Vandewalle & Associates
Ken Baumgardt, Ramaker & Associates, Inc.
Brian and Cindie Buchholz
Margaret Burlingham, LanDesign
Brad Cantrell, City of Janesville Planning
David Carpenter, Dodge County Planning
City of Fort Atkinson
James and Cheryl Congdon
Laura Congdon
Bob and Lisa Conley
Bill Ehlenbeck, Dodge County Parks
Rep. Scott Fitzgerald
Friends of Riverfront
Fischer's Department Store
Steve Grabow, UW-Extension, Jefferson County
Tim Griep
Mo Hansen
Allan Haukom, Fort Beautification Council
Hugh and Frances Highsmith
Mike Hoppenrath, City of Watertown
Dianne Hrobsky, Fort Atkinson Area Chamber of commerce
Ken Johnson, WDNR
Ruth Johnson, WDNR
Ken Kidder
Roger Kist, Washington County Planning/Parks Dept.
Larry and Jane Klawitter, Mayville Inn, Inc.
Tom Koch, RMT Inc.
Gene Kramer, Superior Emerald Park Landfill, LLC
Paul Lange, Watertown WWTP
Marilyn Lohman
Sharon Mason-Boersma
Glen McCarty, Waupun Utilities
David Neuendorf, UW-Extension Dodge County
David O'Malley, WDNR
Ray Potempa, Friends of Lake Kegonsa
Tom Presney, City of Janesville Parks
Christine Rebut, Janesville Area Convention and Visitors Bureau
Janice Redford
Randy Roesler, Watertown Chamber of Commerce
Kenneth Rowley, Walworth Farm Bureau
Tom Scott, Rock Trail Coalition, Inc.
Debora Sielski, Washington County Planning/Parks Dept.
Joseph Steier III, Washington County Planning/Parks Dept.
Warren Topel, Test America
Walt Voegeli
Watertown Chamber of Commerce
Larry Wedmann
Ken Wiesner, WDNR
Herbert Wolf, Washington County Planning/Parks Dept.
Waupun Area Chamber of Commerce
Waupun Tourism committee
Erich Zellmer, JEM Group

\$10 and more

Nelson Fischer
Thomas Jones
Dick McLaughlin
Ray and Ginny Seaholm, Dodge Co. Board
Alan Zelm

Rock River Coalition, Inc.

P.O. Box 141
Watertown, WI 53094



Board of Directors

Warren Topel, President

Cindy Arbiture, Past President

Steve Grabow, Vice President

Bill Ehlenbeck, Treasurer/Membership

Margaret Burlingham, Secretary

Paul Lange

Dave O'Malley

Suzanne Wade

Lisa Conley

Staff

Ellen Rulseh, Community Outreach and
Citizen Monitoring Coordinator

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