# MINUTES
for the
## City of Fitchburg
## Resource Conservation Commission
February 17, 2014 Meeting

**RCC and Staff Members Present:** Diane Streck, Steve Arnold, Jan Kucher, Tony Hartman, Kris Wetzel, Rick Eilertson and Kristofer Canto

**Others Present:** Paul Abramson (Paolo Verde Consulting), Nancy Sheehan (Rock River Coalition), Phil Sveum (Hamm Farm Land, LLC), Steve Drake and Debbie Hafenstein (Rock River Coalition Stream Monitoring Volunteers)

**Absent:** Samuel Cooke (excused), Kay Schindel (excused)

**1. Call to Order**
- Diane called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm.

**2. Appointment of Timekeeper**
- Steve was appointed as Timekeeper.

**3. Public Appearances of Non-Agenda Items** - none

**4. Approval of Minutes from January 27, 2014, RCC Meeting**
- *Steve moved to approve the Minutes; Jan seconded. Minutes were approved as written.*

**5. New Business**

**5.a. Zero Waste – Paul Abramson (Palo Verde Consulting) sustainability initiatives in Fitchburg**
- Paul is an event and community relations professional in zero-waste event planning services (eco-preneur).
- For Zero Waste events, Paolo Verde works with vendors and recruits and trains volunteers known as "Trash Talkers" to minimize waste, with 85% or higher diversion rates as a goal. He explained that volunteers are critical to provide convenient disposal information to event attendees.
- Paul reviewed his past experiences in zero-waste event planning in the Madison area.
- Paul explained the cost of his services varied depending on several factors and that a more detailed discussion regarding the specific event in mind would be needed. Paul invited RCC members to volunteer for a Paolo Verde event to experience the zero-waste process.

**5.b. Stream Monitoring – Nancy Sheehan (Rock River Coalition - RRC)**

- Nancy explained that the stream monitoring volunteering effort utilizes a graduated approach: Level 1) Baseline Monitoring, Level 2) Trends Assessment, and Level 3) Targeted Monitoring Projects.
- Nancy explained the collaborative monitoring strategy includes regulated communities; the Wisconsin DNR; individuals and non-profits; and county land and water resource departments.
- Nancy explained the Yahara River Watershed Citizen Stream Monitoring program collects phosphorous concentration data which is useful for the Yahara Watershed Improvement Network (Yahara WINs) project. The RRC Stream Monitoring program received funding via the Yahara WINs project for 2014 which will allow more sites to be monitored.
- Diane asked the purpose for obtaining biological information. Nancy explained that the DNR needs biologic information when it considers removing an impaired waterways designation.
- Level 1 is now a monthly monitoring. There are no longer snapshot days. A trained monitor needs to be at every sampling. Training sessions vary depending on the Level.
- RCC's proposed site is just off Anderberg Drive and would be a Level 2 plus nutrient sampling. Sampling would take approximately 20 minutes plus travel time to MMSD.

***Steve moved to amend the agenda to take up item 5.f.; Tony seconded. The motion passed.***

**5.f. Comprehensive Development Plan Request CDP-1993-13**

- Steve explained that the green infrastructure included in this project was the initiative of the private developer and mentioned that Fitchburg currently doesn't have a manual of approved design specifications for green infrastructure. Steve explained he would like to use this project as an opportunity to encourage green infrastructure in future land development and reconstruction.
- Rick gave an overview of the existing stormwater facilities in that area and previous work done to the parking lot at the Quarry Ridge Recreation Area.
- Phil Sveum (Hamm Fam Land, LLC) explained that the development concept included rain gardens within the terraces of the two main thoroughfares. A homeowners' association would be created as the principal maintenance authority.
- The existing site currently is an internally drained watershed and an already-disturbed (mined) area.
- ***Steve moved that RCC recommend to the Plan Commission that the City encourage the green infrastructure aspects of this plan and to help Public Works staff incorporate green infrastructure as standard operating procedure. Tony seconded. Motion approved.***
- ***Diane moved to separate Steve's motion into two parts. Jan seconded. The motion failed.***

- **Action Item:** Kristofer will send Phil Sveum an electronic version of La Crosse's Green Complete Streets Ordinance.

**6. Unfinished Business**

**6.a. Municipal Construction Guidelines**

- Diane said she, Samuel and Rick met with Paul Woodard to explain their idea for municipal construction guidelines. Paul was very receptive and offered to walk it through the appropriate City staff. He expected to have that finished by the end of February. Diane also mentioned the Mayor really likes the municipal construction guidelines idea. She said things seem on track to have at least a preliminary compilation available for the design of the fire station.
- **Action Item:** Kristofer will forward questions from Paul Woodard/staff review team to Diane.

**6.b. RCC Annual Event – Water Conservation**

- To be held on April 3rd at 6:30pm at the City of Fitchburg Library
- Topics will include:
  1. Ken Bradbury, Wisconsin Geologic and Natural History Survey (WGNHS) – Dane County Groundwater Model Update and general water budget overview.
  2. Dale Benjamin, Benjamin Plumbing – Toilet leaks and repairs and indoor water-efficient fixtures.
  3. Kristofer Canto, Fitchburg Sustainability Specialist – Outdoor Water Wise Landscaping Tips and Tricks.
- MG&E has provided 30 aerators to hand out.
- Kristofer is working on creating a PSA with the Mayor and Dale Benjamin from Benjamin Plumbing, promoting Fix -A-Leak, The Mayor's Challenge and The Water Conservation Green Thursday.

**5. New Business** (cont.)

**5.c. 2014 Stream Sampling**

- Diane asked members if they wanted to commit to stream sampling for 2014. Sampling can be also be done by non-RCC members. Steve volunteered to conduct this year's 6 sampling events. Tony also offered to help.
- Members agreed to commit to perform stream sampling for 2014.
- **Action item: Steve agreed to contact Nancy Sheehan about training.**

**5.d. Water Cleanup**

- This year's Waterway cleanup is scheduled for Sat., April 19, 9am – noon Dunn's Marsh will be one site. Other possible sites will be discussed during the March RCC meeting.

**5.e. 25 x 25 Update**

- Members suggested listing different energy conservation initiatives, including the retro-commissioning recommendations and tracking progress on those individual projects.
- Members also suggested a graph accompanying the written report.

- Diane suggested that she and Kristofer meet with the Mayor in May to discuss the 25 x 25 update.
- **Action Item: Kristofer will revise the 25x25 report and develop a spreadsheet to supplement the Report.**

**5.g. Wisconsin Business Alliance Letter**

- Steve gave some background on the Wisconsin Business Alliance and its efforts to reduce carbon emissions.
- Diane expressed concern that those who cannot afford to pay will be most adversely affected and questioned whether RCC has the authority to sign.
- ***Steve moved that the RCC become a signatory to the Wisconsin Business Alliance Letter on Climate Change. Tony seconded. Motion failed.***

**7. Staff Update**

**7.a. Solid Waste Update**

**7.a.i. Shred Day Event scheduled for 7:30-10:30am on Saturday, May 3rd at Oak Bank**

**7.a.ii. Electronics Recycling Event scheduled for 8:30-11:30am on Saturday, May 3rd at Surplus-IT**

**7.a.iii. Madison/Dane County Compost Bin and Rain Barrel Sale Scheduled for 10am-2pm on Saturday May 3rd at the Alliant Energy Center**

**7.b. Stormwater Update**

**7.b.i. Nine Springs Creek Watershed Master Plan Update**

- A Public Involvement Workshop focusing on recommendations in the Dunn's Marsh Watershed is scheduled for Mon., February 24 from 6:30 – 8:30pm at the Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society (2010 Whenona Drive). An updated Nine Springs Creek Watershed Master Plan is in the final stages and near completion as well. Further information can be found at: http://www.city.fitchburg.wi.us/departments/cityHall/publicWorks/stormwater/NineSpringsMasterPlan.php.

**7.b.ii. Ordinance 2014-O-06 -** Rick mentioned the info. included in the packet.

**7.b.iii. Yahara WINs Update - Rick mentioned that the presentation given by Kathy Lake at the** February 6th Green Thursday Event is included in the packet.

**7.b.iv. Retain the Rain Workshop**

**7.c. Sustainability Update**

**7.c.i Staff Green Team Update**

**7.c.ii. State Energy Office (SEO) Grant Application**

**8. Announcements**

- Steve mentioned that Rick Eilertson was recognized with the American Public Works Association (APWA) 2013 National Community Involvement Award.

**8.a. Next Meeting – March 17, 2014 at 6:30 pm in the Meeting Room**

**8. Adjournment** – The meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.