

Illinois Upper Rock River Ecosystem Partnership

**4833 Owen Center Road
Rockford, Illinois 61101
815-965-2392 ext. 3**

Meeting Minutes January 16, 2008

The meeting was called to order at 5:45 p.m. by Jack Armstrong; people in attendance:

Board of Directors

Dennis Anthony, Winnebago County SWCD
Tom Hartley, Winnebago County Forest Preserve
Tom Jencius, Rockton Township
Donna Conley, Homeowner
Roger Christin, WCFB
Ed Johnston, NRCS
Erich Redschlag, WCHD
Rick Rudey, TU
Dan Riggs, IDNR – Rock Cut
Jerry Paulson, NLI

Executive Committee:

Josh Sage, Vice Chair, BCCD
Matt Warneke, Secretary

Members

Nancy Williamson, IDNR Admin.
Rick Mohaupt, Winnebago Co. Highway Dept.

Approval of November 14th Meeting Minutes

The Minutes from the November 14, 2007 meeting were reviewed. Dan Riggs made a motion to accept the minutes, Roger Christin seconded, and minutes were approved.

New Business

Call for new C-2000 Grant proposals

Josh Sage had a meeting with Anne Meyer, Dave and Nathan Hill who represent Midway Village. It was decided that it is not a proper project for C-2000 since work is currently being done on site. Midway Village is a small project with high visibility: 20,000 people use bike path, 18,000 children are engaged in educational programs. Other partnerships are offering assistance: Pheasants Forever may donate seed, BCCD is willing to help and RPD may offer assistance. Nancy Williamson suggested submitting a C-2000 grant and request plants, seed & trees. Use project and visibility to show what URREP can offer through signage.

Jerry Paulson will not resubmit a grant for the Kinnikinick Creek site. He cannot wait for C-2000/PFC, and is looking at WHIP grant and fundraising.

Rockford Park District has a new sewer line installed up by Page Park and Springfield Road. They may want to use a C-2000/PFC grant to restore area by planting prairie seeds. Judy Robey of Rockford Park District is administering current C-2000 grant along the creek.

Tom Hartley may reapply for railroad easement for Right-of-Way project in Rockton.

Rockton – Fergusson Property (sports complex) – recreational. The river embankment may need improvements / buffer & improve the area for wildlife. There's a good environmental component and the river for a C-2000 grant.

C-2000 Grant & Partners for Conservation Update

Partners for Conservation (PFC) has replaced C-2000. Old grants from last year have to be resubmitted into the new program (new system or format under new program).

- New Conservation Stewardship Law
- US EPA internet course for Watershed Management – many tools, interactive sheets can be found on EPA web site. (Nancy Williamson handed out papers). The website also offers public service announcements.

Proposed Workshop

Jack Armstrong discussed the possibility of putting together a Workshop for grant writing & land preservation. It was suggested that a committee of three URREP volunteers should set up the workshop program and invite URREP, community, County Board, Mayor, etc. Jack Armstrong referred to DeKalb County SWCD's upcoming Go Green program & workshop. Nancy Williamson stated that the original idea was for network to offer information at lunch setting – as a type of outreach for URREP & invite speakers, consultants, experts. Jerry Paulson suggested an alternative option/forum and to use URREP as a referral organization to refer organizations to what current grants & funding are available. He added that the County is planning a conservation design workshop. Ed Johnston noted that this info (on available grants & funding) should be put on URREP's web site. Before considering any further type of Workshop, someone suggested that we invite representatives from IEPA, IDNR, NCS, US Fish & Wildlife to come to a URREP meeting & provide information on available grants and funding.

Routine meeting day for URREP Meetings

The routine meeting day for URREP meetings is set for the **first Tuesday of each month**.

Report from Committees

Treasury Report (Josh Sage) – current balance is \$1,769.31.

The \$20,000 from the new grant is processed by WCFPD; they will pay Bird Freak's invoice for web site.

URREP subcommittees

Education/outreach: a chair person needed.

Education/outreach: Jack Armstrong suggested that he attend a County Board meeting to provide URREP input into the new Land Use Plan. It was suggested that we should invite County Board members to one of our meetings. Tom Hartley suggested inviting them to the annual meeting in July.

Planning & Ordinances: Dennis Anthony attended a recent meeting. So far there has been no public input on ordinances, so it is unrealistic that it can be finalized by May. According to Tom Hartley, it's good that Land Use Plan is delayed so that new data from the Natural Resource Inventory (handout) could be part of it.

Preservation: Tom Hartley noted that URREP can provide additional contacts to Committee for Inventory process – Rick Mohaupt, Alan Branhagen, Sugar River Study, Mars (Midwest Archeological), Larry McFadden. Tom Hartley also handed out Winnebago County Natural Resource Inventory brochure, Public Information Request & Comment forms. Jack Armstrong gave Chris Burke letter/info from URREP.

Membership/Resources/Services: Matt Warneke announced that the web site is up and running. The web site address should be put on the letterhead. Nancy Williamson suggested adding links to other partnerships. We should also add information on available grants & funding as suggested previously.

Old Business

Rick Rudey questioned the database & sampling points that David Pott is using as part of the Kinnikinnick Creek and Keith Creek studies.

Upcoming Events

- ❖ Scott Christiansen is going to talk about 2030 plan & Cannel Site at Rockton Village Hall.
- ❖ Linking Watersheds Presentation (sponsored by Chicago Wilderness) - April 22, 2008 at NIU Convocation Center/Sears Center in Hoffman Estates.
- ❖ Farmland Protection Workshop; February 1st & 2nd in Elgin
- ❖ Environmental Film Festival (Friends of the Fox River): 1-31-08 at 6:10 pm at McHenry Co. College
- ❖ Environmental Film Festival (Friends of the Fox River): 2-2-08 at 2:00 pm at Elgin Community College

Next Meeting: March 4, 2008 at 5:00 p.m.;

Meeting was adjourned 7:30 p.m.