

Zumbro Watershed Partnership, Inc.  
Monthly Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
Oronoco Community Center, Oronoco  
December 10, 2009

Draft

Board Members Present: Merl Norman, Muriel French, Roland Wood for Tom Gosse, Al Atkins, Katie Dudley, Ron Fuller, Kyle Ketterling, Harlen Pahl, Glenn Faith

Watershed Coordinator: Lisa Eadens

Item #1: Kyle Ketterling called the meeting to order at 7:20 p.m.

Item #2: Secretary's Report – Katie Dudley

Action required: The draft agenda for the December 10, 2009 business meeting was reviewed. Muriel French moved to approve the agenda. Ron Fuller second. Motion passed.

The November 12, 2009 minutes were reviewed and Merl Norman made a motion to approve the minutes and Ron Fuller second. Motion passed.

Item #3: Treasurer's Report - Paul Baessler was not present and no Treasurer's report was distributed because one was not received from Paul.

Lisa will keep us posted on the Farm Show booth - it looks like in the past we have reserved 2 booth spaces, which would be \$635 instead of \$330. Also, Whitewater Watershed Partnership will likely partner with us along with Olmsted SWCD. ZWP may also request space to hold some type of educational forum at this Show.

Item #4: Committee Reports

- Executive Committee – Kyle Ketterling - The committee met with Greg Munson regarding the **Cascade Meadows Environmental and Science Center** on Friday, Dec. 4, 2009. We discussed the many different options and levels of involvement that ZWP could have at the new facility. Our participation could be as small as having monthly meetings there or holding workshops at the facility. Or, it could be as large as having our office there and staffing the watershed educator position there. At this time we have not made any financial commitments, we have just confirmed that we are interested in participating, but not sure at what capacity.
- Membership/Fundraising Committee – Lisa distributed a **Fundraising Plan** that will be distributed via e-mail for review. She also described the mailing that was distributed on Monday, December 7, 2009. A total of **425 letters were sent to members and possible prospective members**. Lisa also has the **prospective member letter** in a pdf format that she will provide to all members via e-mail. Then members can send these letters or hand them to their friends and family to become possible new members.
- Human Resources Committee – Lisa requested to have Dec. 24, Dec. 25, January 3-8 off and March 8-12. She hopes to be able to use some of the extra hours she has put in recently to cover her time away.
- We discussed that it would be fine to for **Lisa to take these dates off** and to keep the executive and HR committee aware of other days that she will be out of town. At this time Lisa reports her time to Paul to be paid. We may wish to modify that in the future if that is necessary.

- Nomination Committee – Katie Dudley - The committee is **accepting nominations** for 7 open positions. Open Positions:
  - Citizen Director for Terry Klampe’s until March 2012
  - Citizen Director for Paul Baessler’s until March 2011
  - Citizen Director for Brandon Bertsinger’s until March 2012
  - Citizen Director for Chris Bowron until March 2011
  - Citizen Director for vacant position until 2012
  - Dodge County Commissioner Representative
  - Steele County Soil and Water Conservation District
  
- Education/Forum Committee - Glenn Faith talked about a possible **lecture forum series**. We could kick it off with a keynote invitee. Glenn approached the Sigma Chi chapter, Natural Science Fraternity based at Mayo Clinic to partner with us on this series. The main criteria to be a member of this fraternity are to indicate an interest in science and have published one paper in the medical community. They have a very diverse program, the ones he remembers were when Dave Mech spoke about wolves and a former marine spoke about his work in MN regarding an archeological dig he was involved in. Glenn talked to Dr. Eisenhoch, the current president of Sigma Chi, who is going to be the program coordinator next year. He seemed interested in sponsoring a speaker in cooperation with ZWP. Sigma Chi could give us one slot next year. They have 4 lectures a year and are highly organized. Dr. Eisenhoch will take this idea to his leaders. We will try to get an extra lecture this spring, but reserving the Phillips Hall may be difficult. So it is unlikely that we could do this in the spring at that location.

During an Education Committee meeting, Gael Entrikin recommended approaching **Professor Swakhammer** to be the keynote speaker for the kickoff event for several lectures. She holds professorships in 3 departments at U of MN. She could educate about chemicals in water, so she could talk about a scientific water topic. We will need to see how much she would want as an honorarium. Gael and Glenn will look into it. Throughout the summer, Gael is also trying to get some more **local non-profit organizations to cooperate with us** on getting speakers to help educate the public on watershed issues. Finding a natural or suitable auditorium for multiple presentations may be difficult. The RPU auditorium was suggested as a possible location and when Cascade Meadows opens, that would be an excellent place to do this.

Item #5: Partner Meeting Reports

- Katie Dudley reported that Judy Ohly will represent the **Lake Shady Advisory Group** at the December 21, 2009 Oronoco City Council meeting regarding the recommendation to propose getting funding from state bonding dollars to support a comprehensive study on the Lake Shady ecosystem.
  
- The **Lake Shady Committee** did their Highway Clean Up and having Adopt-A-Highway highway signage might be advantageous for ZWP to look into this program and adopt their own section of highway in the watershed.

Glenn asked, “When did Shady Lake become Lake Shady?” Ron Fuller looked it up after the meeting and found the following: I see that in 1972, Lake Shady was called Shady Lake on the DNR lake depth map; so it must have changed after that.

- Harlen Pahl mentioned the **Pine Island** situation with new development coming in and building bridges too small for the water flowing underneath them. Muriel French commented that these are Highway Department Decisions. Roland Wood talked about the Shell Rock Watershed. The watershed organization worked with the county roads in Austin and they organized projects with farmers as well.

#### Item #6: Watershed Coordinator Report

- Lisa's Report – she has been working on several grants and attended the **Rochester Chamber of Commerce** luncheon for new members recently. About 50 people were there and she was able to meet present a brief summary of ZWP to the entire group. She was also introduced as the new coordinator for **ZWP in newspaper articles** in the Zumbrota News Record and in the Rochester Post-Bulleting. Lisa's report can be viewed at <http://www.zumbrowatershed.org/aboutus.html>.

#### Item #7: Unfinished Business

- Update on Paul Baessler as **ZWP's treasurer** - Paul is out of town all week for his new job, so it is difficult to get checks to and from him. We believe that Judy Ohly and Andy Hart are approved signers for checks. We would like a clean transition to the new treasurer. Quick Books is the software currently being used to keep our books. Could Andy do the books until we find someone to do it? The treasurer does not have to be at every meeting as long as they make a report available.
- Update on **Lake Zumbro Resolution** that was sent in the past - Ron – Two years ago the ZWP developed a letter of resolution supporting the Lake Zumbro project. Ron will take it to the Lake Zumbro Restoration Committee and see what kind of updates should be made. Ron will get completed for our next meeting if possible and bring it to the board for approval.

Roland Wood asked, "Why is the Lake Zumbro project worth supporting? It is still going to do the same amount of flood control restored or not." Ron and Kyle commented that improvements to fish habitat and recreation would occur. Before or during dredging, something has to be done for upstream issues.

- Other projects within the watershed could also bring requests for **ZWPs support**. Ron will send Katie a copy of the resolution, so she can change it a bit to use if for the Lake Shady project and bring it to a future Lake Shady Committee Meeting.
- **Meeting location change** for following meetings – Lisa reported that Judy tried for the Quarry Hill Nature Center but our meeting time would be after hours, so that would not work. She did book the 2100 Public Health Building for next year. A discussion took place and a decision was made that we would still like to have the next meeting in Oronoco and possibly move in February or March. Katie will talk to Judy about Public Health building access, hours and other details.

#### Item #8: New Business

- **Jane Bailey – Pilot project on rain gardens** – this update was not provided because Jane was unable to attend the meeting
- Kyle Ketterling - Discuss changing **bank locations** for the ZWP account – this was tabled until a new treasurer starts
- Lisa Eadens – Fundraising opportunities like a **native plant sale** - We did decide that we should look into getting plants available to sell in several locations throughout the watershed. Lisa will visit with the SWCD area offices to discuss possible locations to have a sale of this kind. We do not wish to compete with the Quarry Hill Nature Center's sale or other sales in the watershed. Therefore we would like to do some outreach in other communities without sales and possibly partner with some garden groups. Harlen knows of a group in Zumbrota that has plant sales every year.

- Discuss and highlight areas of the **management plan** – Lisa had several copies of the plan that she handed out. Discussing areas of the plan was tabled until the next meeting because it was already 9:15 p.m.
- Lisa added that she visited with Ron Kruse from **McKnight Foundation** and he said we can put in for \$5,000 when we have that and then put in for the next \$5,000 match when we have that. A McKnight renewal needs to be submitted on February 1 for a May decision. They would like to see us accomplish what we said we would do and get state grant dollars. We will not be able to show that we have secured state funding by the February 1<sup>st</sup> deadline so one option would be to get an extension on our current grant and put in a May application for a September decision.
- If SWCDs get **hay buffers** lined up, Roland said that they might contract with SWCDs (ZWP?). The DNR was sure last summer that the vote on the Legacy tax was going to get passed, so they were preparing projects ahead of time so they could get in there right away and apply for funds.
- Update on the **SWAG grant** – Jen Dankers from the Wabasha County SWCD put in an application to MPCA for an expansion of our current SWAG grant to increase the number of parameters we’re testing for and requested more funds to pay for this.
- Before we adjourned, Glenn Faith wanted to **congratulate Lisa** on a job well done and thank her for all of your hard work. We reciprocated by applauding.
- Roland wanted to know how involved we get with **planning and zoning**. A lady from Baxter, MN gave a talk regarding a commercial development that saved money by building the “green” way. Roland is wondering what our involvement could be. Rain gardens made a big difference, but the city was still not convinced that this is the way to go. Commercial areas with rain gardens didn’t have to water the grass, which is a tremendous savings, but it is still taking time to catch on.

Item #9: Next Business Meeting Announcement – ZWP Chair: Kyle Ketterling

- The next meeting of the Zumbro Watershed Partnership will be **January 14, 2010** from 7-9 pm at the Community Center in Oronoco, Minnesota. Ron Fuller will bring a snack for the January 14, 2009 meeting.

Item #10: Adjourn business meeting – ZWP Chair: Kyle Ketterling

- Al Atkins made a **motion to adjourn** at 9:20 p.m. Ron Fuller second. Meeting was adjourned.