

Zumbro Watershed Partnership, Inc.
Monthly Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Oronoco Community Center, Oronoco
October 8, 2009

Draft

Board Members Present: Ron Fuller, Harlen Pahl, Vernetta Pahl, Kyle Ketterling, Andy Hart, Muriel French, Katie Dudley, Al Atkins, Glen Roberson, Merl Norman

Current and Outgoing Watershed Outreach Coordinators: Lisa Eadens and Jennifer Ronnenberg

Members: Ray Schmitz, Dave Martino, Ray Romon

Guests: Nicole Lehman

Before the meeting was called to order, Kyle Ketterling introduced the

New Watershed Outreach Coordinator - Lisa Eadens

- ✓ Originally from Colorado
- ✓ B.S. Davidson College - Biology
- ✓ M.S. University of Florida – Wildlife Ecology and Conservation and Certificate in Environmental Education and Communications
- ✓ Conservation Associate – National Wildlife Federation 2006-2009
- ✓ College Internships with Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park, Okeechobee (FL) and Alachua County, Gainesville (FL)
- ✓ Technically proficient with ArcGIS 9.X; Web Design using Convio, Joomla and Drupal; Microsoft applications using Access, Excel, Word, Publisher and PowerPoint

Her most recent work experience focused on growing outreach and managing content and marketing for www.OurPublicLands.org as well as creating and organizing Colorado Kids Outdoors, a coalition of more than 50 organizations and agencies with the shared goal of re-connecting Colorado's youth to nature.

She was particularly impressed by the amount of knowledge we have on the board, the dedication of the board and volunteers and by the quality partnerships the ZWP has built in just a few years. She thinks our goals and philosophy on conservation align very well and is eager to both learn more about the watershed and contribute her skills to help further our mission.

Item #1 – Kyle Ketterling called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

Item #2 – Secretary’s Report – Katie Dudley

Approve the Draft Agenda for October 8, 2009 – Vernetta Pahl moved to approve. Andy Hart second. Motion carried.

Approve Minutes for September 10, 2009 – Vernetta Pahl moved to approve. Andy Hart second. Motion carried.

Item #3 - Treasurer’s Report – Katie Dudley passed out a copy of the report that Paul sent via e-mail as Paul was not available to attend the meeting.

General fund:

<u>Beginning Balance</u>	<u>Deposits</u>	<u>Withdrawals</u>	<u>Ending Balance</u>
\$9,295.04	\$3.38	\$	\$9,298.42

McKnight Grant Fund:

<u>Beginning Balance</u>	<u>Deposits</u>	<u>Withdrawals</u>	<u>Ending Balance</u>
\$19,652.35	\$0.81	\$ -	\$19,653.16

Category:

Further Information

101 Contract payroll**	-		
102 Mileage Expense**	-		
402 Public Outreach**	-		
302 Sub Watersheds	-		
303/304 Sub Watersheds	-		
305 Assistant payroll	-		
403 Materials/Supplies	\$2,444.89		SWAG Grant - Wabasha SWCD &
H2O Lab Analysis Costs			
Grant Income	-		
Misc expense*	\$114.04		\$60.73 Family Fun Night; \$53.31
Ronnenberg Farewell			
Interest Income	-		
Memberships*	-		
Misc. Income	-		

Expenses Pending:

101 Contract Payroll	-		
102 Mileage**	-		
401 Demo Projects**	-		
402 Public Outreach**	\$790.00		Rochester Home Show 2010 Booth
Rental (Olmsted SWCD will reimburse for half)			
303/304 Sub watersheds**	-		
403 Materials/Supplies**	\$32.19		Meeting Refreshments - \$18.05
Katie Dudley (09/10), \$14.14 Kyle Ketterling			
Promotional supplies	-		
Misc			

402 Outreach plan**	-
Other*	-
	* General Fund ** Grant Fund

Note: \$150.00 check not cashed by DNR waters for Shoreland Rules Forum.

ZWP plans to share a booth with the Olmsted Soil and Water Conservation District for the Home Show scheduled for February. ZWP and SWCD plan to split the cost. Andy moved to approve funding for the booth. Vernetta second. Motion carried.

Item #4 – Committee Reports

Executive Committee – Katie Dudley – The Executive Committee has not had any official meetings lately – Kyle Ketterling, Katie Dudley, Ron Fuller and Lisa Eadens did meet last week, Tuesday, September 29, 2009. They met to discuss different details for the Fall Foliage Fun Float. The meeting was also to give Lisa a chance meet with some board members before the regular meeting on Thursday, October 8, 2009.

Membership/Fundraising Committee – Kyle Ketterling - Kyle made a motion to reschedule the 6th Annual Fall Foliage Fun Float from Saturday, October 10th to Saturday, October 17th. Muriel French second. Discussion – It will be so cold and possibly wet that rescheduling is a good idea. Pontoons will not be as available with temperatures in the 30’s and less families would attend if it is cold and wet, etc. – Ron Fuller said we should touch base with Fisherman’s Inn, etc. Kyle will reschedule with HyVee, the band, the tent rental, and will try to rent or obtain for free the large pontoon from King’s Marina. Al’s pontoon would be available to a good driver because Al is not available on the 17th. A vote was taken. Motion passes.

HR Committee – Andy Hart - Several people have been showing Lisa Eadens around. She began working on Monday, September 21, 2009. Andy Hart introduced her to the Olmsted County Soil & Water Conservation District Office staff and Natural Resources Conservation District staff located at the office space for ZWP.

Nomination Committee – Katie Dudley – Kyle Ketterling has been nominated to continue as vice-chair or be promoted to chair to fill the open chair position. Katie Dudley is willing to continue as secretary or be promoted to vice-chair if someone else would like to take on the secretary position.

Andy would nominate Kyle as Chair, Harlen Pahl second. Kyle would like to nominate Harlen Pahl for vice-chair and Andy Hart second. Muriel French made a motion that nominations cease. Andy Hart second. Vote taken for both positions. Motion passed. Welcome Harlen to the vice-chair position and thank you Kyle for accepting the chair position. The terms for these positions will be up for re-election at the annual meeting in March.

Item #5 – Partner Meeting Reports

Lake Shady Advisory Group (LSAG) and Lake Shady Committee (LS) – Katie Dudley

The LSAG continues to meet the first Monday of the Month at 1:30 p.m. at the Oronoco Community Center. The next meeting has been scheduled for Monday, October 19 and is open to the public. Jason Boyle from the DNR dam safety program will be the keynote speaker.

Previous presentations can be found at

http://www.co.olmsted.mn.us/departments/environment/lake_shady_stake_holders_group.asp

Lake Zumbro Restoration Project – Ron Fuller

Funding has been secured to do the engineering phase of dredging Lake Zumbro. Barr Engineering has been contracted to make the drawings to show the areas that would be dredged and how deep, etc. Analysis of the sediment/soils has been done and now work is being done to secure funding for the “big dig”. A petition is going around on the lake to request a special tax district called a lake improvement district to assess lake residents for the funding – maximum of \$600 per year from 10 years. On the order of 60% has signed the petition – Olmsted and Wabasha County Boards to ask to have the Lake District established. Plan will be far enough along to have a pretty good sizing of the project to know what money we’ll need. Ray is an expert on the lake to take depth measurements. He maintains a web page about Lake Zumbro.

Item #6 - Outreach Coordinator Report – Lisa Eadens presented her first Coordinator Report. It can be found on www.zumbrowatershed.org (in the **About Us** section).

November or December we’ll know about LCCMR

Lisa has a Letter of Support for Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Fund proposal “Lower Mississippi River Habitat Restoration Partnership”. Andy made a motion to have Kyle and Katie review the letter. Ron Fuller second. Motion carries.

BWSR grant funds – Lisa will visit with Michelle about that

15 people were at the PAC meeting – they shared what projects they were working on and these meeting notes can also be found on the web site in the About Us section.

It is very important that regular members are notified about the PAC meetings so they have the opportunity to attend.

Item #7: Unfinished Business - Speaker/Meeting Presentation Topics Suggestions:

Andy would like to have Jennifer come back to do a small community stormwater presentation for us. She is currently working in Blue Earth for Faribault County.

Movies – Who killed the electric car?

Ray Schmitz mentioned the topic of the dead zone. There were a couple presentations that were relatively short at Gustavos Adolphus at the Nobel Conference recently on the Dead Zone. He could put a presentation together on that.

Jane Bailey would be interested in doing a presentation on bees.

Vernetta Pahl suggested her grandson could do a something on a Watershed Topic. Something about a cup of coffee and fish in the river with medications.

Someone suggested we contact Ross Hoffman from the Cannon River Watershed regarding buffer zones.

Another suggestion was Justin Watkins from the MPCA to give a TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) Update

Katie has the binder from the nitrates presentation. She will bring that to the next meeting.

Nicole Lehman from McGhie and Betts (M & B) came to introduce herself to us. She went to school at UW - River Falls. She used to work with the SWCD in Rice County promoting CRP programs. Funding was running out so she changed jobs to work with M & B. She works as an environmental specialist mainly with wind turbine permitting and worked closely with Cannon River Partnership. She dabbled in grant writing and has a grant book of all the grants that are out there. She does have some successful funding that has been acquired from grants she has written. The firm has been around for 61 years and there are several types of engineers that could help with different projects. She would like to work on a project with Lisa. She worked on something with the Whitewater River Watershed as well. She did some outreach with Linda Dahl. M & B were contracted to do outreach and prepare maps for them. They let citizens know about regulations for manure spreading and helped raise awareness of how to apply it.

Update regarding the Fall Foliage Fun Float:

If the event is next Sat. – \$1500 is approved – if there is a tent and a heater – it will be tough to stay within that amount. \$400 for a stage, \$300 for a 40 X 20 tent, \$50-\$100 for a heater, and \$750 for a band with PA and sound system. Fisherman's Inn is providing chairs and tables.

Food – burger and hot dogs – brats – ketchup, mustard, etc.

Would we like to raffle off meat trays?? Eagles Club does it through a certain butcher – could they have a raffle license? Something to think about in the future.

Free will donations are better than requiring a certain amount for food, we could make signs with a suggested donation for the food items.

\$4 for burger, \$3 for brat meal, \$1 for pop, apple cider, water, \$3 for beer

Provide change from donation bucket

Buns HyVee donated – 200 hot dogs and hamburgers

Beer bought by Fisherman's Inn, donated 4 cases of diet pepsi, hot apple cider,

Andy makes a motion to approve up to \$1900 for the FFFF, Ron second. Motion carries.

Kyle will try to keep it less.

Item#8 - New Business

Lisa - \$258 Chamber of Commerce – gets name out there with business

Vernetta moves to renew membership. Andy second. Discussion – Jennifer said there are a lot of networking opportunities – legislators come down – Rochester issues – she uses the directory several times a year for business shopping – could advertise there too – Business sponsors – blog spot – Lisa gets weekly e-mails as a member. Vote taken. Motion passes.

(It is now 8:25)

Open Discussion:

- Ray and Gail were in New Orleans at Sierra Sentinels doing Water Quality Monitoring on a volunteer basis – Ray will present some information about it at the Nov. 12 Board Meeting

- Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack was in Des Moines in September to announce the \$320 million dollars available for the Mississippi River Basin Water Quality Initiative. – through SWCD and NRCS – regarding nitrogen and phosphorous loading – augment in addition to already developed programs that exist – great things for managing water conservation – will select 3 in each state - MN River with Lake Pepin maybe??

8 and 16 digit HUC scale watershed – Zumbro River is included in that scale – the Post-Bulletin mentioned the Root River recently – Ray asked if there is a role we should be playing to get a grant from this state technical committee? It will roll out in early 2010 in terms of specific proposals, correct? Jon Nicholson is someone in our area to be in contact with.

Ray Roman – action item to explore this further – Lisa reported that it was mentioned at the PAC meeting. So we will keep an “eye” on this.

- Ron looked at current board of members listed– Two vacancies for citizen board members, Terry Klampe could still be a board member – 2010 listed 2012

- Can watershed coordinator be a member or (conflict of interest)? We discussed it is best that the coordinator not be a member.

- Jen Dankers – SWAG update would be nice to have sometime soon

- Jennifer suggested we follow up on the management plan – Tom Gosse is on page 74 – we need to check that out – Action items need to be addressed – there is a timeline in there – slowly working towards better data – purposely left some “holes” to start filling in the blanks - Devise an annual work plan that comes directly out of the mgt. plan – post revisions to the plan – be used by us and partners – ZWP put the plan together to take to partners – we negotiate revisions and take to partners – Kyle makes a motion to make Mgt. Plan an Agenda item on every meeting. Vernetta second. Motion carries.

Ron said Justin from the MPCA has indicated that they are looking at our plan.

Nicole – she thinks Jennifer’s suggestion is good – a mgt. plan is very important. She was involved with a Strategic Plan from 2004 for a Watershed District – could someone share with her – what are our goals or strategies are? Ray responded with lessen sedimentation deposition by 30% within a 5 year period is one of them.

What is our purpose? Ron said the goals are up on the web site including this statement:

The Zumbro Watershed Partnership, Inc. (ZWP), is a non-profit organization, formed with a mission "To Promote the Protection and Improvement of the Zumbro River Watershed". We are member driven, with a strong partner connection to provide the best community and professional attention to watershed topics. As the organization grows, we will work with both rural and urban water quality issues to find the best solutions for all the residents of the Zumbro River Watershed.

Another comment included: Drinkability, usability, can’t limit ourselves to only one – open to any water quality issue — when we call the meeting to order we could repeat our Mission Statement?

- Board Manual has been finalized – is it on the web - yes
- Grants that can be applied for to get on the ground work done

Kyle requested for the next meeting: review the ZWP Mgt. Plan, the Board Manual, and bring 3 friends or find financially, mentally, or physically interested citizens that can help us achieve our goals.

Add sub-watersheds to agenda at some point

- Harlen – as time goes on other things come up – he discussed that in Pine Island – they are adding to the town – that involves the following issue of what are you doing with the water you have and water that will be there? Three different counties and townships in Pine Island – a lot of questions without answers.

- Lisa – in future PAC meetings – keep sub-watersheds a priority or change them?? – something to discuss soon.

- Parts of this watershed probably do not know about us. That is why we had meetings in other areas, but maybe smaller separate non-board meetings that have to do with local problems may be more effective. Deal with their own local problems to help get them involved.

- We need to plan for county fairs more in advance to get volunteers, etc.

Item #10: Next Business Meeting Announcement – ZWP Chair: Kyle Ketterling- The next meeting of the Zumbro Watershed Partnership will be November 12, 2009 from 7-9 pm at the Oronoco Community Center, Oronoco, Minnesota.

Item #11: Adjourn business meeting – ZWP Chair: Kyle Ketterling made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 p.m. Ron Fuller second. Motion carries.