**Coon Creek Community Watershed Council (CCCWC)**

**UNOFFICIAL January Meeting Minutes**

**Coon Valley Conservation Club**

**S1005 Knudson Lane, Coon Valley, WI 54623**

**January 3, 2024**

**Eat & Greet! Food Served: 6:00 p.m.**

**Meeting: 7:00 p.m**.

1. Call to Order @7:00pm
* Introductions
1. Marc’s Fascinating Flashbacks
* Marc shared a book called Dirt, written in 2007 by D.R. Montgomery, which argues that civilizations disappear when they don’t take care of the soil. It points to a cycle of planting grain and other cash crops, losing soil, being pushed to steeper and steeper land, then having to move. This cycle happens over and over in the US. But the book also notes that there are people and cultures that take care of their soil and survive. The book cites the Coon Creek Watershed as an example of this.
1. Secretary's Report
* $300 donation from Karen Aasen
* Thanking Sweet Valley fudge for their participation in the 90th.
1. Treasurer’s Report
* Total Grants received in 2023: $85, 500
* Total donations received/sales: $17,844.04
* Total credits:103,344.04
* Total Debits: $77,238.51
	+ $30,800 Datcp paid out, we have not gotten reimbursements
	+ Can request the second payment now that we’ve closed out the grant
* Zeroed out DATCP and DNR grants in 2023
* Nancy and Maggie received funding for project coordination, as did Marc and Norskedalen.
1. Updates
	1. Grants
		1. DNR Surface Water Grant
		2. DATCP & TNC
* TNC: will fund tree planting.
	+ For trees and hedgerows, 10% off if you order trees through Vernon Co right now.
	+ Part of the requirement is tree tubes, which Monroe Co does not supply if you buy from them
* RCP: Monroe County needs to make some purchase from us
	+ 1. Fishers and Farmers

* This is an opportunity from US-FWS meant to serve and connect fishers and farmers! It’s due later this month, and Syd doesn’t have any numbers finalized just yet, but will update when done. Hoping to use grant to help fund watershed coordinator, expand Timber Coulee watershed planning efforts, and monitor dam decommissioning.
	1. Events/conferences
		1. Coon Creek Conservation Days - May 4th, 2024 - Mollie B. - planning committee sign up and next steps
* First step, please sign up if you’re interested! Syd will send out an email soon to schedule a time for us to meet and do some visioning.
	+ 1. DATCP Grant Workshop - Save the Date - Feb 20th in Wausau. CCCWC will have a panel presentation at the workshop
* 7 passenger van rented, if people are interested it’s free.
	+ Let Maggie know if you want to attend
		1. WWASH
* Sydney Widell, Kevin Traastad, and Brad Robsinon attended
	+ Syd’s biggest takeaways were:
		- People talked about how there are some monetary and agroecological gains when you cover crop, but the quality of life gains are incommensurable!
		- At least in Syd’s sections, people brought up farmer mental health and some of the struggles they’d had, and that felt pretty powerful to acknowledge.
		- There is a lot of excitement around carbon markets, and also a lot of opportunities. It’s moving really fast, but it could be good to be cautious there. The science is pretty young, and carbon storage works differently in different places.
		- Other people talked about working with producer led councils in their area, a theme was that they are under resourced, but great for building connections with agronomists, and other farmers
		1. Lindsey Rushford, UW Extension -Nitrogen Optimization Pilot Program (NOPP). Apply by Jan 31, 2024
		2. Plan EIS for the Coon Creek PL566 dams is available. There will be a public meeting on Jan 18, 12:00-2:30 at the Coon Valley Legion Hall.

Nancy:

* Steve Becker released the EIS because of CCCWC
* Nancy received the first official copy of the draft!!!

Kevin:

* Everyone should attend these meetings.

Monique:

* + Who has responsibility after the dams are decommissioned?
	+ What happens with changes in the floodplain maps?
	+ What happens to the easement
		1. Hill County Watershed Alliance upcoming meeting–date tbd

Nancy:

* January 15 meeting, and figure out next joint watershed meeting and other details
1. New Business
	1. Strategic Planning Meeting –Need to hold one

Nancy:

* Had preliminary meetings in the spring–want to be a group that focuses on resilience and leans into the positives
	+ plants look toward the light in order to grow!
* Need to have fun!
* We also need to be strategic about how we make partnerships
* We need to think about social and economic resilience as well
* We need to work with different groups

January 27 at the hall or the legion 10:00-12:00, 1-3:00

Sydney will send an email

* 1. CCCWC Recap of 2023
		1. Annual Report
* Purpose is to make something lovely for ourselves and for our friends in the counties, to explain who we are and what we’re up to, and also for us to reflect on this last year
* Syd’s been drafting this document but she’d love to have it represent everyone!
* Cards for everyone to write down feedback if they’d like, also a few copies to mark up
* New year’s resolutions/intentions for the council can go on the back of these cards too!
	+ 1. Feedback from end of year survey
* Thanks to everyone who filled that out!
* People are interested in learning about
	+ Continued education and outreach, community events
	+ Indigenous history of the area, and current HoChunk and other tribal priorities and efforts
	+ Interest in ag conservation, alternative ag practices like regenerative, ect
	+ Interest in land conservation outside of ag, such as wetland restoration, forest management, prairie restoration
	+ Alternative and locally adapted crops like hazelnuts, fruit crops, ect
	+ Dams, big ones
	+ Dams, small ones
	+ Other infrastructure, like road construction and commercial development, regional planning ect
* People want to hear from foresters, agronomists, people working in local, regional, and national capacities, policy makers as well as conservationists
	+ 1. Decide on 2024 meeting time

Dinner at 6:00, Meeting at 6:30 for February

Cancel May meeting because of Mollie B

* Just over half of people want the meeting to start at 6 with dinner, followed by time to socialize
* Just under half want meeting and dinner first
* Very few people wanted the meeting pushed back to 7:00.
	+ 1. Coon Creek Resolutions
1. Next Meeting date and location - Wednesday, February 7, 2024 - Coon Valley Conservation Club. Presentation from Valley Stewardship Network’s Ben Johnston on citizen science opportunities.