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

**June Meeting**

**Coon Valley Conservation Club**

**185A Lee Ln. Coon Valley, WI, 54623**

**June 5, 2024**

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

**Meeting: 6:30 p.m**.

1. Call to Order @ 6:40PM by Tucker Gretebeck
   1. Introduction question asked what is your connection to trees and/or what tree would you want to be? Led to an interesting conversation in which every participant shared stories and experiences about trees
2. Marc’s Fascinating Flashbacks
   1. Mark shared about the history of Toby Lee and Joan Greendeer-Lee’s property
3. Secretary's Report
   1. Maggie shared an update about stepping out of the role as Secretary and Monique stepping into the role for the next year
4. Treasurer’s Report
   1. No update available at this time
5. Updates
   1. Grants
      1. The Nature Conservancy
      2. Department of Ag., Trade, and Consumer Protection
      3. Rural Climate Partnership
      4. Compeer General Use Grant
         1. Tucker and Sydney provided brief overviews of these opportunities
   2. Federal flood control dam decommissioning
      1. Tim mentioned that [Vernon Reporter](https://vernonreporter.com/) has written a few recent articles should folks be interested in reading more about this process. The Council encouraged folks to attend Vernon County’s Conservation and Education Committee and County Board of Supervisors meetings to stay informed
   3. Emergency Management Training
      1. Monique shared about this day long training (Rapid Assessment Response) and mentioned that Survey123 Damage Assessment Reporting training will be offered later this summer.
         1. The next training is scheduled for Thursday, July 25 at 5PM at the Kickapoo Valley Reserve prior to the Wisconsin Towns Association Vernon County Chapter meeting at 6PM - any questions or to RSVP contact VC Emergency Management Director @ [brandon.larson@vernoncounty.org](mailto:brandon.larson@vernoncounty.org); 608.637.5266
6. New Business
   1. Volunteers needed June 11, 12:30-2:00 Southside Neighborhood Center for Knutson Library Outreach Event
      1. If interested in participating, contact Chelsey Myhre Foster
   2. *Walking with Water* zine release
      1. Sydney provided copies to folks that were interviewed as well as others interested in attaining a copy
7. Presentation: Toby Lee and Joan Greendeer-Lee
   1. At the time of this meeting, Toby highlighted that tulip trees are in blossom now, can grow up to 200’ tall. Toby discussed growing up here, Norwegian family ancestry connected to this 90 acres parcel of land for 150 years, implemented agriculture practices used in Norway to this area. Both Toby and Joan are geographers by trade and have worked elsewhere, including on US Census data, and Joan has held many roles, including many working in the Ho-Chunk Nation. Work this summer on this tree farm includes remediating honeysuckle from 8 acres, which is a multi-step process and will help prepare the area for logging this winter. The dominant tree is burr oak, with an average age of 130 years. They shared the perspective about logging that it is not what you are getting out of the harvest, but rather what will come from the next harvest. This is a lot of do-it-yourself, expensive work, but it can be incorporated into contracts. Program availability and different organizations can help in this process.
8. Next meeting date and location – Highland Farm, E7630 Rognstad Ridge, Cashton, WI. July 3, 2024. Bring lawnchairs and picnicware!