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

**August Meeting**

**Mike Breckel’s Farm**

**E6775 Hanson Lane, Westby, WI (Jore Rd to Stakston Ln to Hanson Ln)**

**Wednesday, August 2, 2023**

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

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

1. Call to Order @7:07pm by Nancy Wedwick
2. Marc’s Fascinating Flashbacks - Marc Moilien shared that the CCC did research on alternative cover crop back in the 1930s. They planted research plots to find out what was best for wildlife and crops. This activity by the CCC shows the historic legacy of conservation in the Coon Creek Watershed.
3. Secretary's Report- Maggie Traastad shared the minutes from last month’s meeting at Marc Moilien’s farm. Now that the website is up and running, the meeting minutes will start to be posted there for everyone to access.
4. Treasurer’s Report
	1. Maggie Traastad reported that for the month of July there were $8698.78 in debits in the accounts (mainly 2 large payments - Visa Bill for the PA system & computer, and 100 Trimble books for the September event - all covered by grant money). There was $30.00 in credits (first ticket sales for 90th). Balance in the checking account is $57,256.28. Maggie also reported that we are currently eligible for $5047.47 reimbursement from DATCP for our grant, however we can only ask for reimbursement 2 times, and we are waiting for the amount to be a little higher before asking for the first reimbursement. Danika Wehling made a motion to approve the Treasurer’s report, Orlan Bakkum seconded the motion. Motion carried
	2. DATCP Update - Cover Crops: Take Two - Maggie Traastad reported that DATCP offered to allow grant recipients to adjust their budget’s to add additional incentives in our Cover Crop category to cover for issues caused by the drought. The board discussed the offer and determined that we could reallocate $3000.00 budgeted for Educational Workshops for 2023 to the Cover Crops category, as we are likely not going to have time to pull a workshop together yet this year. The board voted by email on Friday, July 28th, Maggie Traastad made the motion to move $3000.00 from Educational Workshops to Cover Crops to increase the budget amount to $8450.00. Kevin Traastad seconded, motion carried via email vote.
5. Updates
	1. Events/conferences
		1. Stan Trimble visit September 7th
			1. Nancy Wedwick reported that this will be our September meeting on Thursday. Stan Trimble will be doing a tour of the Coon Creek Watershed on Thursday, stopping at places noted in his book. The tour will be limited to a small amount of guests, however it will be videographed to be shared as the CCCWC see fit.
			2. At 6:00pm Thursday, the meeting will be at the Genoa Outlook and we will have a short meeting, hear from Stan and enjoy beer & brats. This will be open to all Hill Country Watershed Alliance members to join us.
			3. Maggie Traastad reported that the CCCWC did purchase 100 of Stan Trimble’s books that we will be handing out for anyone who would like a copy. Stan has graciously agreed to do a book signing…so if you already have a copy bring it with you to be signed.
			4. Maggie Traastad will be sending out the invite to the meeting early next week to ensure it is distributed to all watersheds.
		2. 90th Anniversary Celebration, September 9th
			1. Saturday Tour - Nancy Wedwick reported that there will be a tour of the CCW on Saturday, tickets are free, however there is a limit of 100, for busing. The tour begins at 11am and ends at 5pm at Tucker’s Pumpkin Patch. Details will be available on our new website. Maggie Traastad provided a copy of the map of the tour.
			2. Celebration at Tucker’s Pumpkin Patch -
				1. Nancy Wedwick & Tucker Gretebeck reported on the details of the celebration and the expected guests that will be joining us from the state and national level. There will be attendees flying in for Washington D.C. for this event.
				2. Brad Pfaff reported that this is a very significant event that we need to tell our story at, and encouraged anyone from our watershed that can attend to please attend. This is a chance to show what we are doing and why we are doing it. Brad offered to help us get the word out nationally, politics aside.
			3. Ticket Sales - Maggie Traastad reported that tickets can be purchased through Ludus.com or QR code on the flyer or website. The ticket sales will close August 25th for count for cater and making name tags.
				1. Tour - free - limited to 100 attendees
				2. Celebration - $30.00 - food & drinks included
		3. Aug 18 & 19th - Water infiltration Days at Klinkner Farms - Nancy Wedwick reported that this will be the August Hill Country Watershed Alliance meeting (joint watersheds). There will be numerous demonstrations on water infiltration at Travis’s. Friday will focus on the farmers/landowners, while Saturday will focus on our urban neighbors. The demonstrations will be from 1-3 both days. Highly encouraged anyone interested to attend.
		4. Coon Creek Conservation Days - May 4, 2024
			1. Mollie B. is confirmed and booked for the event, Tucker Gretebeck reported. Tucker has also been in contact with Gary Gilbertson to start talking about promotion of the event.
			2. Maggie Traastad reported that the event will be free to the public, however we are going to require $0.00 tickets to be purchased to ensure we can get a count of attendees for space & safety reasons. Rumor has it that Mollie B. attracts a large crowd.
6. New Business
	1. Website Update -
		1. Nancy Wedwick reported that our new website is live. Please go out and check it out!
		2. Maggie Traastad reported that our first Newsletter will be sent our by our Marketing firm, River Travel Media, next week. This will focus on the 90th celebration. It takes readers back to our website. Maggie also reported that River Travel is working on a YouTube page for us to share our videos.
	2. Grants Workshops - Aug 9th & 30th 6:00pm @Skybox at Legacy, Coon Valley - DATCP Grant due Sept 15th. Please join us if you are able. The more people to work on the applications and provide input, the better information we will be able to provide with our ask for dollars to accomplish our desires in our watershed!
	3. Cover Crops
		1. Kevin Traastad reported that the changes with the Cover Crops dollars in DATCP grant to $8450.00 will allow us to reimburse at $45.oo an acre for anyone interested in planting cover crops. DATCP suggested we increase by $20 an acre. We originally budgeted $25.00 an acre. We will be able to cover 187 acres at that rate. If anyone is interested in cover crop reimbursement, please reach out to Kevin.
		2. Kevin Traastadalso reported that we have dollars to spend on alternative cover crops - buffer strips, trees, etc. Lots of options here, and open for ideas. Last year we paid $200 an acre or $15.00 per tree with a tree tube. Please reach out to Kevin if you are interested, or have any questions or ideas.
		3. Justin Daniels from Byron Seeds joined the meeting and provided information on cover crop seed and resources he has. He also brought some small bags of cover crops that attendees were able to put their name in for a drawing to win a bag.
	4. Ridge vs. Valley & Woodland Discussion
		1. Christie Homstad posed the question to the group of what can we do in our woodlands to help stop erosion and run off. Christie has gulleys with exposed rock. Nancy Wedwick responded that this is one of the pieces that the watershed is trying to learn more about as we move forward. The woodlands make up about 50% of the land in our watershed. We have found some options for crop land (managed grazing, cover crops, buffer strips), however we need help with the woodlands.
		2. Nancy Wedwickshared her story of living on the ridge and owning land in the valley. Until the flooding happened in 2018, she didn’t really think much about what happens on the ridge, has a direct impact in the valley. That alerted her to changes that needed to happen.
		3. Kevin Traastad shared that in preparation for the event at Travis Klinkner’s farm they did a water infiltration test in the woodlands, and the time of infiltration was significantly faster than the crop land. In many of our woodlands the understory in the woods is minimal, which is not slowing down water from running.
		4. Nancy Wedwick shared that Dr. Eric Booth, with Grasslands 2.0, is starting research and discussions on what can be done in the woodlands. We are hopeful that there will be some viable options shared. Nancy also encouraged those in attendance to bring ideas forward and find residents of our watershed who are trying ideas that we can see.
		5. Ashley Olson reported that there is a possibility that our October meeting will be located at a farm in the watershed where the farmer is implementing practices on his ridge land, woodlands & valley land.
	5. Danika Wehling shared that Coon Valley will be celebrating their 175th in June of 2024 and asked if the watershed would be interested in participating.
7. Next Meeting date and location - Thursday, September 7, 2023 - Genoa outlook off Hwy 35. Beer & Brats with Stan - open to all Watersheds
8. Presentation -
	1. We will see an acre of elderberries on Mike Breckels’s Farm in nice mowed rows with lots of berries ripening. Mike will have elderberry destemmer on display and operational. He will also have some videos of the destemmer in action, destemming both elderberries and elderflowers. There will be some samples of elderberry juice, elderflower tea, elderberry maple energy re-hydration from B&E's Trees, as well as Mike’s version of St. Germain, an elderflower liqueur