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

**August Meeting**

**Van Dyke Farm, S5385 Hansen Lane, Viroqua**

**August 7, 2024**

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

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

1. Call to Order and Roll Call @6:30pm

Nancy: It’s valuable to learn about each other, but it takes time!

Motion to keep roll call by Tim Hundt, seconded by Brad Robson

Robert’s Rules Discussion:

Nancy: Do we keep Robert’s Rules?

Ben Wojahn: It’s important to make discussion available, but Robert’s Rules makes it easier to apply for grants, ect.

John Zinn: Keep Robert’s Rules

Gillian: Consensus is great, but Robert’s Rules keeps things seamless

Nick: No opinion

Monique: Quite a few different options to explore, would like to explore consensus decision making.

Brad Robson: More discussion on the board level, he advocates for a consensus system; need to investigate why there is a time issue

Matthew Canter: Lots of discussion at the board meeting, meetings could be more efficient, discussion is good, could explore other possibilities. Make it a mission to talk at meetings, encourage participation from everyone

Ron Leum: No preference

Ashley Olson: Either way, keep meetings shorter

Matt Eddy: operated a farm by consensus, meetings were long! Would encourage Roberts rules. consensus lengthens meetings.

Jed Olson: Everyone should be able to speak what they want to say, have an idea of what they want to talk about before meetings, and voice those ideas out. Figure out your points before you walk in the door

Carol: Religious org that operates on consensus, things took a really long time. When you don’t reach consensus, people feel really alienated, and that alienation can wreck groups.

Royce Curtis: Also involved in the CVCC which runs on Robert’s Rules, it works well

Lynn Curtis: involved in many different organizations, loosely follows Roberts rule, and loose is fine. People need some structure and guidance—get opinions from people who don’t talk, gently moderate people who speak a lot.

Carl Clizer: Experienced Robert’s Rules in 4H, it’s tough to sort out.

Tim: It’s important to talk as long as we do. Maybe we need a committee structure to streamline. Things are moving fast.

Genesis Gordon: Robert’s Rules is a great structure, it’s why so many people use it. Put a time allotment next to the agenda item

1. Marc’s Fascinating Flashbacks

None this month

1. Secretary's Report

None this month

1. Treasurer’s Report

None this month.

1. Updates
   1. Grants
      1. Rural Climate Partnership Grant funded

Nancy: We received $65,000 for education, awareness, resource identification.

* + 1. The Nature Conservancy (assistance for tree and shrub planting)

Nancy: Around $5,000 available.

* + 1. Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (assistance for cover cropping)
    2. EPA 9 Key Element Plan

Nancy: Focused on the Timber Coulee subwatershed, more information soon.

* 1. Federal flood control dam decommissioning

Ben Wojahn: County committee is voting on the dams tomorrow. A lot of people have concerns about the dams coming out. We don’t have many viable options other than taking the dams out and pursuing coordinated, community based conservation practices.

1. New Business
   1. CCCWC conservation funding protocol
   2. Committee Formation
   3. VSN: Prairie planting funding opportunities

Genesis: VSN can help consult, plant and manage prairie of any size at no cost to the landholder. Can be used for recreational or agricultural land. Planting will vary by topography, soil type, ect.

Nick: NRCS likes to conduct a field visit before any planting happens

Ben: Could use farmer support at the county level for getting more funding Flood mitigation alliance is going to be reborn, and they would like support from watershed councils

1. Presentation: David Van Dyke, speaking about Prairie STRIPS
2. Next meeting date and location – September 4, Coon Valley Conservation Club