

Coon Creek Community Watershed Council (CCCWC)
February Meeting
Coon Valley Conservation Club
February 5, 2025
Eat & Greet! Food Served: 6:00 p.m.
Meeting: 6:30 p.m.

1. Call to Order and Roll Call @6:30pm - meeting began at 6:36pm

Project you are looking forward to in the upcoming year. Responses included zines for the oral narratives, sell all the corn we grow (no floods, no deer), shed building, stream bank restoration project with support from Monroe County, format a novel for publication, partnering with CCCWC schools/libraries on youth projects, 38 conservation practices in LaX, native plantings for conservation stewardship program/prairies, get tree cut out of mom's yard - it's 18' wide, new county conservationist, building a lumber kiln, removal of the Milsna dam, 6 acres planting with trees and projects - live vicariously through us, 4' tube tree plantings and some tubes got wretched - tube year, refurbishing a new outdoor kitchen, conserve with a buffer around the land, bad axe energy efficiency, bad axe share lots of information about projects - plant a few hundred trees on the farm, repairs on property from 2018 flooding, write a book, plant a hundred trees with tubes, spend more times working in the woods - slow water down on the paths and implement infiltration and get an off road marathon, 98.5% finished with compost barn, historical projects for the CCCWC and heal some ditches along the road, finish the Thriving Earth Exchange project for Vernon County.

2. Marc's Fascinating Flashbacks

Ole Bakkum (Orlan Bakkum's grandpa) was known as the "old, honest bridge builder." He built the bridges with steel rail (like bohemia valley?), and there are some blue prints available of the design. He installed massive bridge pylons with only the help of horses and ramps. They are featured in a Norwegian report on Coon Valley from the 1960s, which is available on youtube. Other highlights from the report include dancing inside the fjord. Here is a link:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Og4rBqWTIS0>

3. Secretary's Report

Minutes from the January meeting were approved by consensus.

4. Treasurer's Report

\$60,000 remaining in the back account. TNC tree cost share checks are going out tonight. We will receive 2024 DATCP refunds back shortly.

5. Updates

- a. Conferences

- i. Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection - hosting a grant workshop for folks that receive funding - all day Tuesday, February 25 in Plover. There is typically a ride share if there is interest to attend.

- b. Grants

Just applied to Fishers and Farmers - presented at the steering committee last week. The grant we proposed to the steering committee will hopefully be federally funded. The feedback we got was that we did pretty well? But lots of federal uncertainty at this point.

c. Hill Country Watershed Alliance

Tuesday, February 18th - joint watershed meeting at the Eagles Club at 6PM, things are progressing. Samer is presenting on soil and moisture probes, VSN's Genesis Gordon will talk about water quality testing over the last 20 years, and Kent McClurg will speak about nutrient testing/Haney soil tests. they also invited the committee from Sininowa Sisters, who will speak about soil carbon and nutrients base lines from the entire state, including carbon total nutrients and how we read soil test results. CCCWC will speak about the Wisconsin Idea collaboration grant. Finally, there is a possibility of putting in a grant to Sand County organization thru Hill Country. 10-12 CCCWC folks plan to attend.

d. Coon Creek Confluence

Planning with weather in mind - some funding may be necessary for gravel, etc to get things squared away. 90 days away from this - Molly B will be more of a noon time - there will be space issues. Polka Palace will continue - 40x100 feet area, need an area for dance, set up chairs and market this one differently. JEM grant we received \$15,000 Wi Dept of Tourism - all for Marketing, selling by tables - 8 settings by table. FCLA - Westby students will be involved. They are willing to do most of that work. Sit down for dinner. Molly's idea is for the VIP experience, help ADA compliance, still sell tickets on the back side, \$20 tickets behind the group with the meal - two options: dinner and a show, or just a show - Contact Tucker or Sydney

6. New Business

- a. Federal funding freeze - NRCS folks mentioned that there is a lot of figuring out with the executive orders that have been put out. Financial assistance seems to have been blocked.

Library legislation day in Madison - heavily partnered with CCCWC weaving in conservation - community gardening projects - if anyone could write up about partnering with local libraries and the CCCWC - it would be really helpful. Sydney will write a letter on behalf of CCCWC. Chelsey hopes to detail the intersection of climate change, vulnerable populations and disability concerns, accessibility and DEI initiatives - contact her for more information. The legislation day is Tuesday, February 11.

- b. Committee formation - Tim mentions we need a group to tackle long range fundraising, we need people to help with grants, and to help with event planning. We probably need to ask for volunteers on certain topics - need groups of people to tackle tasks - looking for volunteers.
- c. Flood Mitigation Alliance - decommissioning versus removal - in what we're thinking about this - we are doing dam decommissioning and some removal - we are doing a little bit of both. Peck's Corners just down the road and Samer just took drone footage that he can make available to folks. Hiring interns for culvert inventory at Vernon County at present.
- d. Welcome to David Hettenbach
- e. Other announcements - Next 3 Fridays - Osseo doing a presentation on the solar farm leasing projects with UW lawyers - the following friday is a forestry day with a full day agenda - looks like a good day talking about climate change and

woodlands, and the following Friday in Sparta - the NRCS guys are putting on a burn plan workshop that is free. In the afternoon from 1- 4PM. Burn ban recommended at this time.

Trees should be planted with tubes and stakes, except for conifers. The tree sale is going on now, you can buy 25 trees for about \$30. It takes time to plant and care for trees, which is why we are cost sharing at \$10/tree. Fiberglass stakes are superior to wooden stakes. Idea pitched to do a tree planting workshop for the library after school group with Nick the Forester.

Monique reports that the Tainter Creek group is moving forward, slowly and surely.

7. Next meeting date and location – 6:00 Mar. 5, Coon Valley Conservation Club.
Presentation on links between watershed and community health, and community health resources from behavioral health specialist Kati Thompson, and 211 coordinator Carla Lundeen. Discuss population health - access to rural health resources

Reminder about *** Strategic Initiative Planning

Wednesday, February 26th at 5:30 at VEDA building - look for a door with a light