

# Coon Creek Community Watershed Council (CCCWC) Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Coon Valley Conservation Club  
Wednesday, February 19, 2025, 5:00 p.m.

Board Members Present: Tucker, Nancy, Zach, Matt, Kevin, Ashley, Monique  
Other Attendees Present: Jen and Brad Robson

1. Meeting was called to order at 5:15PM
2. Open to everyone (*5:00 pm to topics covered*)
  - a. Secretary's Report - There was consensus to approve minutes from the last meeting. No new business.
  - b. Treasurer's Report - Sydney has been chatting with Abacus and likely on track to file our taxes on time this year. Still waiting to retrieve some W9 forms. A final report for 2024 DATCP funding was submitted this past Saturday.
  - c. Old Business

Discussion points: review of program, types of farmers involved, ideas on the structure and practices for implementation, interest in program from those involved, level of involvement by participating parties, timeline moving forward, open sharing of thoughts

- i. NRCS Cooperative Agreement (Farm Demo Meeting) - Jen was designated lead to speak on the update. She informed the Board who was in attendance and provided context about the meeting discussion. Roles were also discussed and where does CCCWC (not) fit in this partnership. Explored questions about who they want to participate.... Audience tends to be the choir issue. Educating landowners is one approach to assist with implementing best management practices. Brad shared it was a great meeting - a proposal to fund a Demo Farm

Network (help fund people do this work). Everyone at the meeting is ready to take the next step and start figuring out roles and responsibilities with NRCS at the next gathering. This is a volunteering opportunity and there are only a few ideas of who to invite to participate at this time. Where does CCCWC fit in the promotional, educational, thought process side. NRCS is going to fund the farm work to collect the data and this will be the technical side of the effort. They want to solicit insight to the process and plan to take this forward with the next step. Monroe County will likely take the lead. What does this look like? Check out online resources. Brad pointed out some of the small scale projects that the CCCWC have taken on could be expanded to a broader audience. Tracking data and having a mentor are some of the main offerings. Discussion ensued about understanding from first meeting, then financial opportunities - or lack thereof.

Concerns were then expressed which included CCCWC capacity being maxed out. Perceptions of NRCS have been strained due to the Planned EIS process. Outreach is not their strong suit. Reputation also needs consideration as does running any partnership through the rubric the CCCWC uses.

Brad reminds us that many of the other demo farms work with independent ag consultants.

ii. Vernon Co Board update: Flood Mitigation Alliance

Nancy attended last month's meeting and provided background on the meeting format and last month's discussion. Meetings are somewhat formal.

iii. Hill Country Watershed Alliance Update

Hill Country is about collaboration and that was the sense that attendees felt at the meeting last night.

Interest to bring in some big speakers and collaborate.

Kevin reports that Fields of Sinsinawa attended and asked councils to participate in soil testing over the spring. This would involve ~5 farmers, and CCCWC would need to cover the costs. This would probably need to be passed to a council.

Sand County Foundation is interested in moving forward with a HCWA collaboration.

- iv. Driftless Area Magazine Partnership: Motion by Ashley, seconded by Nancy, motion carries.

d. New Business

- i. May 3 postcards and marketing - Fishing Opener and green color
- ii. Strategic Planning - Nancy met with Sue Noble to share background and build on the work we have done and consider changes. Done by 8PM with action plan in hand - Noble is excited and honored to host.
- iii. April 2, 2025 - Ana Carl - push this out to make sure folks show up - yield monitor in combine

3. Other business

4. Next Board Meeting: March 19, 2024, Coon Valley Conservation Club

5. Adjourn