

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

## **April Meeting Minutes**

### **Coon Valley Conservation Club**

**April 2, 2025**

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

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

1. Call to Order and Roll Call @6:37pm by Nancy Wedwick

Discussion Topic: What you like to have Wisconsin Public Radio (WPR) report on:

How CCCWC is affecting other groups, more about localized artisan industry atypical from agriculture and how that is bringing our community together, water infiltration in the watershed and finding affordable solutions - citizen science projects to do on their own land, keep the work of the CCCWC in the news and try to keep some more insight from the people (no comments on remove dams or have them stay), bird flu, federal funding concerns, infrastructure improvements, report on refurbishing just one PL566 flood control structure that does not get removed. more emphasis on getting help to the individual landowner affected by the dams being removed up and down stream from them with smaller projects and provide funding, hear more about the good stuff we are doing - farmer operators are doing to protect the environment, tariffs impact on agriculture, groups like our councils are challenged to find funding for staff/pay for the individual to coordinate all of the effort - that is the help turn the tide, financial efforts of implementing conservation work, the effect of how we treat our woods in watersheds and water penetration (what do you do if you have to log? how do you mitigate), a coming together rather than a drifting apart - finding solutions is the essence of this organization and the focus is solve problems, report on elderberries, 3 billion dollars awarded to farm operations with smart agriculture, telepathy tapes (podcast on noncommunicative youth and their efforts to communicate with their minds), continue reporting on events like this to stay informed on what is going on, disability and public health and the social fabric in rural Wisconsin and bringing people together and marginalized groups, explore how we step up, climate change and land owners since this area is considered a climate haven/sanctuary and climate refugees, perennial crops: grapes, asparagus, etc and making a go, folks intertwine with our native community - stories how we do this work (tribal members efforts and communities working together and have done so for a long time), tree harvests and sustainable forestry, fiber sheep, hear the concerns and how you educate your community, disasters flooding and placement of houses - keeping people alive, alternative crops and how they influence conservation (hemp, etc.), no news stories, series on watershed literacy = raising awareness that if you live on land, we all are part of watershed recognition of that raises awareness of belonging to a community, the work and influence of social scientists/humanities efforts in placemaking efforts, interjurisdictional partnerships - how things went well and areas for improvement, Coon Valley Conservation Club, rebuilding Jersey Valley may not make sense to rebuild if it will expire, ongoing extreme weather events,

2. Marc's Fascinating Flashbacks

Bohemian Valley watershed group started in the 1930's and they still meet once a month, chicken-que, bbq and have raised bison.

3. Secretary's Report

Gratitude for Sydney for taking minutes in Monique's absence, board meetings, general meetings, as well as board meeting minutes, and general meeting minutes available online via our website [cooncreekwatershed.org](http://cooncreekwatershed.org)

#### 4. Treasurer's Report

\$50,000 in the bank and we received a \$1000.00 donation from WKTY cares

#### 5. Updates

##### a. CCCWC Board Elections: April 30 2025

Mark, Nancy, and Tucker are willing to run again. There is an additional Board of Directors position open that was previously held by Maggie Traastad.

##### b. Coon Creek Confluence - Sydney handed out a Events Updates & Volunteer Info handout and went over a high-level overview of activities, merchandise. Tucker provided details about organization of the space, food and provisions. Nancy followed up with background on Mollie B and her invested interest in this area and with watershed efforts.

##### i. Schedule

1. April 30th CCCWC Meeting/volunteer orientation
2. May 1-2 Setup
3. May 3rd Programming
4. May 4 take-down

##### ii. Volunteering

#### 6. New Business

##### a. Swannanoa exchange - Learning growing working with the local college, operating watershed wide, we met LC Clemmons and talked about climate change and sanctuaries, folks down there have asked to have folks from our watershed visit to discuss our experiences and efforts. We will be sending folks down in three waves - April, May, June

##### b. Fields of Sinsinawa soil testing - Brad Robson spoke about this group wants to put together statewide testing on carbon benchmarking, but what they are asking us to do is submit up to 5 samples and do a carbon model test on it, total digestible in soil, Haney soil test, PFLA (microbe and soil activity). There are challenges with the name of the program, but it seems to be a sound effort. Total cost to participate is \$190 for all of the tests they are doing. Soils should be collected in April - personal results will go back to landowners. Regen labs first, fields of Sinsinawa, then data will come to you. Crop rotation - they may ask to do it yearly. If folks are interested, if you are just getting into no till or cover crops - this is a great opportunity from Brad's perspective.

Erik makes a motion to support a 50% payment for this effort for 5 farmers to participate , second by Mike Brekel

c. Other announcements

Wednesday, Apr 23, 2025 Bad Axe Watershed council will be having a soil pit demonstration with youth from area high schools at the Dave and Kent McClurg Farm. Free lunch at noon and from 12:30-1:30 landowner/farmer discussion. Jaime Patton will be coming from NRCS coming to talk about this. Brad Robson has flyers available.

Climate Change Task Force - we have so many watersheds touching themselves - we touch quite a bit of land and lots of acres we have influence on and the next thing is talking to Richland County folk interested in starting up some watershed efforts in that region.

Community Garden will be starting by Organic Valley the old school - then it was moved to Chaseburg Valley Park and they will be breaking ground this year.

7. Presentation on updates to Farm Bill programming with Luke Romance, Farm Bill Biologist with Pheasants Forever
8. Next meeting date and location – 6:00 April 30, Westby Rod and Gun Club (E7969 Co Hwy P, Westby.) Board elections and Coon Creek Confluence volunteer orientation