



Coon Creek Community Watershed Council General Meetings

Information for Meeting Hosts



“Dedicated to improving and restoring our soil, water, and air as stewards of the Coon Creek Watershed”

CCCWC members gather on a field to learn about cropping practices during a 2022 CCCWC General Meeting

Thank you so much for your interest in hosting a CCCWC General Meeting. This form will give you an idea of what to expect as a meeting host or presenter, and to answer common questions about what hosting entails.

About CCCWC General Meetings

The CCCWC holds its General Meetings at 6PM the first Wednesday of every month. Our meetings showcase the diversity of flood resilient land management and conservation practices at work across the Coon Creek Watershed, highlight conservation resources and opportunities, create comfortable spaces for our members to learn from each other and exchange ideas, amplify the perspectives and expertise of local producers and other conservation partners, and, most importantly, connect the Coon Creek community around shared conservation goals.

Who comes to CCCWC Meetings?

Our meetings are free and open to all. Attendance typically ranges from 20-50 people. Guests include CCCWC board members, people who live, farm, or have businesses in and around the Coon Creek Watershed, partners from other conservation agencies and nonprofits, collaborators from local universities, and local elected officials.

Where do meetings happen?

May-October meetings take place outdoors at members’ homes throughout the Coon Creek Watershed and generally include a field visit or farm tour.

November-April meetings take place indoors, usually at the Coon Valley Conservation Club, and feature presentations from members and conservation partners.

Who can host or present?

Anyone! Past hosts and presenters have included cattle grazers, dairy farmers, cover croppers, tree farmers, health professionals, stream managers, non-profits, & more.



General Meeting Schedule
5-6 - Board members and staff arrive to assist with set up
6-6:30 - Guests arrive for dinner
6:30-7 - Brief CCCWC business meeting
7-8/8:30 - Presentation, and tour when applicable

*In Oct., tours and presentations come before the business meeting due to early darkness *



What does hosting entail?

Hosting an outdoor meeting entails sharing your space with the CCCWC membership, and being willing to speak about your land management practices. Sometimes, hosts may work with the CCCWC to invite other partners to speak at the meeting as well (for example, county conservationists, neighbors, NRCS staff). Your role can range from facilitating an informal conversation to leading a structured presentation. All we ask is that you keep your remarks under an hour, and that you leave space for members to ask questions.

As a host, there are few limits to what you can share, but here are some guiding questions to help you get you started:

- What is the history of the land where you live or farm?
- What is your relationship to the Coon Creek Watershed? What about the place you live and/or farm?
- What types of land management do you practice, and why? What are the benefits and drawbacks to these practices? Do you see relationships between your practices and soil health? Resilience to flooding and other climate extremes? Social and economic well-being?
- What have you noticed or learned since you adopted these practices?
- What resources helped you implement these practices?
- What advice do you have for others who may be interested in adopting these practices?
- What is next for you? What other land management goals do you have?

What support is available for hosts?

Compensation: We offer our hosts and presenters a \$250 honorarium to thank them for sharing their time and expertise with the CCCWC. The CCCWC is occasionally able to reimburse our hosts and presenters for other expenses they incur over the course of their meeting preparation as well. It is critical that you verify with the CCCWC to make sure expenses are reimbursable prior to making purchases for which you seek reimbursement, and that you save your receipts. The CCCWC is also able to cover basic printing requests.

Meeting Materials: The CCCWC will provide food, beverages, serving tables, and cutlery. You are welcome to supplement our dinner if you'd like! We encourage guests to bring lawn chairs to outdoor meetings, and to help us reduce waste by packing their own picnicware.

Preparation: As the meeting approaches, CCCWC staff will contact you to develop a plan for the evening, and to check in about emerging needs. Staff will always be available to answer questions. Staff will also be available the day of the meeting to assist with any meeting set-up or meeting related errands.

Outreach: The CCCWC will promote the meeting through its email, social media, and press releases. We invite you to invite your friends, family, and neighbors as well!

Insurance: The CCCWC has event insurance, which covers our outdoor meetings.

Cancellation: The CCCWC or host may cancel the meeting at any point due to poor weather or other unforeseen circumstances. If feasible, the CCCWC will work with the host to reschedule the meeting.