

Coon Creek Community Watershed Council (CCCWC)
December Gathering
Coon Valley Conservation Club, Dec. 3, 2025
Eat & Greet! Food Served: 6:00p.m.
Meeting: 6:30 p.m.

1. Greetings and Reflections

Conversation & Opportunities

Eric W: We've done well at highlighting connections in watershed, County/watershed connections.

Tucker: Adds that the group has done a good job making new connections

Kinger and Bruce: no comment

Matthew C: Sees an opportunity to invite involvement through locating conservation hotspots and proposing specific conservation practices on vulnerable land, as identified through conservation tools like the ACPF

Orlan : Would like to see more from landowners recommending what conservation expectations should look like in land rent contracts., also Covers/grasses/notill Corn on corn, disc in fall, notill in spring

Tim: interested in documentary opportunities

Carol in the valley : Excited about so many edu topics

Mike Breckel : Is excited to see the amount of people open to change and acceptance of watershed group (social consciousness). He makes an analogy to foundation of OV, and also the CCC: "CCC didn't change agriculture but they made an example of best practices and that has propelled change"

Ron Leum : He likes the diversity that we have here among crops/covers/alternative forages

Monique: Notes that a great sign of growth that we've run out of food at an event. Would like to see a financial literacy workshop speaker, and speaks to a desire for a Qualitative approach instead of quantitative in DATCP grants. Also notes the importance of depth of relationships (returning meeting attendees) instead of number of meeting attendees. Points to Iowa trip as a 2025 highlight.

Sydney. Ditto Iowa trip, it was humbling to host these guests, and showcase the best of our watershed. But we need to improve in our ability to quantify and highlight the impact of the work we're doing on the ground

Charlie/Mary Jo Burke: They have enjoyed working together to focus on our commonalities/strengths. "How you treat the land is the only legacy you truly leave behind." They'd like to see a local school art project/county fair presentation and maybe a calendar?

Ashley: Sees the strength of our diversity , and opportunities grow as we normalize our mission. Would like to resurrect the watershed literacy curriculum for schools

Mark : Says we need to keep up the fight to keep growing it. He really appreciated the Iowa exchange trip

2. Marc's Fascinating Flashback

Orlan Bakkum (alternate Mark flashback): Found CCC bracelet at estate sale and gave to Syd for all her great work

9/25 marks four years of CCCWC and noted that CCC camp only lasted four years...challenge accepted!!

3. Business:

- a. Secretary's report
- b. Treasurer's report
 - i. Conservation cost share updates

Sydney shares that there is about \$2,000 left in the cost share budget for 2026, and invites any last cost share requests before the end of the year.

- c. Sustainability updates

4. Burn training: April 2026

Zach shares that there is strong interest from the CVCC, and that it is worth pursuing the opportunity.

5. End of year survey

Sydney notes that this is posted online, and that there are some paper copies in the room as well.

Other Business:

NRCS Nick shares some updates to NRCS: CSP automatic renewals has been cancelled, notes that there is a changed focus to a completed plan at time of application has more likelihood funding in current year than starting from scratch

6. Next meeting: January Planning and goal setting gathering, Coon Valley Conservation Club, Jan 7, 2026.