

**Initial Meeting
Friends of Turtle Creek
Meeting Minutes
May 5, 2015**

Attendees: Dean Paynter, Jayne Paynter, Tom Presny, Carl Lange, Steven Woodman, Tom Holmes, Nate Boggs, Therese Oldenburg, Nancy Johnson, Jim Van De Bogart, Sally Olson, Stuart Olson, Bob Blakely, and Terry Meyers.

Meeting location: Turtle Creek Parkway (Rock County Park, Town of Turtle)

Time: 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM

Welcome: Tom Presny and Dean Paynter welcomed the attendees to the initial Friends of Turtle Creek meeting. Tom and Dean have been working on clearing vegetation which blocked the view of the historic Five Arch railroad bridge over Turtle Creek at Turtle Creek Parkway and realized the need for volunteerism to work on that and other efforts related to Turtle Creek., thus the scheduling of this meeting.

Introductions and initial comments: We went around the room and each of the 14 attendees introduced themselves and shared initial comments on what needs, activities, and efforts they thought were needed and might benefit Turtle Creek, its neighbors, and users.

Many of the attendees live adjacent to Turtle Creek. Most have had long time exposure to the creek with uses including; paddling on the creek, fishing, nature observation and hiking.

Common needs identified included:

- Shoreline erosion and need for shoreline stabilization.
- Siltation and seasonal shallow areas.
- Fallen trees that impede stream flow and recreation opportunity.
- Education on how to be good stewards of Turtle Creek
- Schedule Work efforts to improve Turtle Creek.
- Scheduled activities to enjoy Turtle Creek.

Turtle Creek defined: Turtle Creek originates in Walworth County at Turtle Lake which is located north of Delavan. The creek flows through Lake Comus in Delevan before flowing westward into Rock County, through the jurisdictions of Town of Bradford, Town of LaPrairie, Town of Turtle, and the City of Beloit.

At this time our focus is centered on Turtle Creek in the Town of Turtle and in the City of Beloit.

Who should be invited to participate: We identified that we should find out what resources are available to us and who we should work with from: the WI. DNR, The Rock County Land Conservation Department, the Town of Turtle, and the City of Beloit. We should communicate with the Beloit Daily News and the Clinton Topper newspapers. Local points of contact should include Brian Ramsey with Beloit Parks and staff from Beloit Water Resources, as well as Roger Anclam with the Town of Beloit.

Where and when should we meet: Meeting location might include: The Turtle Creek Parkway Building, The Turtle Creek Town Hall, Sweet Allyn Park and parks along the creek and City of Beloit public buildings. We should try to host a paddle event(s) on the creek prior to July when the water levels generally become too low. We should schedule larger tree and debris removals in cooler seasons and it may be advantageous to work off creek ice in some settings. Attendees thought Tuesdays or Wednesdays (excluding second Wednesday) were good nights to meet.

Action Items:

- Determine DNR point(s) of contact (Dean Paynter)
- Find other sources of relevant contacts (Therese Oldenburg)
- Schedule next meeting and coordinate location (Tom Presny and Steve Woodman)

Meeting adjourned 7:15 PM

Recorded by:
Tom Presny

Electronically attached to meeting minutes:
Turtle Creek rock river watershed report.pdf
Glacial Heritage Area Volunteers Creek Clean Up

**(The following are excerpts from The Rock River Coalition)
(rockrivercoalition.org)**

The Rock River Basin covers nearly 3,800 square miles of South Central Wisconsin. Today, the Rock River and its numerous tributaries thread their way through this landscape that spreads over 10 counties inhabited by more than 750,000 residents. Urban centers include Madison, Janesville and Beloit as well as smaller cities such as Waupun, Watertown, Oconomowoc, Jefferson and Beaver Dam. Although the basin is experiencing rapid growth, it is still largely rural in character with agriculture using nearly 75% of the land area. Most of the basin's surface waters are exposed to runoff pollution from both agricultural and urban land uses and many are exposed to waste

water discharge pollution as well. Only a few surface water bodies within the basin are rated as excellent quality. Stream channelization, building of drainage ditches and draining of wetlands have contributed to flooding problems. The river basin idea helps us to understand how activities — from farming to modern industry to urban development — are directly related to our natural resources. The water quality in a community is a direct reflection of the activities that take place on the land. Similarly, the quality of our waters has a direct impact on our other resources such as wildlife, recreation and business and urban development. Economy, ecology, community — all are linked in the natural concept of a river basin. The Rock River and its tributaries provide the surface water conduits that link together the communities, businesses and individuals that reside within the basin.

“Rivers have a way of connecting people. Every day we send a message downstream.” ~Steve Hanson

The Rock River Coalition, in turn, provides a conduit that links the citizens of the basin and enables them to cooperatively address the issues and concerns that affect our quality of life.

