

**Friends of Turtle Creek
Meeting Minutes
Sweet Allyn County Park
6:00 PM to 7:30 PM
September 8, 2015**

Attendees: Dean Paynter, Tom Presny, Wendy Ryan, Ed Rice, Celestino Ruffini, Carol Mankiewicz, Holly Nehls, Lee Henkel, Ginny Henkel, Therese Oldenburg, and Sandy Thorpe

Staff: Mark Edwards, Parks Supervisor, City of Beloit Parks

Meeting location: Sweet Allyn County Park, Shopiere

Guest Speaker: None

Paddling Activity: Nobody paddled due to forecasted wet weather

Treats: Tom Presny brought drinks and Zucchini bars

Welcome: Tom Presny welcomed the attendees to the fourth meeting of the Friends of Turtle Creek. We went around the group and everyone introduced themselves. We welcomed new members: Wendy Ryan, Ed Rice, Lee and Ginny Henkel, and Carol Mankiewicz.

Next Paddle Trip: Sandy Thorpe will check her schedule for late September or mid-October. Potential paddle from Sandy's house to Confluence with Rock River, with a shorter option. Holly has five loaner kayaks.

Has Anyone Thus Far Contacted the DNR Regarding Stream Blockages? Nobody reported.

Follow up on Labeling Upstream side of Turtle Creek Bridges (wayfinding) Dean reported need for permission from local jurisdiction (town, city, county, state) Group discussed options. Consensus was paint stenciling may be the cheapest and easiest solution. Make contacts over the winter and plan for signage in spring of 2016.

Friends of Starkweather Creek (Madison) Tom came across an article about summer 2015 educational and little collection paddle trips for 4th and 5th grade summer school students on Starkweather Creek. The Friends of Starkweather Creek have been in existence for 13 years (2002) they have done a number of shoreline restoration projects with the City of Madison. Check them out at: starkweatherfriends.org

Fall Vegetation Clearing at The Five Arch Bridge: We will schedule with Rock County Parks later in October or November It should follow a meeting at the Turtle Town Hall where Turtle Town residents would be invited to join us. We will announce the work dates in the near future. Dave

Hoffman has obtained a permit from Rock County Planning and Zoning for tree and brush removal along both shorelines in proximity to The Five Arch Bridge.

Friends of Turtle Creek to Consider Joining the Rock River Coalition: We once again talked about joining the Rock River Coalition. Dave Hoffman is a board member for the Coalition and endorses our joining RRC. Fee is either \$25 or \$50 / yearly. Much to learn from RRC who has been active in watershed projects and education for the past 20 years. With such membership we would not need to become a 501 C -3 organization.

Need for a Watershed Plan: Therese presented the need for a Turtle Creek Watershed Plan. She also discussed the increase in density and extent of filamentous algae. Phosphorus runoff is thought to be a significant contributor. We could learn from evaluating other watershed plans in our area.

Nels Akerlund Photo Adventure Program - Scheduled for October 15th. Dean invited everyone to attend The Rock Trail Coalition's presentation with extensive photos of paddling the length of the Rock River and the Mississippi River, and the scaling of the highest spots in all 50 states. The program will be at The Castle located at 501 Prospect in Beloit at 6 PM Thursday October 15th.

Next Meeting and Topic: We will next meet later in October. We have approval to host an upcoming meeting at the Turtle Town Hall. Possible speaker would be Ann Miller with Rock County Land Conservation Office on stream monitoring. Henry Heide may be monitoring Turtle Creek. Ask Ann about this.

Meeting adjourned 7:15 PM

Recorded by:

Dean Paynter and Tom Presny