

Rondout Creek Watershed Alliance

Meeting Notes

5/15/19

Start time: 6:00pm Adjourned: 7:50pm

Present: Laura Finestone, Rochester; John Messerschmidt, Rochester/Wawarsing; Eric Stewart, Marbletown; Jared Buono, Cornell Cooperative Extension; Andrew Faust, Accord/Rochester; Beth Roessler (Guest, NYS DEC HREP Trees for Tribes); Jen Epstein, Riverkeeper; Rebecca Martin, Riverkeeper.

Regular Business

1. Adoption of notes from 3/20/19.
 - a. Notes accepted without changes.
2. Introductions
 - a. Who are you and what are interested in learning more about on the Rondout Creek (the question was asked half way through the introductions by JE)
 - i. Eric Stewart (RCWA)
 - ii. Laura Finestone (RCWA)
 - iii. Jared Buono (Cornell Cooperative Extension)
 - iv. Andrew Faust (RCWA)
 1. Wants to learn more about the canopy cover and pre colonial contact. Scott Cuppet may have a map?;
 - v. Rebecca Martin (Riverkeeper)
 1. Wants to learn more about [Native Tribal History](#) and the Rondout Creek. Lanappe Ashokan Center?
 - vi. Beth Roessler (HREP Trees for Tribes)
 1. What RCWA is doing and where we are going and how they can help)
 - vii. Jen Epstein (Riverkeeper)
 1. Where's the entero coming from?
 - viii. John Messerschmidt (RCWA)
 2. Guest: Beth Roessler, NYS DEC HREP Trees for Tribes
 - a. Resources
 - i. Trees for Tribes Information
<http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/43668.html>

- ii. Applicant Requirements
https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/remediation_hudson_pdf/hrewtft14new.pdf
 - iii. Application. Deadline is August 1st for fall planting.
https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/remediation_hudson_pdf/hrewtftap14.pdf
 - iv. New York Natural Heritage Program. Watch webinar, play with it on the top, online and play with maps.
<http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/29338.html>
- b. There are 300 Tft sites around the Valley. Beth offered to help to select sites with the RCWA when/if required. Jen suggested that the group take the current map that outlines past projects and add to it.
- i. **ACTION: Take field trip to look at sites. Tft applications for the fall are due on July 10th.**

Upcoming Events

- 1. Trees for Tribs Kerhonkson Tree Planting Hosted by Rochester ECC
 - a. 300 plants going in during this event, and there are 50 holes that need to be hand dug.

Old Business

- 1. Mission review
 - a. Work on mission before uploading to all applicable accounts (including Instagram). Laura asked about a tagline for the RCWA and came up with ‘Jump in it, don’t dump in it’
 - i. **ACTION: Include other missions of similar watershed groups for the RCWA to review. Review the RCW organizing document (annotated) from Dan and Laura.**
- 2. Committees
 - a. Project Committee: Communications
 - i. Logo/Artwork/Brochure
 - 1. Review past brochure decisions document. The group had inquired whether or not there were photos taken at the 4/22 event or during the RVGA earlier in the year for the brochure, but there were not. Eric was to look into whether or not Marion was paid. The group discussed making yard signs for future outreach.
 - a. **ACTION: Finalize map images for brochure.**
 - ii. Press release for upcoming RCWA events

- b. Project Committee: Riparian Zone Planting (RZP)
 - i. The group discussed an event on July 20th to do extensive maintenance to Coxingkill. It would benefit to identify the lowest flow time possible to do the work. Andrew will reach out to Chad to try to get this information.
 - 1. ACTION: The group needs liability insurance. Riverkeeper can provide that, but more information on the event/location/time is required.**
 - ii. RCWA Tft Fall Event
 - 1. The group discussed planning a Tft/RCWA event in mid-September through the first week in November. It could be timed with ‘Creek Week’. It may also be timed with what’s being organized now for High Falls.
 - 2. Andrew brought up the Port Ben bridge as a good location to do an event and/or project. It has been decommissioned and crosses the Rondout in Wawarsing. Riparian floodplain owned by the prison (DOC). Great parcel for a park with the bridge and its setting. The road is closed so there are people there anyway. Confluence of the Voyenkill and the Rondout.
 - 3. Work with the Hudson Valley Ramble to promote events. <https://www.hudsonrivervalleyramble.com/ramble>

New Business

- 1. Updates on Meetings and Engagement
 - a. Jared Buono of Cornell Cooperative Extension joined the RCWA and is hoping to find ways to partner. He reminded the group of CCE’s water curriculum.
 - b. Some ideas for the RCWA to pursue in the future included becoming more engaged with the Hudson River Watershed Alliance, reach out to the Ulster County Department of the Environment to set up a meeting with the new county executive, look at the climate smart community items around water, create educational opportunities.
 - i. **ACTION: Create hike events to talk about the geology, trees and hydrology of the Rondout Creek (Andrew).**