

Rondout Creek Watershed Alliance

Meeting Notes

6/19/19

Start time: 6:00pm **Adjourned:** 7:40pm

Present: Laura Finestone, Rochester; John Messerschmidt, Rochester/Wawarsing; Daniel Carey, Kingston; Andrew Faust, Accord/Rochester; Adriana Magana, Accord/Rochester; Jason West, Wallkill River Watershed Alliance; Rebecca Martin, Riverkeeper.

Regular Business

1. Adoption of notes from 5/15/19.
 - a. Notes accepted without changes.
2. The group discussed the desire to do more clean-up events on the Rondout Creek. Daniel Carey of Kingston wants to do at least three more this year. Laura requested that when he was ready, he could send what he'd like to do with the group to partner. That way, liability insurance wouldn't be an issue for his events and the RCWA could help to promote them. The group
3. RCWA Outreach and events.
 - a. Riverkeeper Blog Post: [Rondout Creek - Signs of Progress](#)
 - b. Grandmother Carole will be in Kingston in June.
 - i. Rebecca to send the Grandmother Carole event to all members of the RCWA.**

Upcoming Events

1. Update on High Falls planning meeting and Tft creekside trail walk (Eric and Laura).
 - a. Laura and Eric spoke of walking the lands for the High Falls and Marbletown project to re-do the falls. The group needs to identify where they want a potential Tft project planting. Laura will speak to Eric regarding getting in an application before the August 1 deadline.
2. Watershed roundtable on Monday, June 24 hosted by the Hudson River Watershed Alliance.
 - a. Both Andrew Faust and Laura Finestone agreed to attend. Jason West, the ED of the Wallkill River Watershed Alliance (WRWA) was in attendance. Both the WRWA and RCWA would like to find ways to collaborate. One idea was for the Ulster County watershed groups that include Wallkill, Rondout, Esopus and Neversink to organize a

meeting with the county to discuss more opportunities for funding and technical assistance. Laura would like to get Jared Buono from Cornell Cooperative Extension involved. The group can discuss at the upcoming roundtable event hosted by the Hudson River Watershed Alliance.

- i. Rebecca to reach out to Emily to let her know that Andrew and Laura will be present from the RCWA.**

Old Business

1. RCWA Mission and Tagline

- a. Work on language to submit to the group for discussion.
 - i. Members of the RCWA felt that the mission language created by the WRWA was a good model for theirs. It emphasizes the watershed which the group liked. The group discussed how the Rondout and Wallkill lived within the same watershed in fact, though they were separated legally. The confluence of the RC and WR was downstream at the Sturgeon Pool (Wallkill hits Sturgeon Pool from above).

1. Event idea: “Shape of the Watershed” with field trip. The group asked if there was public access at Sturgeon Pool. Jason said that there was not.

- ii. Tagline or event title? “Jump in it don’t dump in it”. Some members felt it was a bit too crude. They preferred more poetic language to represent the creek.

1. Laura will send a final draft of the mission for the alliance to review at its next meeting.

2. Committee updates.

a. Project Committee: Communications

i. Logo/Artwork/Brochure

1. Jack provided map using google earth but it was too dark. Adriana volunteered to do the layers for the alliance.

a. Laura: Layers to include roads, tributaries, town borders, wetlands, topography. Add these in and we’re good to go. Layers to be provided from Jack to Adriana. Rail Trail, LEWP.

ii. Social Media

1. A discussion regarding Facebook page and posting procedure. Laura suggested that all language on social media be inclusive. ‘We’ vs. ‘I’. Rebecca suggested this

to be a good time for a model social media policy that outlines procedure.

- i. Rebecca to provide group with a draft policy for social media at next meeting, in it, a note regarding groups vs. pages for Facebook. Send communications document to Laura and Adriana. Send google doc file to Daniel**

b. Project Committee: Riparian Zone Planting (RZP)

- i. The group discussed organizing an event on July 20 to provide maintenance to an existing property at Clove Valley extension and Coxing Kill. There is quite a bit of debris (old cages and plastic tubes from tree plantings). Laura and Andrew will provide Rebecca with information to draft a press release and to get a certificate of insurance for the property owner.
- ii. A discussion about the RCWA working with land trusts to provide easements for properties before any large planting is to occur in order have access to property over the long term for maintenance.

- 1. The RCWA would like to invite local land trusts to a future meeting such as the Rondout/Esopus Land Trust.**

New Business

1. Town of Wawarsing town board approved two Critical Environmental Areas (CEAs). Wawarsing: Can the RCWA support John Adams feasibility study (by Fairweather) to advocate for a park at the Port Ben Bridge?
 - a. Discuss advocacy plan at next RCWA meeting?**