

Rondout Creek 8/29/18 Meeting Notes

Recorded by: Jen Epstein, Riverkeeper & Sebastian Pillitteri, Riverkeeper

Began at 4:15 PM

Present: Hank Bartosik, Bosch Purvis, Sebastian Pillitteri, Laura Finestone, Matt Igoe, Jen Epstein, Sarah Underhill

Adoption of notes from 7/25/18

- Notes were handed out
- **ACTION: Send comments about 7/25/18 meeting notes to Rebecca Martin.**

OLD BUSINESS

Hudson River Watershed Alliance Digest

- Laura F remembers that they may have featured one or more ECC's before. We should investigate for our own information and for continuity.
 - **Action: Rebecca will ask Maureen Cunningham about this**
- Handed out [RCWA "Guiding Document"](#)
 - We should use mission statement as the 1-2 sentence description
 - Also discussed:
 - What is the goal? How do we explain whether the water is clean? What do we tell people to get them interested?
 - Is there a digital map of the watershed?
 - Septic systems and "alternative" onsite treatment technologies (e.g., anaerobic, mycology)
 - New water quality regulations coming in 2021 (?) specific to irrigation water used by farms
 - Tabled Steering Committee/Contact questions for next meeting due to absences
 - **Action: review the Guiding Document:**
https://drive.google.com/open?id=1m66_dLHOuAIPczOuh6ALEJTI4z9UB0Vkl7oauFzBA
- Handed out [Walkkill River Watershed Alliance bylaws](#)
 - Several people liked the WRWA mission statement

- Discussion about difference between a group that forms in response to crisis (e.g., WRWA) vs. to protect a good thing (e.g., RCWA). We should act as a deterrent.
- Discussion of non-profit status and ability to win/manage grants. Agreed that good organization is wise regardless of ability to directly manage grants because it helps us to partner with organizations that can manage grants.
- **Action: Review WRWA bylaws for future discussion:**
<http://www.wallkillalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Alliance-Bylaws-2017.pdf>

Riparian Zone Planting Committee (RZPC):

Members?: Andrew (point person), Laura F, John M, Matt I

- Handed out Trees for Tribs Planting Project Overview and summary of past Tft projects in the Rondout Watershed (partial). Access the files here:
<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1zm-ytyEC4vC0jd5rkXwepX91eU4nDPZ->
- We had an extension past the August 1 deadline, but we exceeded it
- Next deadline (for Spring planting) is March 1
- We're good at making lists of sites, but haven't found a good site
- Committee's job should be to create a master list of ideas, eliminate the bad sites, utilize Beth Roessler's expertise, and make a selection
- **Action: RZPC will report back in September meeting.**

Communications Committee:

Members?: Adrianna, Laura, Bosch, Andrew

- List of topics for LTE, Newspapers (*Adrianna, Laura*)
 - Laura will forward ideas developed by Adrianna
 - **Action: RVK will create a document and share Adrianna's concepts for future discussion**
- RCWA Brochure (*Andrew, Eric*)
 - Brainstormed about topics and maps:
 - Who is the audience? What if we have multiple audiences?
 - History, e.g., John Burroughs quote from Rondout Creek wikipedia page:
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rondout_Creek
 - Map of watershed with names of tributaries
 - Definitions of "watershed" and how it relates to the river "valley"
 - Tabled deadline, budget discussion for next meeting due to absences
- Trash P/U Social Media Contest (*Tom*)
 - Tabled, Tom not present

New Business

Social Media Accounts:

- Interest in having a social media (specifically Facebook, Instagram) presence. Awareness that we need a policy of what and how to post and who does it
 - **Action: Bosch will create an email address that can be accessed by multiple members and that can be used to manage the platforms; will find a handle that is available for various platforms; might create a private account to begin testing ideas**

Rondout Valley Growers Association:

- Pending regulations on irrigation water quality. Potential for detrimental impact to farmers: public distrust of irrigated crops; inability to sell to certain buyers (“the co-op”?)
- Need to get growers and watershed people (us) talking
- Possibility of a “Health of the Rondout” panel at the RVGA buyer/seller forum in February (annual event)
- Recent public presentation by Cornell (University or Cooperative Extension? CCE Greene County?) at event organized by Laura Heady

Meeting ended 5:50 PM