

# **Illinois Upper Rock River Ecosystem Partnership**

**4833 Owen Center Road  
Rockford, Illinois 61101  
815-965-2392 ext. 3**

## **Meeting Minutes March 4, 2008**

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Jack Armstrong; people in attendance:

### **Board of Directors**

Bruce Olson, Rock River Homeowners Ass  
Jill Kennay, Natural Land Institute  
Tom Hartley, Winnebago County Forest Preserve  
Tom Jencius, Rockton Township  
Donna Conley, Homeowner  
Roger Christin, WCFB  
Ben Cavataio, Homeowner

### **Executive Committee:**

Jack Armstrong, Chairman  
Josh Sage, Vice Chair, BCCD  
Matt Warneke, Secretary

Rebecca Olson, Olson Ecological Solutions  
Judy Roby, Rockford Park District  
David Pott, Baetis Environmental Services  
Nathan Hill, Winnebago SWCD  
Esther Cavataio, Homeowner

### **Members**

Rick Mohaupt, Winnebago Co. Highway Dept.

### **Approval of January 16, 2008 Meeting Minutes**

The Minutes from the January 16, 2008 meeting were reviewed. Roger Christin made a motion to accept the minutes, Ben Cavataio seconded, and minutes were approved.

### **New Business**

#### **PFC (Partners for Conservation) Grant Presentations**

Midway Village Wetland Restoration – Management plan is complete; working on seed list.

Pheasants Forever is donating 150 lb of seed and 120 lb of grass/wetland seed;

US Fish & Wildlife is donating \$2,500.00 to buy seed;

DNR is donating \$2,000.00 to buy seed;

Drilling is going to be provided by Pheasants Forever or Boone County Conservation.

Jack Armstrong has talked to Dan Erwin from Rockford Park District about the tree removal. (Willows and others)

URREP members volunteered to cut down willow trees, and they look for other help for tree removal.

Josh Sage suggested that when the project is complete, implement signage to dedicate project to URREP.

Environmental Quality Incentives – money is available for timber stand improvements (refer to Ed Johnston).

Rockford Park District – Searles Park – (handout) Judy Roby and Rebecca Olson presented Grant Application.

Jack Armstrong suggested collecting native prairie seeds and replanting. Nathan Hill suggested Wright for tree removal services as they provide good service and pricing. Nathan Hill indicated that this is one of the best projects he has seen come across C-2000/PFC. He suggested to vote as a group “50”, because this is one of the most impressive projects URREP has seen and we should attach a letter down state

supporting that contention as a group with the grant scoring. Tom Jencius supported vote/project and indicated that we should emphasize that this project adds to other C-2000 restoration projects building on previous work in area. On behalf of Dennis Anthony, Nathan Hill made a motion to “to vote as a group “50” because this is one of the most impressive projects URREP has seen” and Bruce Olson seconded the motion and the motion carried with full URREP support.

Winnebago County Forest Preserve District – Same grant as last year (remove railroad berm to restore wetland / flood land). Mill Race Isle \$50,000 requested with matching funds by the Forest Preserve District. Score = 45.2

### **Report from Committees**

Executive – Chris Burke held an open house meeting for Focus Group Members, to gather information for the county wide Natural Resources Inventory which Jack Armstrong attended. The information will be placed in WinGis.

Non Point Source Pollution Control application package (IEPA) should be put on the web site.

Treasury Report (Josh Sage) – current balance is \$1,374.14

\$395.17 was spent in January for the mailings completed for 2007

### **URREP subcommittees**

Education/outreach: County Board Awareness of URREP – Nathan Hill / Dennis Anthony provided a handout: Land Use/Zoning Stakeholders Committee that listed Primary & Secondary Coordinators along with Municipal. It also provided Talking Points for County Board for Land Use Plan & Ordinances. A power point presentation to the County Board is planned for this spring.

URREP representatives will be attending SWCD Board meeting on 3-25-2008 at 9.00am where Mark Maidak from Jo Davis County is going to speak.

Davis Pott spoke & presented findings on recent study: Watershed Modeling, South Kinnikinnick & Kent Creeks

(Handout of Presentation Provided). Watershed Pollutant loading model based on landscape conditions. City of Rockford & RWRWR will have Baetis monitor surface water for fecal coliform & total suspended solids throughout the County for next two years. Baetis currently monitors 15 watersheds in Winnebago County. City of Rockford is undergoing a contract for Surface Water Master Plan endeavor for flooding and water quality. Nathan Hill suggested David Pott to take 2030 land use plan and run it through the model. David Pott is seeking comments on report by the end of March.

Next Meeting: May 6, 2008 at 5:00 p.m. (SAME PLACE – Winnebago Co. Soil & Water Conservation)

Meeting was adjourned 7:15 p.m.