

**FYRH Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, February 21, 7:30 AM**  
**DeForest Public Service Conference Room**

1. Jim called the meeting to order at 7:35 AM. Doug Porter, Gary Schutte, John Ackley, Jim Simpson and Joleen Stinson were present. Franco Milani was absent. Jim left at 8:45 AM
2. Appearances before the committee: none.
3. Treasurer's report:
  - "Form 5-Domestic Non-stock Corporation Annual Report" and "IRS Form 990-N" were both completed.
  - 2016 Thrivent donations totaled \$1073.
  - Gary shared the January treasurers report, which was originally distributed by email 2/20/17. Gary noted that he purchased 3 fishing rods, 2 tackle boxes and 1 pair of waders from the Yahara Fishing Club's sale for \$14. The Friends will reimburse him. He also requested that Jim share the paypal login info.
  - Doug made a motion to approve the January 2017 Treasure's Report as presented. Joleen seconded, motion passed unanimously.
4. Secretary's report:
  - Doug made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 24, 2017 board meeting as presented. Gary seconded, motion passed unanimously.
5. Upcoming Grants:
  - DeForest Foundation Grant application due 03/01/2017. Gary suggested that we request \$1,750 to be broken up \$380 (24 rods), \$420 (misc tackle and supplies) and \$950 (8 pairs of waders). Joleen made a motion for Jim to write and submit the grant on behalf of the Friends with the specific items listed above for \$1,750. Doug seconded, motion passed unanimously. Joleen will share the electronic applications from the last two cycles.
  - Continued Streambank Stabilization and Improvement Grants: The Friends asked Joleen to let them know when the streambank project goes back to the DeForest Village Board for approval.
  - Dane County Urban Water Quality Grant Program: Barry just forwarded another grant announcement on 2/20/2017 but no one has had the time to fully look at it yet.
6. World Water Day Event: Doug attended. He didn't set up a booth, but walked around and talked to folks on behalf of the Friends.
  - We should consider hosting booths at Canoecopia or the Fishing Expo in future years. Gary just heard that the Fishing Expo held space on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor for non-profits for free.
7. Three Bridges, KW Holding LLC Property on Daley Road
  - The developer is still interested in having the Friends help to get the launch in the development. It sounds like he may want the launch area to be private, which doesn't meet the Friend's mission. There was some discussion on asking the developer to move forward with a temporary public launch now, before the development starts, but a number of questions included maintenance and access came up.
8. Cherokee Marsh County Wildlife Area (Bollig Property), Lars Higdon, new Dane County Naturalist
  - The County plans to rip out the farm bridges and culverts and clean out the River. Doug talked to Lars and it sounds like they're interested in partnering with us in other ways.
9. Board Members for next year (2017-2018): It isn't too early to start thinking about if you plan to renew your term and to start recruiting new board members.
  - Gary stated that he has a few people in mind as possible new board members.

- John is still working towards incorporating a formal lake association of some kind. If he moves forward in this direction, all of his time will be dedicated to that new group and he will be unable to renew his Friends term.
  - Our bylaws dictate the minimum number of directors. (Note from after the meeting: bylaws can be found here: <http://www.yaharariver.org/cms/Portals/0/PDF/2013-03-06%20Ammended%20Yahara%20River%20Bylaws.pdf> and dictate no less than 5 or more than 9 board members.)
10. Annual Meeting Planning and Topics
- John will ask the Dane County Land and Water Conservation staff if they're available to do the "suck the muck" phosphorus presentation.
  - Jim will check to see if the library is available and reserve the room.
  - The Annual Meeting is currently set for Monday, June 5 at 5:30 PM.
11. Inspecting/Surveying the River for Blockages
- Joleen has been talking with Capitol Water Trails, who can do the inspections for \$150 each but can't commit to the clean-ups on the timeline that Joleen asked for. Part of the challenge is that the Village has to pay for actual time and materials, which is different than CWT usually operated. Joleen did collect another quote from the Village's regular land restoration contractor and they're interested and available in the work.
  - Gary asked the group what our role really is in regards to water blockage surveys and removals. Since Shaun Shirley left the board, no one from the Friends has done blockage surveys. Perhaps the board should consider doing a survey in the spring and the fall, in lieu of the River Clean-up. There was consensus to add this to the next meeting agenda.
12. Lakes and Watershed Commission Meeting Rescheduled: Jim will send an email polling evening availability for a meeting mid to late March.
13. Salt Wise Toolkit: John brought back his unused cups and the sign-in sheets. He noted that door to door is not an effective outreach method. He had people who were home completely ignore him. He believe that social media is the way to reach the most people.
14. Woody Debris Removal (Interstate to STH 19): No discussion
15. Public Relations:
- Lakes of DeForest: John met Kevin Acker at the home show and received positive feedback from him. As noted in #8, he is leaning towards incorporation of some kind.
  - Other Contacts or Concerns: none
16. Any Other Business
- Gary will complete the Watershed Network Group information form and return to Susan Sandford.
  - Doug plans to attend the March 2<sup>nd</sup> Yahara Pride Farms Watershed Conference.
  - Doug will reach out to David re: monitoring season and offer \$150 for a kick off meeting/breakfast again this year. Joleen made a motion to approve up to \$150 to be spent on the volunteer water monitor breakfast. Doug seconded, motion passed unanimously.
  - A "Dear Corie" article re: ways to volunteer with the Friends should be in the DeForest Times in the next month or so.
17. The meeting adjourned at 9:30 AM.
- Next meeting Tuesday, March 21 at 7:30 AM
  - Topics for future meetings:
    - Membership, Grants, Stream Monitoring Reports...