



Quad Cities Earth Coalition Minutes

Thursday, Feb. 8, 2018, 3 p.m.

River's Edge, 700 West River Drive, Davenport

ATTENDANCE/INTRODUCTIONS: Robbin Dunn (Davenport Public Works), Kristen Bergen (BHP/SC/KMB), Ryan Merritt (Davenport Parks and Recreation), Becky Horton (Wapsi/Scott County), Amy Loving (Nahant Marsh), Joel Vanderbush (Niabi Zoo), Christina McDonough (Scott County Health Department), Megan Fox (Waste Commission of Scott County), Heather Ballou (ATEEC), Ryan Willa (QC Botanical Center), Jared Johnson (WVIK) Sarah Gardner (Bi-State, RICMA)

PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES -- Distributed

- Christina McDonough moved to accept the minutes, Jared Johnson seconded. The minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

TREASURER'S REPORT

- Balance Of Accounts As Of 11/30/17
 - Checking: \$3,618.26
 - Savings: \$5.02
 - Total: \$3,623.28
- Encumbrances/New Expenses: None
- Finance Committee Updates: None

OLD BUSINESS

- **Passport Program**
 - Ryan Merritt provided an update on the passport, which will appear on the back page of the Davenport Parks & Recreation spring/summer activity guide. It will also be available as a PDF online.
 - The activity guide will print the last week of February, so Ryan needs to have the locations and wording for the passport finalized the week of February 12-16. Organizations that have not finalized their wording were strongly encouraged to do so.
 - Jared Johnson suggested member organizations could post a link to the passport on their respective websites, and Ryan agreed to provide the link to do so.
 - Stamps for the passport will be managed by individual organizations, using stamps they own or purchase. Depending on each site's resources, either a staff member can stamp the passport or a letterbox location can be established.
 - 300 lanyards for holding the passport have been ordered and will be distributed among the sites. When a participant gets his/her passport stamped the first time, sites are to offer them a lanyard as a carrying case.
 - Robbin Dunn raised the question of prizes. Jared Johnson and Christina McDonough suggested the program should have an end date to facilitate a drawing for prizes at the end. The group agreed Labor Day could serve as a good end of summer/end of passport program date.

- Robbin offered to send an email soliciting prizes from member organizations.
 - Christina offered to contact the River Bandits about the possibility of a passport day at the ballpark and/or free admission as a potential prize for passport participants.
 - Additional prizes including drawstring backpacks, water bottles, and bracelets were also discussed.
- **Liability Insurance** – Keep on list of subjects that may need to be discussed in the future.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Executive Committee Election** – Robbin Dunn asked that it be noted in the minutes that the executive committee election held at the December meeting had been postponed from June due to turnover in agency representation.
- **Strategic Plan** – Robbin Dunn suggested that the April meeting should focus on the strategic plan, including revisiting remaining goals under the plan: budgets and grants. Accordingly, members were asked to plan on the April meeting lasting 1½ hours.

INFORMATION SHARING

- Robbin asked everyone to be sure to submit their events so they can be added to the website and posted to Facebook.
- Several member organizations were contacted by a new organization, **Bi-State Conservation Action Network (Bi-Can)**, about participating in a networking event on Feb. 12. Concerns were raised by some group members as to whether this group may be duplicating efforts of the QCEC. Robbin Dunn and several other members are planning to attend and open lines of communication.
- **Davenport Public Works** will be hosting a **Corridor Cleanup** event in March. It will also host workshops on **Rain Barrels** that are already full.
- **Niabi Zoo** will be hosting a two-day **Earth Day event** from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on April 21 and 22. Organizations that would like to participate should reach out to Joel Vanderbush. The zoo has a limited number of tables, so participating organizations may need to provide their own for their booths. The zoo is also launching a **Conservation Speaker Series** that will bring both local and national speakers to the Quad Cities to talk on a variety of topics. The series is aimed at adults.
- **The Waste Commission of Scott County** has launched a new **waste sorting game** on its website (wastecom.com) aimed at school children that helps educate them on where different kinds of waste material should go.
- The **Scott County Health Department** will be submitting its certification documents on Feb. 13. It will take a year to either receive accreditation or an action plan in response.
- **WVIK** recently hired a new reporter, **Madelyn Beck**, who will be covering agriculture and environmental news.
- The **Bi-State Regional Commission** will be hosting an **Alternative Fuel Vehicles Summit** on April 3 that will bring in subject matter experts from across the Midwest to talk about biofuels, electric vehicles, CNG, idle reduction, and funding opportunities for fleets. Registration for the free event opens Feb. 15. A link will be provided for distribution to the group.
- The **Wapsi River Nature Center** will be hosting the **Great Backyard Bird Count** at 10 a.m. on Feb. 17. Activities will include making environmentally-friendly bird feeders. On Feb. 24 and March 3, it will host a pair of **maple syruping workshops**.
- **Nahant Marsh** will be hosting an **Invasive Species Workshop** on March 1 and a **Marsh Madness Trivia Night** on March 10. They will also host a spring celebration and **Eco Egg Hunt** that uses biodegradable eggs on March 24.

- **The Quad City Botanical Center** has an upcoming **Migratory Bird Day** in June and will soon be launching a new website.
- **Davenport Parks and Recreation** will be printing 17,000 copies of its **Spring/Summer Activity Guide**. Ryan Merritt can save copies back for any interested organizations.
- The **Eagle View Group of the Sierra Club** will be hosting a **Tree Hugger Trivia Night** in LeClaire on Feb. 17. It will also host its annual **Film Fest** on March 10 from 10:30 a.m.-5 p.m. featuring three main movies (*An Inconvenient Sequel*, *Sea of Hope*, and *Before the Flood*) as well as several short films. The event will also have free food throughout the day.

NEXT BOARD MEETING – Thursday, April 12, 3:00 PM, River's Edge

ADJOURN –The meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m.