

Climate Change Task Force Meeting

Wednesday December 2, 2020

Virtual Meeting Only – Due to increase of COVID cases

1. Call to Order @ 9:12 a.m. by Tina Osterberg, County Administrator
2. Welcome & Introductions- see attendees list attached
3. Weather monitoring stations/equipment update - Roxie Anderson
 - Presented equipment that has been purchased and received. There are 5 stations, 3 rain gauges, 4 water level sensors, and 1 camera sensor.
 - Next step will be to install a station for testing. Mounting equipment will be purchased and a monitoring site will be selected. Installation of signage to deter theft and/or vandalism will also be consider.
 - Discussion regarding soil moisture sensors and capabilities of adding additional environmental sensors was held.
 - Dan Baumann (DNR) mentioned that if any monitoring sites are within a State Hwy ROW, he can assist with notification and getting approval for installation. Roxie mentions the capabilities that can be added in future.
 - After installation of equipment, Roxie will work with John Wetenkamp (NWS) on serving real-time data through NWS webpage.
4. Funding Update (Donations/Grants/Etc.)
 - Marcy West (KVR) provided update that Tim Welch and Scott Lind have been doing a tremendous job fundraising and managing donations provided through Kickapoo Valley Association (KVA).
 - Funding for purchased equipment was from Fishers and Farmers Partnership Grant (\$8990) and donations to KVA (\$10,535).
 - Tina requested a spreadsheet to track funding, donations and purchases and also show how much funding goes to each watershed (Upper Kickapoo and Little La Crosse). The spreadsheet can be posted publicly in order to provide transparency for this project. A spreadsheet tracking donations has been started. Roxie will work on setting up rest of spreadsheet.
 - Roxie provided an update on Grant funding opportunities.
 - o Surface Water Program Grant (DNR)– Two planning grants were submitted for the Upper Kickapoo River and Little La Crosse River watersheds requesting up to \$10,000 for equipment costs for each watershed.
 - o FEMA Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) – The Notice of Funding Opportunity has been reviewed and project scoping has begun. The project application is due January 29, 2021.
5. DNR Stream Crossing/Culvert Training Update- Ron Luethe
 - No activity to report
 - Comments of virtual meetings but looking more towards Spring

6. State and Federal Climate Change initiatives- Bob Micheel
 - WICCI – Serve as a Member on the Agriculture Working group, meeting later today to begin work on the 2nd re-write of the 2011 recommendations.
 - WI land and water association- moving forward with creating a program/position to address Climate Change. Attended a virtual meeting with the state of California and North Carolina looking at some of their practices with carbon sequestration and County CC-Action Plans.
 - Working with National Weather Service to develop an interactive map showing Monroe County stream and river monitoring equipment.
 - Participated on the NACD Midwest area meeting, internally recommend climate change be at the forefront with the Biden administration.
 - Gave an update on the Coon Creek & West Fork of the Kickapoo Watershed study.
 - Tina and Bob will present (Virtual) at the 2021 Wisconsin Governors Conference highlighting the Monroe County CCTF and progress made on objectives.
 - DAN BAUMAN provides update with DNR
 - o The Department will put together an agenda for 2021 – how their work and it impacts and how to improve-
 - Recently finished a blue print on Climate Change- coming to DOT soon
 - Hoping to partner with the Trillion Trees Initiatives- more information at <https://www.trilliontrees.org/>
 - Bob comments that the Land Conservation - Tree Program, will bring in expertise and knowledge on species best suited for climate change adaptation. This would be keyed out on the species list provided to the public.
7. Open discussion/questions
 - Roxie comments on the live stream State Budget listening session on Environment, Infrastructure, and Economy tonight at 6:00 pm. <https://wiseye.org/live/>
 - Greg comments on Discovery Farms hosting webinars on the mitigation of climate change through the soil carbon sponge <https://discovery-farms-conference.constantcontactsites.com/agenda> all webinars begin at 12:00 p.m. 1st one starting today in the series
 - Bill Halfman discusses the 9th annual Driftless Region Beef Conference January 26-28 7:00 pm- 8:30 p.m. more details at <http://www.aep.iastate.edu/beef/>
8. Future Topics and Meeting Schedule
 - Film Kiss the Ground- Host a Virtual Viewing Party with Discussion afterward
 - WICCI Representative to give history of Wisconsin Climate Change
 - Next meeting -1st Wednesday of the Month January 6, 2021 to be held virtually at 9:00 a.m.
 - Wisconsin Farm Bureau around Ag and climate change
9. Adjournment at 10:03 a.m.

Monroe County Climate Change Task Force Meeting

Date: 12/1/2020

Monroe County Climate Change Task Force Members

Name	Title	Agency
Tina Osterberg	County Administrator	Monroe County
Bob Micheel	County Conservationist	Monroe County
Alison Elliott	Zoning Administrator	Monroe County
Roxie Anderson	Land Use Planner	Monroe County
David Ohnstad	Highway Commissioner	Monroe County
Jared Tessman	Emergency Management Coordinator	Monroe County
Cedric Schnitzler	County Supervisor, District 4	Monroe County
Wally Habegger	County Supervisor, District 5	Monroe County
Al McCoy	County Supervisor, District 1	Monroe County
Dave Pierce	County Supervisor, District 2	Monroe County
Ron Luethe	Town Supervisor	Town of Ridgeville
Jack Herricks	Town Chair / MC Farm Bureau President	Town of Jefferson
Bill Halfman	Agricultural Agent	UW-Extension
John Noble	Fisheries Biologist	Fort McCoy
Tonya Townsell	Public Affairs Officer	Fort McCoy
Cindy Koperski	Program and Policy Analyst	WI Dept. of Natural Resources
RED = Absent		

Additional Attendees

Name	Title	Agency
Gillian Pomplun	Reporter	Crawford City Independent
Marcy West	Executive Director	Kickapoo Valley Reserve
Matt Hanewell	Director	La Crosse County LCD
Christina Mulder	Conservation Specialist	La Crosse County LCD
Ned Gatzke	Resident	Monroe County
Jen Schmitz	County Supervisor, District 15	Monroe County
Abbey Nicewander	Planner	MRRPC
John Wetenkamp	Hydrologist	National Weather Service
Tim Hundt	Representative	U.S. Representative Ron Kind
Mike Holland	Representative	U.S. Senator Ron Johnson
Gregg Wavrunek	Regional Representative	U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin
Dan Baumann	Secretary's Director	WI Dept. of Natural Resources
Megan Duffy	Water Reg/Zoning Engineer	WI Dept. of Natural Resources