



Friends of Cedar Lake Minutes

April 21, 2016

Attendees: Dale Todd, Felicia Wyrick, Martin Smith, Charlie Visek, Ron Gonder, Rich Patterson, Ryan Anderson, Mari Phelan, Martin St. Clair, Karen Erger, Randall Hixson, Bill Quinby, Stacey Walker, Steve Hershner, Rich Lisle, Gary Thompson, Leland Freie, Mike Kuntz

Special guests: George Antoniou, Michelle Balmer, Iowa DNR Lake Restoration Program, Paul Sleeper, Joe Sanfilippo and his wife, Delores

Meeting was called to order at 5:05 p.m.

Treasurer's Report

CRBT \$2003.64

GRCRF \$26,965.47

Outreach

Felicia presented to the Coe College Sustainability Council; thanks to Marty St. Clair for making that connection. We had our biggest turnout ever for our Cleanup April 16, including a large contingency of Coe students. Also saw several new faces from the community. An estimated 75 bags of trash were collected. Coe's advocacy class is redesigning our website so it is mobile friendly. We have a new tabletop display for our table at EcoFest 4/23. We now have decals and T-shirts for sale. Rich will be leading our next nature walk on May 5 at 7:00 p.m. Rich and Charlie are working on a walking guide which we plan to post on our website. Felicia met with the Linn County Photo Club about a photo contest this summer. They will come back to us with rules, categories, and submittal procedures and will also supply the judges.

Shoreline Grooming

Parks and volunteers did a large planting along the shoreline of native bushes and trees.

MOU Update

City Council approved a resolution to renew the charter for the group, exploring transfer of ownership from Alliant to the City of Cedar Rapids, and the intent to move forward with the Phase II environmental assessment. We now won't hear about the EPA Assessment Grant until May. Lobbyists from Alliant, and the City have been contacting the EPA in D.C. Individual FCL members have also. If the grant

doesn't come through, we are working on a Plan B to fund the study which would involve a contribution from USGS, FCL, Alliant, the City and County.

Sanitary Sewer/Storm Water Management Masterplans

Steve Hershner gave an overview of the City's work on these. For sanitary sewer, they're looking at the whole system to determine if we have adequate capacity or whether we need to expand. Considering the major flash flood event in June 2014, they're studying the whole storm water system as well.

Watershed Management

Marty gave an overview of the IDOLS grant Coe College has received for a new parking lot project that has watershed management components, such as permeable surface. It includes monitoring wells for educational purposes as well as rain gardens. The Slather apartment project on Center Point road is another good example of a project with watershed management enhancements.

Lake Restoration Program

George gave an overview of the program. In 2006, the State began a program to protect lakes. Part of what they're doing is water quality but they also recognize the recreational aspect of projects like ours. One concern they'll be assessing is the silt loads in the lake. They'll work with us to monitor where the sources of sediment are in the watershed. This is important because we don't want to dredge to increase depth, only to have the lake fill in again over time. They invited FCL members as well as City staff to join a tour of Easter Lake, in Des Moines, to be held May 17. It has a lot of similarities to our project as an urban lake. (DNR handouts are attached.)

Capital Campaign

We are in the process of putting together a steering committee to organize our capital campaign.

Meeting adjourned at 5:50.

Next meeting: May 19, 2016

Respectfully submitted by Felicia Wyrick