

## Friends of the Wapsi Center Minutes

Meeting – Thursday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2010  
Wapsi River Center

**Attendees:** K.J. Rebarcak, Dave Murcia, Warren Wiese, Dottie Wala, Mike Granger, and Erma Wiszmann.

**Minutes:** Approved as mailed.

**Treasurer's Report:** Dottie reported that our check book balance was around \$9,000. Our treasurer Carol was absent due to illness. Deposits to make are from the pop sales, and a membership. Erma brought up window shades for the bird cages. Dave Murcia said he had priced some that he thought would come to \$75. Erma moved that the Friends approve expenditure up to \$100.00 to spend on blinds. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dottie Wala. Motion carried. Erma questioned bird seed for feeders. Dave will check our supplies. Staff is too busy to fill. Dave reported on letter from last meeting. Has reviewed Friend's mission statement and will keep suggestions in mind. Dave has paid for the part of the table saw repaired by Dave Huber and the mice bill. Discussion also took place for the expense for animal feed. We have the 3 birds, several snakes, turtles, salamander etc. Discussed better scheduling and planning so we can make purchases early to get better prices. Very expensive when we have to purchase mice. Erma suggested cost projections be made which could help Friends plan and budget. The pop machine has been moved to the Eagle view Eco Center. Stored pop was freezing in Red tail. Plus the machine was plugged into an inside outlet requiring the cord go through the window. Storage at Eagle View needs to be mice proof for the pop cans. Dave said he would look into storage. The moth balls have been removed and been resealed. The Great Horned Owl Cage has been vented. We will develop a plan to vent all 3 cages. AmeriCorps ends in August. Amy and Katie have been informed. There is the question whether we can have two seasonal positions. Iowa County Conservation Association wants to take over AmeriCorps. There is the possibility of 10 positions to be shared state wide for all 99 counties. Scott County would rank high on the list to get one. Katie and Amy are looking to all options in or out of AmeriCorps. At Earth Watch we had 986 people attend. 500 attended Lisa's Recycle program. 10 people were at the Prairie Burn. The BYO Picnic was well attended. Garlic pull of May 8<sup>th</sup> had 12 people at West Lake. We filled 37 Bags for a total of 3,700 pounds. Had 20 adults and 8 children for Kayak training. 5 adults attended the woodland terrarium class. 48 people attended the native Iowa snake class. Carol sent a report on the Iowa Ornithologist event. The attendees really like the Wapsi Center. They were excited about the Great Horned Owl. It was a really big hit and they developed a good bird list. So far we have 6 signed up for the Ediwild class. We have a new Kayak trailer. This weekend Mike will do Owls Bats and Moths. June 4<sup>th</sup> is a kayak tour and a fishing clinic on June 5<sup>th</sup>. On July 16<sup>th</sup> there will be a Canoe and Kayak Tour at Scott County Park. July 24<sup>th</sup> there is a bends and beaches water trail float on the Wapsi. Our Amphitheater has a new ceiling and is wired with electricity. We are looking to install solar panels we have accepted a contractors proposal regarding the Pond at the South end for 10,000. They are to clean out the pond brush and find the leak. Have noted water bubbling up from a faulty tile. Redtail loge kitchen is to be renovated. New cabinets a serving counter and an in counter dishwasher. We want to replace the foot bridge at the bottom woodland trail. Move the trail over some with a bridge higher up. Plan new workbenches and work space in the Pole Barn. Have bur oak seedlings available. IRS reports need to be submitted. Dave will drop of notices at Carol's house.

There is a security concern with state's DNR equipment. Have a paper trail plan in place only persons who are using equipment are not following it. Much of the equipment is gone with no records. Have coded access to buildings and are trying to track are trying to have staff or volunteers alert to people coming onto grounds – notify Dave or LeRoy if questionable activities occur. Have an updated phone list for the staff and volunteer at freeters desk marked 2010. Bill reported the need to have trail maps. Erma reported a vistor last week asked for a map of all waterways of Iowa which lead to the Mississippi. Took here name and address and phone numbers and left at the greeters desk. Dave mentioned that the cabin is free to friend's members if available on a chosen Date. Dave reported that the facility rentals have exceeded expectations. Host List was passed.