

**Namekagon River Partnership (NRP)**  
**Steering Group**  
**January 17, 2012, 1pm**  
**Sawmill Saloon, Seeley**  
**Discussion Minutes**

**Outcomes:**

- Start membership/donation drive
- Prepare for February 9<sup>th</sup> public meeting

Attendees: Jim Brakken, Cindy Ferraro, Julie Galonska, Mike Gardner, John Haack, Bob Olson, Scott Peterson, Frank Pratt, Deb Proctor, Susan Schirott, Dave Thorson, Branda Thwaites, and Wendy Williamson.

Introductions.

Informational items were noted on the agenda.

A current copy of the draft NRP brochure was distributed for comment. It was agreed that it would be temporarily used for memberships and donations, and that a revised brochure would replace the draft as soon as it is available. Branda Thwaites forwarded river images to John Haack.

The NRP draft goals document provided by Randy Lehr et al was reviewed. Dave Thorson agreed to incorporate suggested revisions and to develop a mission statement from goal #5.

The next NRP public meeting scheduled for February 9<sup>th</sup> at the Hayward Library was discussed. The purpose of the meeting is to introduce NRP to a broader audience, to gain feedback from the public as to what the organization's direction should be, and to provide a river-centered discussion forum.

Wendy Williamson announced that Dave Carlson, Northland Adventures, has agreed to speak at the meeting.

Dave Thorson agreed to facilitate a structured discussion approach (pinwheel method) at the meeting to gain insights from participants regarding their perceptions as to "what the river needs" and "what makes the river special." John Haack offered to help refine a set of three questions to be used for the group discussion.

It was agreed that, for the purposes of the meeting, the entire Namekagon River should be considered within the scope of the NRP.

A press release will be developed for the public meeting. This is to be completed by the end of January.

Dave Thorson, John Haack, and Jim Brakken agreed to send a meeting announcement using their respective e-mail lists.

It was decided that meeting announcement ads should be placed in the Hayward and Spooner papers.

The next (email-based) public feedback survey will be scheduled for shortly after the February 9<sup>th</sup> public meeting. Allison Werner, River Alliance of Wisconsin, will help develop the survey.

Susan Schirott discussed the Rendezvous Party scheduled for January 29<sup>th</sup> at the Seeley Sawmill Saloon. NRP and St. Croix National Scenic Riverway/National Park Service will have information tables.

Julie Galonska discussed the Namekagon River Paddle to be hosted by the St. Croix River Association and scheduled for May 20-25. It was agreed that we should provide NRP brochures to participants.

Scott Peterson discussed planning for a Canoe Eco-Adventure program for middle-school students. A curriculum guide would be developed and the program piloted in 2012 if possible.

The next Steering Group meeting was scheduled for February 14<sup>th</sup> at 1pm at the Seeley Sawmill Saloon.

The meeting was adjourned.

Scott Peterson