

RESOLUTION

ROCK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Public Works Committee
Initiated by

Public Works Committee
& Parks Advisory Committee
Submitted by



Lori Williams, Parks Director
Drafted by

July 14, 2011
Date Drafted

SUPPORTING THE ROCK RIVER TRAIL INITIATIVE

1 **WHEREAS**, the Rock River is a Legacy Place named in the Wisconsin Land Legacy Report and
2 recognized as a major natural resource corridor with potential for recreation, scenic and historic
3 trails; and,
4
5 **WHEREAS**, President Obama's America's Great Outdoors Initiative of 2010 is designed to
6 reconnect Americans, especially children, to America's rivers and waterways and parks and
7 landscapes; and,
8
9 **WHEREAS**, the Wisconsin State Trails Network Plan for the South Central Region includes
10 trail number 34, Rock River-Watertown to Beloit, with potential within rail, roadway and natural
11 resource corridors, and with interstate trail potential with a connection at the state line in Beloit;
12 and,
13
14 **WHEREAS**, the Rock County Parks, Outdoor Recreation & Open Space Plan calls for a system
15 of river trails in the county for canoeing and kayaking, with parklands for camping areas along
16 river trails, interpretive signage for educational purposes, signage for public access and put-in
17 and take-out points and promotion and education of the trail sites; and,
18
19 **WHEREAS**, the Rock County Parks, Outdoor Recreation & Open Space Plan calls for
20 partnerships to develop a "Rock River Trail" from Janesville to the Illinois state line and
21 connectivity with other regional scenic and recreation trails, including the Ice Age National
22 Scenic Trail; and,
23
24 **WHEREAS**, the mission of the Rock River Trail Initiative is to establish and interpret a Rock
25 River Water Trail along the 300-mile river course from the headwaters in Fond du Lac County,
26 Wisconsin, to the Mississippi River at Rock Island, Illinois, and a separate Rock River Route on
27 roads within the river corridor to provide access for all to the natural resources, recreational
28 opportunities, scenic beauty and historic and cultural assets of the Rock River Valley.
29
30 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Rock County Board of Supervisors on
31 this 14th day of August, 2011, that Rock County supports the Rock River Trail
32 Initiative.
33
34 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Rock County Parks Division designates the Parks
35 Community Coordinator as its representative to the Rock River Trail Initiative Council to
36 provide advice and assist with the planning process of the Rock River Water Trail and Route,
37 and to consult with other county departments and committees in these matters.

11-8A-443

Respectfully submitted,

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE


Kurtis Yankee, Chair


Betty Jo Bussie, Vice-Chair


Eva M. Arnold

Absent

David Diestler

Absent

Brent Fox

PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE


Tom Presny


Floyd Finney


Mike Guisleman


FISCAL NOTE:

No fiscal impact.


Jeffrey A. Smith
Finance Director


LEGAL NOTE:

The County Board is authorized to take this action by Wisconsin Statutes 59.01, 59.51(2) and 59.56(9).


Eugene R. Dumas
Deputy Corporation Counsel

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTE:

Recommended.


Craig Knutson
County Administrator

- EXECUTIVE SUMMARY -
SUPPORTING THE ROCK RIVER TRAIL INITIATIVE

The mission of the Rock River Trail Initiative is to establish and interpret a Rock River Water Trail along the 300-mile river course from the headwaters in Fond du Lac County, Wisconsin, to the Mississippi River at Rock Island, Illinois, and a separate Rock River Route on roads within the river corridor to provide access for all to the natural resources, recreational opportunities, scenic beauty and historic and cultural assets of the Rock River Valley.

At his request, Joleen and I met with Greg Farnham on Wednesday, June 29. He is leading the Rock River Trail effort in Wisconsin and has met with every County and several municipalities along the Rock River. The meeting provided a general overview of the Rock River Trail Initiative, which is still loose. Over the next several months, the Rock River Trail Initiative Council will discuss the focus and priorities.

No financial assistance is requested from Rock County. The Initiative is hoping for guidance and support on the development of the trail. Although the initiative is in the early planning stages, Rock County Parks feels that it is important to support the development of this trail.

Respectfully submitted,



Lori Williams
Parks Director