

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 25, 2019

Contact: Amanda Hanson, Kinni Corridor Collaborative, Inc.

715-977-1707; info@KinniCC.org

Editor's note: See attached fact sheet about the collaborative

Kinni Corridor Collaborative seats inaugural Board of Directors

New volunteer led nonprofit will partner to put the Kinnickinnic River Corridor Plan into action

River Falls, Wis. – The [Kinni Corridor Collaborative](http://www.kinniCC.org) (KinniCC) is excited to introduce the 8 member founding Board of Directors. Judie Foster Babcock, Duke Welter, Scott Eickschen, Michelle Maher, Katelyn Meyer, Matt Johnson, Nate Pacht and Ben Blauert. This newly formed nonprofit community development association is partnering with the City of River Falls to implement the [Kinnickinnic River Corridor Plan](#) (KRCP). KinniCC represents on-going community involvement in the transformational, long-term vision of free-flowing Kinni, as approved by the River Falls City Council in January 22, 2019.

Said Michelle Maher, Vice-President of KinniCC “I want to contribute to the enhancement of our community’s precious jewel, the Kinni. I believe in preserving the environmental health of the corridor and promoting a thriving business environment around it”. The other officers are President - Judie Foster Babcock; Secretary - Katelyn Meyer and Treasurer - Nate Pacht.

The Board is currently working to develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to present to the River Falls City Council and prioritize funding and technical resources for projects outlined in the KRCP. Follow their progress and stay informed of volunteer opportunities by visiting www.kinniCC.org or their Facebook page (www.facebook.com/kinniCC).



Pictured on June 5, 2019 Left to Right: Scott Eickschen, Matt Johnson, Judie Babcock, Katelyn Meyer and Duke Welter.

Not pictured: Michelle Maher, Nate Pacht, Ben Blauert

About the Kinni Corridor Collaborative, Inc.

The [Kinni Corridor Collaborative](#) (KinniCC) is a new, public, non-profit, community development association in River Falls, Wis., formed to support and implement the Kinni Corridor Plan adopted by the River Falls City Council in January 2019.

Our Vision

As we look to the future of:

The Kinni, we see an enhanced river corridor in the heart of the community with a free-flowing, cold-water stream and habitat that everyone can access and enjoy; and

Our community, we see a network of partners, private and public landowners, and passionate, engaged citizens acting to create sustainable development, recreation and public spaces that attract economic, public and private investment.

Our Mission

To work collaboratively with public and private organizations and individuals to assemble the technical and financial resources needed to implement the Kinnickinnic River Corridor Plan while preserving the ecology and beauty of the Kinnickinnic River.

Background

On Jan. 22, 2019, the River Falls City Council adopted the [Kinnickinnic River Corridor Plan](#). The plan reflects a four-year, award-winning, community engagement and planning effort to lay out a vision for the transformation and redevelopment of seven miles of the Kinnickinnic River in conjunction with the removal of the Powell and Junction Falls hydro-electric dams over time.

Next steps

The KinniCC is a Wisconsin non-stock, non-member corporation and will operate as a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization. The Board is currently working on laying the foundation for the organization. The collaborative encourages community members to engage in supporting and implementing the Kinni Corridor Plan

- by following us on www.facebook.com/kinniCC;
- joining a committee; and
- donating to the mission.

More information can be found on the KinniCC [website](#).

Contacts:

Amanda Hanson
715-977-1707; info@KinniCC.org

Brandt Johnson
715-426-3441; bajohnson@rfcity.org

Coming together for the Kinni through River Falls agreement

River Falls city council unanimously approved a resolution outlining an official partnership between the city and the nonprofit organization Kinni Corridor Collaborative, a team effort for the Kinnickinnic River's benefit.

Written By: Rachel Helgeson | Sep 17th 2019 - 10am.



The inaugural board for the Kinni Corridor Collaborative, a nonprofit organization managed by volunteers to bring the Kinni Corridor plan to life over the following years, was formed in June 2019. The board members pictured June 5, 2019, are Scott Eickschen, Matt Johnson, Judie Babcock, Katelyn Meyer and Duke Welter. Not pictured: Michelle Maher, Nate Pachl and Ben Blauert. Photo courtesy of Kinni Corridor Collaborative Inc.

RIVER FALLS -- Since the establishment of the inaugural Kinni Corridor Collaborative board in late June, steps are continuing to be taken by the city and within the nonprofit KinniCC for the Kinnickinnic River's long-term beneficial plan.

The city is moving ahead with an official 10-year partnership agreement, a resolution for a memorandum of understanding, which passed unanimously Aug. 27.

The memorandum delineates the active partnership between parties and the common goals in preparation for the prioritization, planning and implementation of the Corridor Plan, which was adopted in late January 2019.

Major efforts include removing the Powell and Junction Falls hydro-electric dams and transforming and redeveloping a seven-mile stretch of the Kinnickinnic River for community, economic and recreational benefit.

Aldersperson Sean Downing asked if the memorandum was consistent with the resolution passed in February 2018, which specified the long-term vision for a free-flowing river including the final hydroelectric facility relicensing.

The agreement honors and recognizes the policy framework serving as the public-private partnership foundation outlined in the February resolution, City Administrator Scot Simpson said. It also satisfies the expectations from the KinniCC.

“This was a pathway to put the plan in action,” Simpson said.

The resolution states the memorandum's primary goals are:

1. Establish pathways to attract significant third-party and philanthropic funding, build project awareness, celebrate project impact, and attract necessary expertise and resources for the Corridor Plan.
2. Acknowledge the KinniCC as the city's primary philanthropic funding partner in the Corridor Plan.
3. Provide a framework for letter of agreements defining expectations specific to each project within the Corridor Plan to focus and accelerate the design and implementation.
4. Remove the Powell Falls and Junction Falls hydro facilities to establish the Kinnickinnic River as a free-flowing, cold-water stream and habitat that everyone can access and enjoy.

5. Work together to engage with a network of partners, government agencies, private and public landowners, and individuals in our community to create sustainable development, educational, recreational and public spaces that attract economic, public, and private investment.

The terms of agreement began Aug. 31 and are outlined to end Dec. 31, 2029, with five-year auto-renewal options thereafter unless terminated earlier.

A lead person from the city and the KinniCC will be designated and responsible for Corridor Plan activities and act as partnership liaisons. More information can be found by searching for “KinniCC memorandum” at www.rfcity.org.

In the meantime, the KinniCC awaits the results of a \$1,200 grant submitted the end of August. This is a step in starting small to build success, according to Judie Foster Babcock, chair and president of the founding KinniCC board. The funds would go toward continuing the conversation regarding safe recreational use of the Kinnickinnic River.

More information about the nonprofit organization may be found at kinnicc.org