

Riverhouse HOA Conservation Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
April 20, 2015 7:00 p.m.

Attendance: Cheri Calvert, Jane Harris, Judy Dauchy

The minutes from the March meeting were approved as submitted.

**Information Sharing:** Judy Dauchy gave a brief report from the meeting with Gaylen Beatty from the Columbia Land Trust/Backyard Habitat Certification Program. Gaylen presented ideas for creating habitat for birds, pollinators and other beneficial wildlife using plants to attract them, removing noxious weeds, good stormwater management and using non-toxic control methods. She suggested working with the Bureau of Environmental Services on the shoreline restoration project.

Individual residents can apply for BackYard Habitat certification for their garden space. Cheri Calvert has submitted an application.

**Volunteers:** Jane Harris volunteered to write grant applications to obtain funds and expertise to assist us with conservation projects. There was consensus to get volunteers to dig out the blackberries on the bank surrounding the Riverhouse portion of the bank. The effort will save the \$55. per hour fee that Cedar would charge.

**Master Plan:** It was discussed and decided that developing a master conservation plan should be the next step for the committee. The plan should address actions to achieve:

- Investigation/coordination of grant opportunities
- water conservation to reduce the water bill
- reduce pesticide use to encourage wildlife
- building good soil
- attracting wildlife
- energy conservation measures
- disconnect downspouts where possible (Clean River Rewards Program)

**Website:** Cheri Calvert has developed a website containing conservation, natural gardening/landscape information. It was suggested that a statement about the website with the link be sent to the Riverhouse association.

Site Visits: Members are interested in site visits to look at naturescaped gardens, rain gardens, and other HOA's where conservation projects have been implemented.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45. The next meeting will be on May 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.