

Raccoon Creek Partnership Board of Directors Meeting

March 26, 2008

Wilkesville Community Center

Present:

Ben McCament, Amy Mackey, Wendy Shields, Jeff Calhoun, Constance White, Glenn Stout, Mike Greenlee, John Grunewald,, Mike Kincade, Rocky McNickle, & Charlie Russel.

Treasurers Report:

We currently have \$4,734.28 in our accounts. All but \$1000 of that is in a money max savings account. One check for \$627 was written to Grange for liability insurance for the Waterloo building, but that check was destroyed as it was not going to be submitted to the insurance agency until the lease for Waterloo comes through (up to 10 weeks).

Constance asked if we required two signatures on checks. The answer was unclear, and it was decided that we would revisit this at the next board meeting.

ODNR Waterloo Building Lease:

Submitted. It will probably take at least 6-10 weeks for all the signatures needed to be gathered and the lease in effect.

Grants:

OEEF – submitted through OSU Extension for educational programs at Waterloo. This is an extremely competitive grant. We scored a 13, which is about mid-range. We will probably not get funded this round- however, Jerry and Heike are going to a meeting this week to hear details of the grant- and will get feedback on our application which we can use to resubmit later this year. The grant was for about \$50k – mostly for personnel and equipment.

Athens Foundation: Submitted by Ben for Waterloo improvements including paint, propane for a year, and bottled water for 1 year. The amount of the grant is \$2100. Not sure when we will hear back from the foundation.

Constance: Appalachian Foundation in Nelsonville might be another option if the Athens Foundation falls through.

Vinton Soil and Water:

Interested in trying to replace the RC project manager position at their office. Ben is working with them to get the funding necessary to create the position. This would come from a variety of sources including a service contract with ODNR-DMRM, a subcontract with Ohio University (ILGARD) for the Pierce Run 319 AMD Remediation grant, and Wayne National Forest funding. RCP discusses donating \$500 to assist with creating this position at the February meeting. Mike Schooley offered \$500 of his own money as donation to RCP to match the \$500 from RCP as long as it is used for establishing the

position or assists the position with carrying out work duties. Vinton Soil and Water could provide office space, vehicle, and water testing equipment.

Wendy: would it be more useful to have the employee stationed at Waterloo instead of Vinton? Ben will talk to the Vinton SWCD board about the possibility of having the employee at Waterloo part time.

Constance: Gallia Conservation Club and Athens Fish and Game Club might donate money for this position.

Fundraising Plan:

Poker Run:

Mike presented the beginning of a fundraising plan. A poker run is top priority – to be held in the fall when the leaves are changing. It is still in the planning stages, and thoughts/ideas from the board are appreciated. Title of the run: Raccoon Creek River Run” going from the top of the watershed to the bottom? It was discussed that a loop would be good, and possibly starting and ending at Waterloo. Also, providing food at the end was suggested – probably a BBQ. Maps for the event could be provided by Ben. We would probably want to have a raffle as well. Wendy will check with the Chauncey Goldwings club to see about details of poker runs and gauge interest.

We discussed purchasing hats and T-shirts for the event (and to have to sell in general). Ben is going to check the prices of hats. We need to decide what type of design we might want for a t-shirt, and if we want a separate t-shirt for the poker run.

Yard sale:

Would RCP be interested in having a yard sale to raise some money. We could probably join in on the ReUse Industries annual yard sale (in May?) and have then. We need to start collecting donations if we want to do that.

Board Vacancy:

We still have a board vacancy. Molly Gurien from the Water Trails group was asked, but she declined. The board has discussed that it would be good have a member from the middle to lower portions of the watershed be on the board since most of the current board members are from the northern portion.

Canoe Float:

The canoe trailer and canoes still need registered. It was suggested by the RCWTA that an RCP member sign for both registrations. Jen Bowman, chairperson, will work with RCWTA on the registrations.

9th annual public canoe float in Zaleski is approaching. The date was discussed at the last RC Water Trail Association meeting and either Saturday April 26th or Sunday April 27th was recommended. A final date needs to be determined soon so the proper advertising and planning can be conducted. RCWTA and RCP need to get some volunteers lined up to set up before and help out with shuttling paddlers, advertising, etc..

There is an RCWTA reconnaissance float this Sunday (March 30th). The starting point will be at low water downstream of Zaleski and will end at Hope School House near Lake Hope. Contact Molly Gurien for more information: molly@freestylecanoeing.com

Presentation by Mike Greenlee, ODNR Division of Wildlife – Fisheries Biologist, on Riparian and Stream Management. Thanks Mike!

The next RCP board meeting will be held at 6:00 pm on April 30th at the Waterloo Wildlife Area Research Station.