

Raccoon Creek Partnership Meeting Minutes
June 25th, 2008
Vinton SWCD Office, McArthur Ohio

Attendance: Rocky McNickle, May Mackey, Scott Schell, Jen Bowman, Betty Graybeal, Jeff Calhoun, Wendy Shields, Mike Schooley, Ben McCament, Rachel Secrest, Allen Reese (NRCS), Dick Hogan (Greenfire Builders), Bill Borovicka (Vinton Experimental Forest & Speaker)

Treasurer's Report: Jeff Calhoun reported on current finances:

Checking Account: \$13,180.54

Savings Account: \$3,745.32

These amounts include the \$10,000 Division of Wildlife grant and the \$2,080 Athens Foundation grant for the Waterloo center.

Mike Schooley has raised \$100.00 through yard sales for donations for RCP.

Bill for van rental from April canoe float needs to be paid: \$62.00. Board voted and approved payment to Ohio University.

Raccoon Creek Water Trails update:

- Glenn Stout interested in trash clean up in August at Raccoon Creek Gallipolis County Park, we need to establish a date;
- New events on the lower Raccoon, want to plan a weekend on the lower Raccoon Creek, Cabin Rental and Kayaking and canoeing all day, late August or early September;
- They are selling hats, 12 dollars a hat;
- RCWTA is interested in having a booth at the PawPaw festival, would like RCP's help; Board agreed, good event and we need to support a booth.
- RCWTA has a new membership form with an automatic waiver attached to it, discussed to have a membership form which includes RCP and RCWTA, to avoid confusion between the two groups since membership for one is really membership for both. Needs further discussion and planning with water trails association.
- RCWTA has not deposited any money into the accounts to date.
- Molly Gurien, president of RCWTA has brought it to RCP's attention, that all of our account information shows up on her personal accounts, she is not sure why and it needs to be fixed, Jeff will meet with Molly and fix the issue.

Waterloo Aquatic Education Center:

- Bushes were removed from around the building to keep moisture away;
- Upcoming events are all listed on the website, thanks to Amy Mackey;
- Eagle Scout will start scraping and will paint the building in July, the project will be completed before the August 18th deadline.

- Master Gardener volunteers are working on a native butterfly and bird landscape design for the building, would like to do the project this fall and finish next spring;

Newsletter:

- Ben and Heike will get prices from printers, recycled paper.
- Membership brochure/form will be included to solicit membership renewal for current members
- Mike Schooley mentioned he would like to see a more detailed map, which shows where projects in the watershed are, Ben said it was possible and he would add it to the next issue. Could add a map to show where the Pierce Run project is on page 2.
- A section of volunteers needed should be added as well, outlining projects we need help with, especially Poker Run.

Poker Run:

- Rocky and Mike drove the trip, 105 miles, 5 hours;
- Rachel mentioned she knows a band and bike clubs and will check into the details of organizing a Poker Run
- Heike mentioned Uncle Bucks and said she would check to see if he wants to be involved;
- Mike mentioned we need to post dates on biker websites
- Vinton County SWCD has their annual meeting on September 27th and we need to see if we can maybe collaborate on the events;
- We need to exactly find out how the game is played so everyone knows what to do, Lisa from Friends of the Hocking Hills and Rachel maybe able to help us;
- Poker Run planning committee, Rocky, Heike, Mike and Rachel, will work out the details and present at the next board meeting;

Raccoon Creek Water Quality Specialist Position:

- RC&D will house the position
- \$19,000 from ODNR Mineral Resources Management Grant
\$6,500 from subcontract from Ohio University Voinovich School through Pierce Run Grant
- Private Donation by Mike Schooley of \$500 to RCP to add to \$500 from RCP for a total of \$1,000 from RCP.
- The position will be housed at the Vinton SWCD, who will provide office space and sampling equipment, and the Waterloo Aquatic Education Center (1 – 2 days a week).
- Prices on phone and internet for the center need to be explored by Heike and Amy.

New Business:

- Poker Run – need more volunteers

- Ben reported on and distributed a copy of the Watershed Action Plan for the Raccoon Creek Headwaters – needs local endorsement from RCP, everyone please look at it and report back with feedback at the next meeting to endorse the plan. Once locally endorsed, will get final review by state agencies.
- Technical advisory committee meets on July 9th at 9 a.m. at Ilgard 2nd floor meeting room.
- August 1st and 2nd Ohio River Summit conference at Greenbo State Park, KY, contact Ben if you want to go, it is inexpensive and close;

Announcements:

Allan: Attended a meeting at Wayne National Forest: Invasive plants, was interesting, mapping Kudzu outbreaks and are looking for information, Contact Christen Weston;

Dick: check out the website 350.org, James Hanson, shows how important it is for us to stay active in environmental clean up and education.

Evening Speaker: Bill Borovicka,

Topic: Vinton Experimental Forest & Timber Harvesting and Management.

Next Meetings:

Waterloo Aquatic Education Committee meeting July 17th 6 p.m. at the Waterloo Center;

Board Meeting July 30th 6 p.m. at the Waterloo Aquatic Education Center, please bring drinks, no water available at the center yet;