

**Raccoon Creek Partnership  
Board of Directors Meeting  
February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2009**

Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Affairs

**Attendance:** Rocky McNickle, Scott Schell, Jeff Calhoun, Molly Gurien, Amy Mackey, Mike Schooley, Ben McCament

**Prior Meeting Minutes:** December 10<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes were reviewed and approved by the board and will be posted to the website.

**Treasurer's Report:**

- Total RCP funds = \$12,650.72

<i>RCP Checking Account</i>	
RCP General	\$1,023.30
DOW Grant	\$6,302.51
AF Grant	\$244.78
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$7,570.59</b>

<i>RCP Money Max Account</i>	
RCP General	\$3,266.13
Gosnell Donation	\$1,804.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$5,070.13</b>

<i>RCP Savings Account</i>	
<b>Total</b>	\$10.00

- The new RCP debit card (with Raccoon Creek Partnership instead of Jeff Calhoun) is ready for use. Contact Jeff if needed.
- Jeff will transfer money from the RCP checking account to the Money Max account

**Proposed Meeting Format Change:**

- To make monthly board meetings shorter and more efficient, Scott Schell has proposed more email correspondence and fewer verbal updates (Waterloo, AmeriCorps, Water Quality Specialist, Water Trails, Coordinator / Technical...) during the meetings.
- This would give board members a chance to review the updates, and ask questions or make comments at the meetings.
- Action items would still be addressed at the monthly meetings and we would need to give complete updates if there was public attendance.

**Waterloo Update**

- 15 people attended January 19<sup>th</sup> Education Committee meeting at Waterloo
  - Planned spring day camps (April 4<sup>th</sup>, April 11<sup>th</sup>, May 2<sup>nd</sup>)
  - Looking for topics / possible instructors for Summer Camps
- April 26<sup>th</sup>, Appalachian Ohio Alliance is holding "Saving Our Land" at Waterloo
  - RCP is invited to join them for food, hiking, canoeing, and possible tour of Sickles Preserve property.
- Still in need of tables. If anyone can get to Reuse, please look for tables. Mike Schooley has 2 tables to donate to the center.
- Scott and Ben both have file cabinets to donate.
- Board approved using the remaining \$244.78 of the Athens Foundation grant, as well as some of the Gosnell donation, to have 200 gallons of propane delivered to the center. This will allow us to close out the AF grant and complete the final report by the March deadline.
- In the future we will winterize the building to save on heating bills
  - Scott will weather strip the doors

- Rocky suggested constructing an interior wall to help insulate the building in the future (would need to be approved by DOW).
- Need to look into Athens Foundation Grant for 2009, as well as Diagnostic Hybrid funding and AEP grant. Need to secure funding for next year's propane, an exterior bulletin board, and phone and internet at the center.
- Next Education Committee meeting is March 14<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 at the Center

### **Water Quality Specialist Update:**

- Unable to sample due to ice on streams!
- Working on 2009 Monitoring Plans
- Orland Gob Pile has been purchased by Leigh Huntley (Huntley Trucking)
  - Now we can proceed with reclamation at the site
  - Leigh's husband, Lawrence Daft has reclamation experience and would like to pursue the landowner cost share option with ODNR DMRM.
  - Jeff and Amy conducted chemical sampling at Orland and sent samples to the MRM lab.
- Ben and Amy presented the Pierce Run project, as well as Elk Fork and Orland updates to the Vinton County Commissioners on the 26<sup>th</sup>.
- Amy presented to an OU Media and Public Relations class on the 21<sup>st</sup>. They are interested in assisting with advertising and fundraising for RCP / Waterloo.
- Ron Cass from Hocking College would like to take his spring Watershed class to the East Branch Phase I slag beds and possibly the Carbondale Doser.
- Mitch Farley is working on getting watershed interns again for the summer of 2009.
- Amy will be conducting the aquatic portion of the multi county Envirothon at Lake Hope in April.

### **AmeriCorps Update:**

- The board signed and approved the Memorandum of Understanding between Rural Action and Raccoon Creek.
- Amy is working on the Orientation Schedule and Needs Assessment
- Board agreed that Ben will be the site supervisor, and the member will be stationed at the Voinovich School.
- Next AmeriCorps Planning meeting is February 20<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 a.m. at the Monday Creek Office.

### **Water Trails Update:**

- Molly is setting up a meeting with Zaleski Manager to discuss water trail goals and to pursue their cooperation with access and maintenance.
- 10<sup>th</sup> annual canoe float is tentatively scheduled for April 25<sup>th</sup>, with a recon float on April 18<sup>th</sup>.
- Molly and Rocky are still trying to arrange Raccoon Creek participation at the Bob Evans Farm Festival
- Water Trails will again have a table at the Paw Paw festival. May purchase a kayak to raffle off.
- In the process of finalizing Water Trails Designation by identifying access points and getting landowner approvals.
- Will be conducting a membership drive in the spring to increase membership.
- Next RCWTA meeting is February 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 at Waterloo

### **RC Coordinator / Technical Committee Update**

- Ben and Amy revised the Scope of Work for the Water Quality Specialist and resubmitted it to ODNR DMRM, requesting an additional \$10,000 to cover the portion of the WQS salary that the

Forest Service is unable to contribute at this time. NFS still committed to \$10,000 when 2009 budget is approved. Also need to begin the proposal for the 2009 – 2010 WQS position

- Office of Surface Mining, Appalachian Clean Streams Initiative grant has been approved for Pierce Run Project (\$100,000 total, \$4,000 can be used for support of water quality specialist position to do monitoring)
- Ben has received the 50% design for Pierce Run slag bed and wetland berms. Final design will be done in March, bidding in April and May, construction to begin in June.
- East Branch Phase II (along Laurel Run Rd) will be paid for by MRM in 2009. Will construct 2-3 slag beds (location TBD during meeting with MRM on February 4<sup>th</sup>). MRM has set aside \$500,000 for this project.
- Ben McCament is once again full-time as Raccoon Creek coordinator.
  - RC coordinator grant expires in 2009 and it is unclear if grants will be continued. May need to secure funding from other sources (MRM, Stimulus program, 319 grants, others?)

### **Raccoon Creek Partnership Winter 2009 Newsletter**

- Topics will include: Monitoring (Amy), AmeriCorps Announcement (Amy), Mussels (Scott), Waterloo (Amy), River Quotes (Ben), Wish List, Letter for the Chair Person (Rocky), Calendar of Events, Water Trails (Molly).
- Will send renewal reminder to members who have not yet renewed
- Rocky has access to folding machine
- Have articles to Ben this week, should have a draft done by Friday afternoon.

### **Membership and Fundraising**

- Letter sent to members was a success! We got around \$400 in renewals (11 or 12 people).
- Currently have about 70 total members, but only 39 that have renewed.
- Will discuss 2009 fundraising plan at March meeting

### **February 25<sup>th</sup> Meeting / Presentation at Hocking College**

- Flyer has been created and can be posted at schools, stores, etc.
- Ben will present “Tour of the Watershed”, as well as Water Trails and Waterloo updates.
- Amy will discuss AmeriCorps, MRM Internships, and EPA Internship possibilities.
- Refreshments:
  - Rocky – lasagna
  - Ben – Drinks
  - Mike – chips & dip
  - Amy - plates, cups, plastic forks
  - ?????? – veggies?
- Very abbreviated meeting to follow presentation

### **New Business / Announcements**

- River Rally will be May 29<sup>th</sup> – June 1<sup>st</sup> in Baltimore Maryland if anyone is interesting. Scholarships may be available. There are often Foundations present to speak to about grants and funding.
- Board approved and signed the letter that Molly drafted to be on the board of the Natural Resources Assistance Council, District 15. Reviews Clean Ohio Grants.
- Should contact WOUB, the Community Calendar, and John Ray regarding documentaries / publicity for RCP events.

- OSU Watershed Academy registration is open. Rocky is registered; Heike and Amy may register as well. The academy is free and open to anyone who is interested.
- Ohio Mineland Partnership memberships are due. Does RCP want to get an organizational membership?
  - May 7<sup>th</sup> is OMP spring meeting in Jefferson County, Yellow Creek.
  - October 13<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> is the fall meeting at Burr Oak.
- Ben will be presenting on the Recovery of Little Raccoon Creek at the WV AML Conference in Morgantown on April 1<sup>st</sup>.

### *\*Action Items\**

#### **Ben**

- ✓ Draft a letter to submit with Headwaters Action Plan
- ✓ Work on 2009 – 2010 WQS proposal
- ✓ Drinks for February meeting
- ✓ Draft of newsletter

#### **Rocky**

- ✓ Meet with Bob Evans Farms about farm festival
- ✓ Write letter from the chair for newsletter
- ✓ Lasagna for February meeting

#### **Scott**

- ✓ Send email to Hocking faculty about February meeting
- ✓ Look into winterizing / insulating Waterloo building

#### **Jeff**

- ✓ Transfer money to Money Max Account

#### **Heike**

- ✓ Waterloo budget
- ✓ Athens Foundation final report
- ✓ Propane at Waterloo

#### **Molly**

- ✓ Meet with Bob Evans Farms about farm festival
- ✓ Write water trails update for newsletter
- ✓ Finalize canoe float date

#### **Mike**

- ✓ Possibly look into AEP grant?

#### **Amy**

- ✓ Post past meeting minutes to the website
- ✓ Email Feb 25<sup>th</sup> flyer to board
- ✓ Complete AmeriCorps Orientation Schedule and Needs Assessment and submit signed AmeriCorps MOU at February 20<sup>th</sup> meeting
- ✓ Work on 2009 – 2010 WQS proposal
- ✓ Chips, etc for February meeting

***ALL!***

- ✓ Look for tables for waterloo!
- ✓ Topics for Waterloo Summer Camps (possible instructors)
- ✓ Look into additional grants, and funding (AF, AEP, Diagnostic Hybrids, OEC, stimulus plan, EPA 319...)
- ✓ Ohio Mineland Partnership Memberships are due
- ✓ HANG FLYERS FOR FEBRUARY MEETING!
  - Also need someone to bring plates, cups, forks, etc to Feb meeting!