

**Raccoon Creek Partnership Board of Directors**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2008

**Attendance:** Scott Schell, Jen Bowman, Jeff Calhoun, Ben McCament, Rocky McNickle, Mike Schooley, Heike Perko;

June meeting minutes were approved by all;

**Treasurer:**

- Van Rental for May canoe float was paid: \$62.28
- Paint for Waterloo from Athens Foundation grant was paid: \$879.14
- Insurance \$684.00 (question to whether this would include any contents of the building; Jen will check on with Grange)
- Deposit \$96.00
- Interest \$5.25
- Total Checking: \$12,337.29
- Total Savings: \$3,748.40

Jeff still needs to clarify with Molly why she is on the account, and where the RCWTA deposits are and should be going;

**Trash Clean up:**

The date is August 16<sup>th</sup>, 9 a.m. meeting at the Raccoon Creek Park in Gallipolis. Glenn Stout has someone to dispose of tires which will be picked up. Jeff will send out news release, Ben will contact local journalist to do a piece on it and email RCP members. Rocky will send directions to the park to Jeff for the news release. Jen mentioned to please recycle what is recyclable, give Aluminum to Heike or Scott for cash in. Amy will post the event on the website.

**AEP grant:**

\$300 grant available for October 25<sup>th</sup> only, we talked about applying for food for the scheduled workshop and maybe educator kits, Heike will look into it, deadline is September 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Newsletter:**

Maximum spending \$250, Mike asked to scratch the canoe float out of the clean up advertisement, the group will fold mailings and insert membership forms, printers should do the center fold, use recycled unbleached paper; Prototype was passed around and all agreed it looked great!

Mike suggested to profile land owners who do good things for the watershed, example the private land owner who built a 15 acre wetland along Raccoon Creek, diminishing the AMD input into Raccoon Creek severely.

**Membership:**

It is time for membership renewals and board needs to discuss. Tabled until August meeting. We should send out monthly reminders to membership holders about events and meetings, Jeff can do that with the press release because it is detailed information;

**Raccoon Creek Action plan:**

Board voted on and endorsed the Raccoon Creek Headwaters to Above Hewett Fork Action Plan that was drafted by Ben McCament.

**Water Quality Specialist Position:**

Update by Ben: John Kellis – Coordinator RC&D reported that the following grants are finalized: ODNR \$18,000 and Pierce Run \$6,500. Wayne National Forest is still interested in providing some funding but won't know for sure until the federal budget is decided. First official day for Amy Mackey through the RC&D is Monday August 4<sup>th</sup>.

Vinton County SWCD which was originally going to house the position had some differences on how to use the position, it was resolved during the last board meeting, Amy needs to pass a FBI background check which costs \$180, SWCD wants money for phone line and computer access, SWCD also wants to reevaluate the position in December in order to decide if they want to continue being partners. Jen said we need to solve the issues with SWCD first before we continue the discussion where to house Amy, Waterloo or Vinton County SWCD;

Molly is donating a computer for a Raccoon Creek office at Waterloo; Phone and DSL would cost RCP at Waterloo \$50/month, \$600 per year, Mike mentioned if Amy is only at the building for 1 day per week, it is not worth it, but if she can staff the center more than that we should consider it, once issues with SWCD are resolved;

Gary Willison with the Wayne National Forest is committed to budget money for Amy's position, but this will not happen until the end of the year likely, RCP has spent remediation money on Forest land, making this a valuable partnership.

The issue of Water Quality Specialist will have to be revisited during next month meeting in order to answer all questions;

**Technical Advisory Committee:**

Meeting minutes can be found on the Raccoon Creek Website. The group has gained recognition, more private land owners are contacting the group for advice.

Pierce Run will hopefully start to get implemented in the spring of 2009. There will be a Fall tour with the date to be announced yet, Jen suggested the week after our annual meeting.

**Waterloo Committee:**

A sidewalk will be laid for handicapped accessibility at the Penrod Lake dock. A donation of 50 binoculars was promised to the group by a children's hospital, private donor, will send thank you note once the binoculars arrive and a contact is known. Heike is working on a budget to send to the board regarding educational equipment. Ben and Jen will give Heike feedback regarding water quality equipment and they will send an e-mail to all watershed groups to see if they have gear to spare, in particular a photometer.

First Education Committee meeting on July 17<sup>th</sup> had 7 in attendance, the group is working on 4 half day, day camps in October and November here at Waterloo for school age children to get the word out, Meeting minutes are available on the website from that meeting.

Jen suggested looking at the idea of letter boxes to bring folks out here and use the area for hiking and discovery. If Amy is housed here we could give out discovery kits for parents and children to use to do activities themselves.

### **Poker Run:**

- Board made suggestions on the flyer, Heike will fix it and send it to Jen tonight, who will send PDF version to board;
- All board members will at least get two businesses to sponsor the poker run;
- Mike will send out to do list for folks to sign up, 5 stations, 2 per station, 3 for the first station and 6 for the last station (cooking, raffles, prizes etc.)
- Heike will check into the price of a hog
- We need a back up cook for the rain date, Dan can not cook on the rain date;
- Rocky will check with the Core of Engineers about Park rules;
- Rachel is looking into a band and raffle prices such as cabin stays at the Hocking Hills;
- All board members will print out flyers and spread them at bars, restaurants businesses around town;
- Heike will create g-mail e-mail for registration and post dates on websites;
- Jeff will do a press release;
- We need good trail maps;
- Mike will make signs with arrows;

**Most important we need sponsors, take flyers and membership brochures to the business, ask for sponsorship, have disc or usb to download logo, if no logo ask what information they want printed on the shirt in three lines, get payment for \$ 50.00 and ask if they would like to have a T-shirt.**

**Get lots of flyers out there, bars, stores, churches etc.**

**Next meeting: August 27<sup>th</sup>, 6 p.m. Waterloo Aquatic Education Center**