

RCP board meeting September 17th, 2007 at the Waterloo Aquatic Education Center

In Attendance: Constance White, Wendy Shields, Sarah Watling, Ben McCamet, Mike Schooley, Mary Ann Borch, Heike Perko;

Meeting Minutes from the last meeting were briefly discussed as well as action items checked off as we began the meeting.

Treasurer: **Total Amount in Checking: 2800 dollars**
New memberships which have not been deposited yet should
Account to about 3300 dollars total;
Total of Members: 35

Non Profit Status: Ben gave us an update, he checked on the website and said all materials are in we are waiting and waiting at this point to receive our official status,

Insurance: We passed on this issue this week, Dan Imhoff was absent and we hope to revisit this item during the next meeting.

Merging with the Raccoon Creek Water Trails Association:

Ben and Sarah met with Molly the president of the group and discussed the rules we have to follow in accordance with the non-profit status and that the RCWTA would have to follow these rules as well. A draft contract was drawn up by Sarah and passed around for discussion during the meeting. It seemed that for the most part the group did not have many problems with merging with us, but they were curious about the 10% “fee” they were to pay to us on annual income. We discussed that the fee would cover some of the cost we had invested in the process of becoming a non-profit group and that we offered many services such as a building, a site to build a holding facility for the canoes, partnership and most of all the ability to advertise donations made to the group as tax deductible. This often invites larger donations. We also discussed that we would be responsible for the annual IRS paperwork and this would help cover some of that cost as well. We also discussed that this would save the water trails group time and effort into working on their own status, instead they could go forward and work on the trails, fundraising and events. We felt overall this would be good partnership for all and make us stronger in the region rather than being split into groups.

Sarah asked if the water trails group would apply for grants would we be the administrating force and we answered yes we would, therefore we would also be responsible if things did not go as planned.

Waterloo Lease Status: We are waiting for non-profit status in order to purchase insurance in order to be able to sign the lease. This item is on hold until then.

Annual Event at Waterloo: We discussed the upcoming event on October 21st, Sarah drew up a letter and a nomination sheet and we discussed it shortly. It looked great! Sarah wanted input before Monday the 24th to mail it soon. We discussed who to invite besides

members and came up with this list: Moonville Rail Trail group, RCWTA, AOA, ODNR folks who have helped with this, Lake Hope Folks and Tourism Folks from the surrounding are such as Athens, Hocking and Vinton Counties; We discussed that we would like to have RSVP 5 days prior, some of us such as Heike, Constance and ? have pop up tents in case of bad weather. Heike will confirm with Pat Quackenbush to bring his birds and Wendy and Sarah will confirm with the water trails folks if they will bring their boats for a demo on the lake. Sarah will also use the DNR map and mark the center on it as a mail along so folks can find us. The event will be a potluck dinner and we will have a bonfire next to the building if folks would like to hang around. Constance will be in charge of the elections.

Silent Auction: We decided that every board member would donate one item to the auction these can be donations from stores, local food baskets, services (fishing trips, canoeing trips, riding trips etc.), local art, whatever seems nice. Please submit your item to Heike who will set up the silent auction.

Waterloo Center: First successful work day: gutters were cleaned, hedges were trimmed, men's bathroom scrubbed, library organized and dusted, all floors swept, Laboratory counters washed down and floors washed. We will schedule another day soon, please check last month minutes for a complete date list and get back with Heike when is a good day for you to help. The painter has not come through yet and the chemicals still need to be taken care of. Both items have consumed much time and not much success at this time.

October 19th we will be talking to the college of education about the center
October 20th, we will be holding our first training: "Passport to Fishing" it is a free ODNR training for environmental educators, Naturalist, Teachers and Youth Group Leaders as well as the interested public. Feel free to join us!

Fiscal Plan: Mary Ann discussed that she would not have a problem staying on the board if she would be responsible for the checking account and the members list. She does not want to be responsible to having to come up with an entire financial plan, once this would be expected of the treasurer she would want to step down. We discussed that she would not be responsible for this, that this would be a group initiated plan and would need some serious professional financial guidance. She was relieve.

This lead into a discussion about who is interested in staying on the board and who is not and the overall census seemed that most are willing to stay on. Sarah is not interested in running for a board position (despite all the valuable work she has brought to the table ☺) and Brett is moving on to a new job with a new baby to North Carolina Congratulations Brett!!! Mike felt he was not of value to the group because he is so far away, and we all of course disagreed and I hope Mike will consider a nomination again. He has done an outstanding job for this cause. Heike mentioned she would be willing to take a position as a board member and Jen Bowman is also still interested in staying involved. We had a good discussion on nominations and hope we will get a good group together again.

Action Items:

- **Dan Imhoff will check on Insurance and Art work hanging in the hallway.**
- **Heike will coordinate the work days and silent auction.**
- **Sarah and Ben will add the mutual benefits sector into our contract with RCWTA: Building, Insurance collaboration, mutual recruitment for members and tax deductible, holding grants and being responsible, fiscal responsibility, collaboration on events, tax preparation;_Either group can void the partnership, for reasons of non-compliance and pursuing their own non-profit;**
- **Mary Ann will send membership list to all for review (in particular to see who the new members are)**
- **Constance will work on creating a nice presentation certificate for Omie and Clyde, including a picture of Raccoon Creek;**
- **Ben will send pictures to Constance for the certificate;**
- **Constance will review the nomination form and be in charge of the elections during the event;**
- **All members will donate one item (see details in minutes) to the silent auction and send list to Heike who will take care of auction no later than the next board meeting on Monday October 15th at Waterloo.**
- **All will look at last month minutes and get with Heike on what date they can help work on the building;**

Big Thank you to Mary Ann for bringing a pizza this week!!!

Next Meeting: Monday October 15th, 5:30 at the Waterloo Aquatic Education Center;