

## Raccoon Creek Partnership

### Minutes of Board Meeting of February 29, 2012

#### Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Affairs, Athens, OH

**Board Members Present:** Natalie Kruse, Monte Edwards, Amber Brookins, Molly Gurien, Bob Eichenberg

**Also Present:** Amy Mackey, Kim Brewster, Kristin Kindler, Sarah Landers, Dick Hogan

President Natalie Kruse called the meeting to order at 6:40 pm.

**Minutes from January 25, 2012** – Approved unanimously.

#### **Treasurer's Report (Amber)**

- Budget total is \$10,653.13.
- Taxes were filed.
- Molly wrote a check for \$350 for purchase of a kayak for the raffle.
- AEP bills are now being sent directly to the Voinovich School for payment.

#### **Water Quality Specialist Update (Sarah)**

- The water sampling and monitoring plan for 2012 is complete.
- 2011 data is being compiled and checked for accuracy.
  - There is improvement in IBI scores, # of species, and overall health.
- A press release is being drafted in collaboration with ODNR to discuss the improvements in many streams. For example, the mouth of Little Raccoon Creek:
  - 1984-IBI of 12, 1 species of fish.
  - 2011-IBI of 46, 19 species of fish.
- Need articles for spring newsletter—**deadline is mid-March**. Ideas include: April Camp, Family Fun Day, other upcoming events—only need a couple of paragraphs—**new Board members should consider writing an article**.
- **March 21<sup>st</sup> at 1pm is the Technical Advisory Committee meeting**
- **Ohio Mineland Partnership spring conference is in Logan, May 3<sup>rd</sup>. RCP will be the Tour focus.**
- **Site tour for Board members should be in April or May so bring your calendars to the March meeting so we can figure out a good day and time.**
- Southeast Ohio Watershed Conference is in Barnesville on March 2<sup>nd</sup>.

#### **Coordinator Update (Amy)**

- **Surface Water Improvement Fund (SWIFT) Grant is due April 30, 2012.** Ideas include a rain barrel workshop, invasives removal, Vinton lowhead dam removal, constructing a rain garden at Waterloo.
  - Molly suggested that we consider applying for a pervious pavement parking lot in a future application.
- Eric @ Iron Furnace is putting an application in for monitoring Purple Loosestrife and **he is looking for a partner organization.** Focus areas include Raccoon Creek, Conde Park, and O.O. McIntyre Park. RCP will write a letter of support
- River Network's River Rally is in Oregon this year. We are encouraged to attend and funding may be available.
- ODNR's Wildlife Diversity Conference is March 8<sup>th</sup>. Tom Watters is a subject matter expert on mussels and is a guest speaker at the conference. **Amy will speak to him about funding for a mussel repopulation project.**
- Jeff Calhoun is the new ODNR fish sampler. He wants to do 25-30 sites. Many are repeat sites downstream of our projects. One focus spot is downstream of the mouth of Little Raccoon Creek on the Raccoon Creek mainstem (hasn't been samples since 1995).

#### **AmeriCorps Update (Kristin)**

- March 1<sup>st</sup> is the initial school program at Nelsonville York with a program about renewable and non-renewable resources.
- **3/25 is the apple grafting workshop at Waterloo.**
- The Miller-Coors grant application for a monitoring station on Hewett Fork was not funded. It was a good learning experience.

#### **AmeriCorps Update (Kim)**

- The Athens Foundation's, Step Outside for Summer Camp benefit concert is at Jackie O's and there is an Abrio's comedy evening fundraiser also. The Keep America Beautiful Committee is a collaborator for this event.
- **June 16<sup>th</sup> is ORSANCO's clean sweep day** and we need to find some sites to clean up, preferably in Vinton County. RCWTA will participate and needs a johnboat. Amber may donate one.
  - **Kim will send out a list for volunteers to sign up.**
- Vinton County News did an article covering Pat Quakenbush's Owl Prowl—over 100 people attended.
- There was a Bake Sale February 14<sup>th</sup> and we made \$40 to cover Owl Prowl expenses.

#### **RCWTA (Molly)**

- RCWTA will have a presence at the Southeast Ohio Tourism Expo in Rio Grande. There will be a kayak raffle and the kayak comes with a PFD and paddle. Tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5.
- 4/29/2012 is the date for the spring float with Clarion Rd. as the put-in point. **Recon. will be done the previous week.** There are 12 canoes for reservation and the trailer has a 10-canoes capacity.
- Will participate with ORSANCO's June 16<sup>th</sup> Clean Sweep event.
- A Cleanup will be on Leading Creek in April, WT will assist.
- **Kim and Kristin will preview WT put-in sites and take photos.**
- Karla is working on the water trail map. The size will likely be 22 X 25 ½. RCWTA needs to find money for map printing. The project is to be completed by May.
- A \$500 grant was received from ??? for a tree planting event. OU students will be asked to make a pledge to plant up to 300 trees. **Amy will ask ODNR for some sites that need trees.**

#### Other

- Intern Matt Richards is taking existing corporate sponsorship letters and revising them. **Natalie will email the updated versions to Board members for feedback.**
- **Waterloo Work Day is scheduled for April 14<sup>th</sup>, 1pm-5pm.** Drainage improvements and caulking are the top priorities to help alleviate the moisture problem. **Natalie will call O.U.P.S.**
  - **Monte will test the tile and tile adhesive for asbestos.**
- Dick Hogan reported that the co-sponsored event at the Athens Library, a viewing of the Journey of the Universe, was successful with 80 people in attendance.
  - A viewing of the Economics of Happiness will be the next and follow-up event. The video will need to be purchased.
- The Athens Water Project has requested use of the Waterloo building. The Board agreed to allow this use provided Heike lets them in and insures it is locked up, that the water is turned off, and that there are no conflicts with our use of the building.
- **The next meeting of the Board will be March 28, 2012 at Waterloo.**

## Long Term Planning Committee Notes

Meeting of 2/29/2012, 5:30 pm. (before the regular Board meeting)

**Board Members Present:** Natalie Kruse, Monte Edwards, Amber Brookins, Molly Gurien, Bob Eichenberg

**Also Present:** Amy Mackey, Kim Brewster, Kristin Kindler, Sarah Landers, Dick Hogan

- \$120,000/year is needed to fully fund the Coordinator and Water Quality Specialist positions.
- Molly suggested that any long-term plan should be the “ideal” or vision and not be budget-based initially.
- Waterloo
  - Monte will test for asbestos.
  - Rob suggested drainage management.
  - Gutter repairs
  - Insulation needed
    - Dick mentioned soy-based foam for consideration.
- Dick offered use of a portion of Greenfire Farm should RCP need space in the event that we can't keep the Waterloo building. There was also mention of the old CCC Camp as a possible location. However, the RCP lease runs for 7 years to 2018. Amy will look up and provide copies of the existing lease.
- Sarah and Bob will figure out a time for another planning committee meeting with a slightly smaller group.