

Raccoon Creek Partnership
Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, February 27, 2013, 6:30 p.m.
Voinovich School, Ohio University

Attendance: Monte Edwards, Rob Wiley, Natalie Kruse, Amber Brookins, Amy Mackey, Molly Gurien, Sarah Landers, Heike Perko, Rebekah Korenowsky, Ian Kloos, Emily Logan, Alie Hermanutz

Previous Meeting's Minutes: Minutes from the December meeting were tabled and will be evaluated for approval at the March meeting. There were no January minutes since the January meeting was cancelled.

Action Items are Highlighted.

Amy and Amber had a presentation and were late to the meeting & Rob had to leave early; therefore the agenda was re-arranged. Minutes taken by Sarah Landers.

Water Quality Specialist Update (Sarah):

- Finished 2012 sampling, all data entered into NPS database, and all 2012 data has been verified for accuracy. Rebekah started on the 2012 water quality data analysis report for ODNR.
- Sarah wrote the 2013 water quality monitoring plans and has been working on her water quality specialist reports.
- The Little Raccoon Creek Acid Mine Drainage Abatement and Treatment Plan Update has been drafted and it is planned to be completed in 2 weeks' time.
- Post construction water quality monitoring is continuing for the Harble Griffith and Orland Gob Pile projects. The Pierce Run maintenance project was completed and the system was turned on in early January and has been sampled once. If the board would like to do another RCP project tour this summer, Sarah would like to take them to Pierce Run. There will also be a post construction tour of Harble Griffith this summer as required by the 319 grant.
- Sarah will let Amy talk about biological monitoring.

Waterloo - Building (Heike):

- Heike informed the group that the furnace is squeaking and we have used the entire take of propane this winter and it is probably empty by now. The thermostat has been set at 45 degrees and the furnace has been running non-stop since we had a winter this year as opposed to the previous year. Heike continued that this year was an experiment and we need to either close down and winterize the building next year or fund raise to make it more energy efficient.
- Board discussion resulted in the determination that it is necessary to make a plan to make Waterloo more energy efficient. Rob brought up the fact that he got 3 bids and the consensus was to insulate the ceiling, because that is the source of the most heat loss;

Monte agreed. Monte also suggested that we get some Styrofoam panels and fit them to the windows to insulate in the winter months. Monte is going to measure the windows when he goes out to Waterloo next weekend and Rob and Monte will communicate.

- Also, the floor tiles have been holding up better, but are still cracking and the adhesive is breaking down. Board determined that we need to pull up the tiles, and paint textured floor paint on the concrete.
- Heike also brought up that Sherwin Williams sold us the wrong paint for painting a galvanized building. They had our information on file from when we painted 4 years ago, but gave the wrong paint and we used it and Bob went back for more and was informed we were using the wrong paint. Heike will talk with Bob to determine what needs to be done about the paint.
- In closing it was determined that the three issues with the building remain the same and we need to make a plan for the building before next winter is upon us.
 - Energy
 - Floors
 - Paint
- Heike suggested that maybe next year instead of spending \$900 on propane we use the money to rent the New Marshfield senior center or Lake Hope lodge until we can get the building more energy efficient.
- Monte wants to see copies of the 3 bids for the building. Amy might have the copies and if she does, it was requested that she scan and email them to the board.
- Rebekah said that she wouldn't mind writing a grant for the building, but she would need exact information on cost and work that needs done and won't commit until she knows what this would entail.

Mighty Muskingum River Raft Race (Sarah):

Annual event is hosted by the Friends of the Lower Muskingum River and is a 2 mile home-made raft race taking place on Sunday, August 11th. Hundreds of people come to the event as part of the River Trails & Ales festival (<http://www.rtafest.com/>) and there would be an opportunity to set up a RCP table at the finish line.

Sarah showed the board the event website: <http://www.muskingumriver.org/rafttrace.html>

Rob has a large truck with a trailer. Heike has a bike and barrels, Natalie & Sarah have bikes. Monte suggested we must dress as pirates, and another suggested "raccoon pirates"

The board would like to build a boat and Sarah will email everyone to start. Molly and Sarah will also bring up the event at the next RCWTA meeting.

Treasurer's Report (Amber):

	January	February
RCP General Funds	\$ 6,352.92	\$ 6,291.18
Waterloo	-	\$ 1,000
DOW Grant	\$1,247.66	\$ 1,226.37
AEP Bill	\$ 58.29	\$ 61.74
RCWTA	\$ 4,405.96	\$ 6,774.67

A generous donation of \$1,000 was made to Waterloo by longtime Raccoon Creek supporter, Jane Broecker. The board is going to put together a basket of handmade things and present it to Jane to show our appreciation. Amy offered that people can bring stuff they want to put in a basket to Amy's office for Jane. Heike informed the board that Jane told her that she has never seen people work so hard with so little money and get so much done.

Watershed Coordinator Update (Amy):

- Amy cleaned out her desk and had many things to handout. River Rally is May 17th-20th in St. Louis and we did not renew our Ohio Environmental Council membership this year (\$75).
- Kroger Community Rewards was \$156.97, which was a great deal lower than in the past. There are only 12 people signed up currently, which is less than before. Kroger no longer discloses the individual people who are signed up. The program renews again in April and we will make a concentrated campaign to ask people to sign up for the Kroger Community Rewards Program in April.
- Natalie bought door knobs with her own money that ended up not fitting the door at Waterloo. The knobs and receipts were missing and Heike and Rebekah said they are in the library. Natalie needs reimbursed for the cost and we are going to try to return both door knobs even though 1 is opened. Monte offered to buy the one door knob if we can't return it.
- Amy has been working on Sarah's Water Quality Specialist contract for a 2 year renewal. RCP usually budgets to contribute to equipment funding for the WQS position and Amy needs to know how much RCP would be able to contribute. It has varied in the past, but around \$1,000. The money covers supplies (packing tape, YSI batteries, calibration solutions, ice) and conference registrations. Last year RCP gave \$1,200 in May; this was early and more than usual to help cover Sarah's mileage that had run out. Amy will be requesting more mileage from ODNR in this grant. RCP will commit to giving \$1,000 toward WQS equipment funding. Sarah will run some statistics to determine her annual expenditures and present at next month's meeting.
- Amy has been entering MAIS scores (Macroinvertebrate data). There was a question about the fish on Hewett Fork at Waterloo. There were 6 fish species found, about 40 fish in 2012. The mouth of Hewett Fork had 19 species of fish, which is more than we have ever found before.
- Amy's Watershed Coordinator grant did get renewed and it began in January and is for 3 years.

Rob Update since he was leaving early:

- Was offered and accepted a position on the board of Appalachia Ohio Alliance (AOA)
- Was offered a position on the board of Athens Building Industry Association (ABIA)
- If we are interested in doing a joint fundraiser with ABIA again this year, we should talk about it at the next meeting. The board thought this might be a great partnership and opportunity to raise funds for the Waterloo building.
- Rob also wants to be involved with work at Waterloo and help Monte with windows

AmeriCorps Update (Rebekah):

- Darcy is in Amsterdam. Rebekah will be missing next month's RCP meeting
- Working on 2012 Raccoon Creek data analysis
- School garden project at The Plains Elementary
- Alternative Spring Break for Ohio University Students through Rural Action
- Events:
 - March 2nd – Gallia County Tourism Expo @ Rio Grande – RCP & RCWTA tables
 - March 9th – 9:00am First Aid Training with Monte \$25 / Rain barrel workshop \$45
 - March 15th-16th – Americorps retreat
 - March 17th – Apple Grafting Workshop
 - Spring Camps – April 6th (Birds) & April 13th (Amphibians)
 - April 20th – Birding at Lake Hope Furnace with Joe Jennings
 - May 3rd, 4th, 5th – Ohio Audubon Society Ecoweekend
 - May 18th – RCWTA canoe float
 - June 15th – Ohio River Sweep
 - June 17th – 21st Summer camp #1 Theme: Geology Rocks! (grades 1st – 4th)
 - June 24th – 27th Summer camp #2 Theme: Biodiversity (grades 5th and up)
- Darcy & Rebekah have been doing a water science education project and went to Southview elementary in Jackson County and will be returning for Science Night. They will also be going to Green Elementary in Gallia County.
- They have also gotten in touch with the Wellston Library to do a program.
- Winter Tree ID hike with Heike went well. Darcy added a column to the sign-in sheet to find out how people heard about the event and many heard about it through the Athens News.
- Heike: the Owl Prowl was a success. We stopped counting people when we reached 140. Might need to consider choosing a different venue next year.
- We will need volunteers for summer camp this year and need to start recruiting.
- The second camp for older kids, we want to see about having an over-night camping trip by having a survey question on the registration form.
- Cost for camps will be \$75 for non-RCP members that live outside the watershed and \$60 for members or those that live within the watershed.
- There will be another education committee meeting soon.

Apple Grafting Workshop (Heike):

Derek Mills needs to know how many people are coming to the workshop

RCWTA (Molly):

- RCWTA got the Kickstarter funds. \$300 more than the goal was pledged and around \$2,300 was deposited since Kickstarter took 5% and Amazon took 4.5%. All the money was collected except for one \$15 pledge and one \$1 pledge.

- Karla is in Italy and did some final edits to the map and those need to be ironed out and Molly is going to contact Karla to make sure that the final edits are on the correct version of the map and get it to Natalie for next week. Natalie will clean it up and then it will need copy edited again.
- Molly has been in contact with the printer and once we send them the map it will take 3 weeks to print. They are an environmentally friendly company and they print nautical maps. They use acid free ink. They will also print non-folded copies for framing and will leave a boarder and will do this at no additional charge.
- RCWTA is giving out stickers for some levels of the Kickstarter pledges. RCTWA wants to pay RCP for the stickers and Amber figured out it is \$9.24 cents in stickers and Molly requested that RCP take out \$10 for the stickers. RCP is going to order more stickers.
- The new canoe trailer has been ordered and has a March 15th delivery date but RCWTA doesn't have the check yet from ODNR Division of Watercraft. Rebekah is going to the grant meeting on February 28th in Columbus and will check on the status of the check. The check was originally written to Ohio University rather than RCP and had to be sent back and a new check was supposed to be sent the previous week.
- Molly brought up the RCWTA purchased 3 canoes and 1 boat trailer from OO McIntyre Park District for \$300.
- Monday and Sunday creeks requested to borrow canoes for their summer camps on June 9th and July 24th. Molly sent them the forms.
- May 18th is the spring canoe float, which will include a safety training to fulfill the canoe trailer grant. A pre-float will take place the weekend before.
- During the float, with all these canoes, we could possibly have people on Raccoon Creek and Lake Hope.
- At the next RCWTA meeting the Ohio River Sweep will be discussed.

RCP Stickers (Amber):

- RCP decided to order more stickers and will order them from Sticker Giant, which is where we got them before. Amber will do this?

Intern Introductions

- Ian Kloos: Ohio University Senior Majoring in Geography, Minor in Geology and is interning with Raccoon Creek to fulfill the leadership option requirements for his Environmental Studies certificate. Has been working for 3 hours per week, mostly on Friday afternoons. Has done data entry, data verification, and familiarization with Raccoon Creek documents.
- Emily Logan & Alie Hermentutz: Hocking College Students in GeoEnvironmental Science program and Hocking College Geology Club. Both work primarily on Tuesday's and have done data entry, data verification, assisted with Brush Creek AMDAT, RCP Owl Prowl, and chemical water quality monitoring. Note: both will be graduating this spring and Emily will be available to volunteer if she is still in the area and Alie has an interview with MBI next week.

New Business and Announcements:

Waterloo Work Day

We need to schedule a work day. Two dates were suggested. Either March 23rd or April 20th following the Bird hike at Lake Hope Furnace. Sarah can't remember, did we choose a date?

AOA – Appalachia Ohio Alliance

Mitch Farley asked RCP for some tree tubes and RCP can give him 50. The tubes are left over from the chestnut tree planting last year at Kern Hollow. AOA is planting 250 trees on a reclaim in Vinton County on April 6th

Mike Schooley is selling his land that is the borrow area and location of the wetland and project discharge for the Harble Griffith project. Amy forwarded the information to Mitch Farley with AOA to see if they can do anything to help protect the land. Heike will contact Brian Blair & Clyde Gosnell with AOA. Amber made the point that if we want to have the deed changed in any way to have it written in that we can still have access to sample the site we need to do it ASAP. ODNR would have to talk to Mike about this and Kaabe Shaw is the contact. Amy will check in with Kaabe to see if he has contacted Mike.

Sarah and Amy are going to go to an AOA meeting and Amy is going to contact Mitch to see if they want us to do a "Raccoon Creek Recovery" presentation.

Captina Creek Watershed Rally – Monday, April 29th. Organized by our very own Kim Brewster (Captina Creek Watershed Coordinator). Raccoon Creek will have a table there. The event will have the Columbus Zoo bringing animals and there are many vendors from the state and local agencies and lots of people attend the event.

Gallia County Farm and City Day – Saturday, September 28th. Organized by Raina Fulks, Gallia SWCD. Raccoon Creek will have a table there.

There will be Red Shouldered Hawk banding being done in the Raccoon Creek Watershed on May 26th. Heike will have the details and will keep the group informed.

The meeting concluded with Heike sharing a video of yelling goats:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ya59boTT5-4>

Next meeting is Wednesday, March 27, 2013, 6:30pm, location TBA