

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

**Attendance:** Rob Wiley, Amber Brookins, Amy Mackey, Molly Gurien, Sarah Landers, Bob Eichenberg, Darcy VanDervort. Guests: Dick Hogan and Roger Wilkens. Molly conducted the meeting in Natalie's absence. Natalie had a prior commitment.

**Previous Meeting's Minutes:** Minutes from the February meeting were approved. ((Were the December minutes approved?))

Action Items and questions are Highlighted.

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

- General fund \$6,396.03; ODNR grant fund \$1,226.37; Waterloo fund \$1,060.06; RCWTA \$6,745.58. We paid an AEP bill \$56.56.

**Coordinator's Report (Amy)**

- Sarah's contract runs through June and at that time it will convert to 10% of her time paid through OU's Voinovich School, the remainder continuing through the Vinton SWCD.
- A summer intern contract was submitted to ODNR. They utilize and pay for an OU intern.
- Americorps applications are being accepted through June.
- Amy's continuing contract was approved at the state level.
- There is a fish and bug demonstration set up for April 6<sup>th</sup>
- The Ohio Watershed Leadership Conference is set for 9/5-9/6 at Lake Hope. The focus will be on Raccoon Creek watershed.
- New watershed stickers are in.
- Nora Rye RCP video-some DVD's work and some don't. We need to sort them out. Bob took several and will report back.
- Newsletter articles are needed over the next several weeks. Amy will send out an email.
- August 2011 was our last guest speaker at a board meeting. We need someone with a non-technical topic. Past topics included bears and feral hogs.
- April 6<sup>th</sup> is the Appalachia Ohio Alliance tree planting in Vinton County.

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

- Jared Abel, Vinton SWCD wildlife biologist is tracking six bobcats.
- A Day in the Woods 2nd Friday Series
  - May 11 Matching Your Harvest to Your Woods
  - Jun 8 Identifying the Trees in Your Woods
  - Jul 13 Tending Your Woodlot

- Aug 10 Measuring Forest Trees
- Sep 14 Woodland Wildlife—Game Species
- Oct 12 Non-Game Woodland Wildlife
- Nov 9 The Wood From Your Woods
- For more information: Visit: <http://seohiowoods.wordpress.com>. Email: [apsley.1@osu.edu](mailto:apsley.1@osu.edu) Call: 740-710-3009
- Data from 2012 is being analyzed for updating the AMDAT Plan.
- We are performing post-construction monitoring for the Pierce Run Project (steel slag leach bed).
- One project for 2013 is the Lake Morrow drainage in Jackson County. This involves removing a coal pile dam. The Lake has no outlet so flows through the coal dam. The pre-bid conference will be soon.
- Our Facebook page is getting some development. Monday Creek Watershed has an active Facebook page and can be used as a model. Posted photos from our watershed lead to 947 hits on our site. Ideas for the page include quizzes and Board member information.
- The River Trails and Ales Festival on the Muskingum River features the Mighty Muskingum River Raft Race on 8/11/13. The Friends of the Lower Muskingum sets up the race and we should participate.

#### **Americorps Update (Darcy):**

- There were 21 participants at the apple grafting workshop. We made \$17.81. We have 13 trees to graft and sell. There were 10 participants at the Rain Barrel Workshop. The fee was \$45 per participant but we had to purchase the barrels.
- Attended The Plains Health Fair at The Plains Elementary.
- Attended Science Night at Westview Elementary in Jackson County.
- Assisted with data analysis for the 2012 data
- Summer camp registration and confirmation letters are in process.
- Monte put on a successful First Aid training class.
- For Waterloo we need a first aid kit (Monte will put one together) and a fire extinguisher.
- Spring activities:
  - 4/6 Birding (Darcy will check to see what supplies we still have at Waterloo)
  - 4/13 Amphibians – The ODNR grant can be used for supplies since this is water-quality-related.
  - 4/16 Enviroscope plus macroinvertebrate workshop at the Wellston Public Library.
  - 4/20 at 9am, Bird Hike with Bob Scott Placier
  - 4/21 Litter Cleanup with Joe Jennings, organized in conjunction with the Sierra Club.
  - 5/3 Eco Weekend at Camp Oty Okwa in conjunction with the Ohio Audubon Society.
- It was suggested that the watershed education meeting planning sessions be advertised to the public.

- The Ohio River Clean Sweep will be held June 15<sup>th</sup> and Rebekah is organizing an RCP effort to help. We will clean up something on land adjacent to the lower stretch of the Creek near County Road 219.

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

- We took delivery of the new canoe trailer. Space is an issue. We also purchased 3 canoes from O.O. McIntyre Park and they gave us a used trailer. We now have 13 canoes.
- Maps-We got final edits from Karla 2 weeks ago. Bernhard Debatin's students will perform a final edit. We are figuring out how many unfolded copies we need. A storage location is needed and the Voinovich School was offered. We need the maps printed by the time of our annual float in May. We need a map order form. Maps will be \$7 each.
- The Kickstarter Program was successful. It raised \$10,000.
- May 18<sup>th</sup> is the annual float. A pre-float will be held May 11<sup>th</sup>. We will attempt something on the upper stretch.
- RCWTA will be involved with the Bob Evans Farm Festival October 11-13. RCP will also participate. Sarah will be our representative.
- The Fall Float needs a date. The Bob Evans Farm Festival is not interested in co-sponsoring the Float so we need to pick a different weekend from the Festival.
- We are not attempting to get ODNR's official water trail designation due to the costs involved.

### **New Business and Announcements:**

- Propane cost \$950 last fall and the tank is now empty. Amber's husband will check for any leaks. During discussion it was stated that keeping the building above freezing all winter could have used that much propane since we had many cold periods.
- Bob will talk with Heike about getting a longer term lease from ODNR.
- Thursday May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 10-3 is a work day. Email project ideas to Amy.
- Gallia County Farm and City Day – Saturday, September 28<sup>th</sup>. They want us to participate. We can stage an electroshocking demonstration if ODNR will operate the boat. We can also bring canoes.
- Dick Hogan provided several updates. The Journey of the Universe and Economics of Happiness programs, providing regenerative approaches to food, energy, and water, were successful. A prototype of a greenhouse/bioshelter is taking form in Waterloo Township. OU Engineering and BioScience and Hocking College are partners.
- Roger Wilkens is working with The Center for Creation of Cooperation on renewable energy cooperatives. A co-op is a means for members to move onto a path that eventually gets off of fossil fuels. Community supported energy is similar to a widely accepted community supported agriculture (CSA) model. Roger asked that the RCP Board give thought to utilizing acid mine flows as a potential energy source for a small-scale hydroelectric generator. Discussion will be ongoing at future meetings.

**Next meeting is Wednesday, April 24, 2013, 6:30pm, at Waterloo**