

**Raccoon Creek Partnership**  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Wednesday November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2011  
Building 22, The Ridges, Athens

**Attendance:** Amy Mackey, Amber Brookins, Molly Gurien, Karla Sanders, Sarah Landers, Bob Eichenberg, Rob Wiley, Monte Edwards, Kim Brewster, Kristin Kindler, Dick Hogan

**Past Meeting Minutes:** Reviewed and approved September meeting minutes, no additions or corrections

**Treasures Report (Amber Brookins):**

Total Funds	RCP General	DOW Grant	Waterloo Camp	OEEF Grant	RCWTA
\$9372.64	\$5896.56	\$1995.99	\$844.44	\$635.65	\$1612.08

- OEEF grant will be zeroed out as receipts are submitted for supplies and equipment purchased. Final report must be done in January.
- Asked for suggestions for DOW grant (pfd's, youth paddles, boat cushions, net replacement heads). Kim and Kristin will order these things. Molly will provide details on the canoe items needed.

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

- Harble Griffith project construction done for 2011, will resume in April 2012. Planned to finish this year, but too much rain! Capped, seeded, and mulched, will finish the wetland in the spring.
- Orland Gob Pile will be completed in the next few weeks, delayed by rain as well.
- Lake Milton undergoing maintenance on slag bed and valves, hoping to finish this fall.
- Recon conducted at Middleton Run, will be starting a reclamation project there in 2012.
- Chemical sampling has been slow due to rain as well, 6 full days remaining to complete all scheduled 2011 sampling. Working on 2012 monitoring plan.
- East Branch II and III functioning well, will do one more round of post-con sampling this year.
- Conducted 2 watershed tours for OU classes (Molly's Aquatic Biology Class and a Hydrogeology Class), visited East Branch and Harble Griffith to show different approaches to treatment and source control.
- Several volunteers have expressed interest in helping sample.
- Sarah will be working on updating the LRC AMDAT this winter.

**Watershed Coordinator Updates (Amy Mackey):**

- Starting to work on end of year grant reporting (coordinator grant and Harble Griffith 319 Grant)
- Will be writing 2 OSM Watershed Grants this winter, one for Middleton Run and one for either Lake Latrobe or Flint Run East wetland.
- Amy and Sarah presented to Hocking College Natural Resources Careers Classes on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, there was a lot of interest in RC projects. One instructor, Lynn Holtzman, asked if we would

be interested in planting a prairie mix on any of our reclaims, there is funding available for quail habitat. **Amy will contact DMRM about this opportunity.**

- There is a new landowner in Middleton Run who is on board for the 2012 reclamation project, which increases the project area, may become a multi-phase, multi-year project.
- RCP received about \$200 from Kroger Community Rewards in this quarter. **WE NEED TO GET MORE FOLKS ENROLLED! This is free money for us, need to spread the word, instructions are on the RCP homepage.**
- Shared several news articles (Science Alliance, Vinton County fish demo, Chestnut Tree Planting)
- Discussed next year projects (Middleton Run Reclaim, Lake Latrobe draining, Flint Run East Wetland).

#### **AmeriCorps Update (Kristin Kindler and Kim Brewster):**

- Biological sampling and camps done, starting to plan upcoming events.
- November 10<sup>th</sup> planted 67 American / Chinese chestnuts at East Branch treatment site. Trees, tubes, and stakes were donated by MSES student Nathan Daniels, Brian McCarthy, and the American Chestnut Foundation. **RCP will document survival rates in spring and fall of 2012.**
- November 19<sup>th</sup> Kim and Kristin helped with a trash clean-up on the Hocking River near White's Mill. Jeff Kallet and his son (a Waterloo summer camper) contacted us to see if we could help. Athens Hocking Solid Waste donated bags and gloves, and Kim and Kristin sorted all the trash and took to campus recycling (3 bags plastic, 3 bags glass, 3 bags trash, ½ bag aluminum, and a plastic barrel). 6 volunteers assisted with the clean up as well as the Leading Creek AmeriCorps, Lisa Prince.
- Fall membership drive underway, holiday cards and letters have been created and sent out. **Also created a post card to send to businesses. Please send your suggestions to us!! Sarah suggested that they look in the 2010 Poker Run folder for a list of watershed businesses.**

#### **WAEC Update (Kim and Kristin and all):**

- Emailed libraries in watershed, got no reply. **May go visit them to discuss future programs. Sarah will contact Kara for advice as well.**
- Planning an Owl Prowl, Heike suggested that **Kim and Kristin contact Pat Quackenbush to see if he is available in February.**
- Planning spring and summer camps.
- **Will start looking into apple grafting workshop, rootstock needs ordered in January, Sarah has info from last year. Would also need to contact the presenter, Derek Mills.**
- Heike is organizing a basket weaving workshop and will let us know when she has more details.
- Heike suggested that **Kim and Kristin contact CFI to ask about using the center for their seed give away or for gardening workshops.**

#### **RCWTA Update (Molly Gurien):**

- Making progress on Water Trail designation, all sites and mileage are known and GPSed. Working on application. Have access points at least every 10 miles, mostly on public land, a few private that need to be approved by ODNR when the full application is presented.

- Right now they are working on (with Kim and Kristin's help) filling out forms for each of the 25 sites describing location, access, etc. This will be done in the next 2 months.
- Also need to contact each township and municipality to create public notice of site.
- Have been working on this for 5 years and hope to present it in 2112!!
- Updating trailer, new tires, fixing the donated Dagger Canoes
- Just got the invitation for the Southeast Ohio Tourism Expo, it will be held on March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2012, and University of Rio Grande, **need to know who is willing to help out.**
- Karla Sanders, MSES Leadership student will be helping with the Water Trail map and brochure. Needs all content by end of December. Brochure will include all sites with mileage and GPS info. Also cultural and natural sites, wildlife info, treatment sites, environmental issues....
  - Brochure needs to be done by June (when Karla is graduating), so please get all of your suggestions to her soon (by the end of December). **You can email Karla directly at [ks156205@ohio.edu](mailto:ks156205@ohio.edu) or bring your ideas to the next water trail or RCP meeting.**
  - Bob suggested that Karla look into some work that was started for a similar water trail brochure with the Hocking River commission, should be some good examples and info there.
- Next RCWTA meeting will be at the Ridges, December 15<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30, all are welcome!

#### **Board Officer Elections (Amy Mackey):**

- All positions were described and board members were asked what position they would like (if any). Natalie told Amy that she would be willing to run for chair again, Molly would be interested in Vice Chair, Amber would be willing to continue as Treasurer, and Bob was interested in the Secretary position. Ballots were distributed to the board members present, and the 2012 RCP Board Officers are as follows:
  - Chair – Natalie Kruse
  - Vice Chair – Molly Gurien
  - Treasurer – Amber Brookins
  - Secretary – Bob Eichenberg
- Congrats and thank you!! New members will take office at the December board meeting.
- **Amy distributed by-laws to all of the new board members and asked that they read, sign, and return by the December board meeting.**
- **Amy and Sarah will be the Board of Directors page on the RCP website updated, new members, please send a picture and very short bio to Amy or Sarah asap.**

#### **Plan for Workday / Planning at Waterloo**

- **It will be critical that the AmeriCorps and board stay in contact with Heike to coordinate activities at Waterloo.**
- Heike has requested one final work day at the center before winter, Dan will winterize the pump. **Amy will email Heike to get a complete list of things that need done.**
- Monte will be at the center on December 10<sup>th</sup> to look at furnaces and replace furnace filters. The board approved \$200 to be spent by Monte on furnace filters and exterior lighting (front and back of building), **if the cost will be more than this, Monte will send email to the board for approval. Monte will purchase the supplies and submit receipts to Amber.**

- Rob offered to come out and help Monte with the furnace on the 10<sup>th</sup>, and Kim, Kristin, Sarah, and Bob volunteered to come to the center to help clean / winterize. Molly will mention it to the RCWTA as well.

### **Upcoming Events Planning (All):**

- We need to be thinking about fundraisers! Amber will plan a fundraising meeting for the new year, please send us your ideas!!
  - Some thoughts:
    - Benefit show – anyone know any bands that would play for free??
    - Pancake breakfast
    - Biathlon – Bob suggested we contact the Athens Bicycle Club
    - Holiday Bake sale – If we want to do this, we need to get together and bake??
    - 50/50 – Molly brought up issue that was brought to her attention, it may be illegal for non-profits to do raffles, Amber will check into this.
- Rob was curious as to where our members are from and what areas we need to target. Amy will send out current membership list.
- Public Meetings! These have been a successful way to get people involved, we need to continue them. Suggestions include:
  - Something at Rio Grande
  - Bobcats
  - Coyotes
  - Private Water Supply (well) and septic testing requirements (Monte)

### **Announcements:**

- Dick Hogan announced that 700 people were at the Fairgrounds interested in signing oil and gas leases, stressed that we need to be watching for this. It's coming to Athens, increased traffic and structural changes on SR 56 already.

**Next RCP meeting Date: December 21<sup>st</sup>, 6:30 p.m. at The Ridges**

**ACTION ITEMS IN RED!!**