

Raccoon Creek Forum Meeting

Technical Advisory Committee of the Raccoon Creek Partnership

October 15, 2008

In attendance: Ben McCament - OU Voinovich School, Rocky McNickle - RCP Board, Max Luehrs - EPA (OSM), Scott Schell - RCP Board, Mary Ann Borch - ODNR (DMRM), Jen Bowman - OU Voinovich School, Jeff Calhoun - RCP Intern, Amy Mackey - RCP Water Quality Specialist, Gary Wilson USDA (Forest Service), Barb Flowers - ODNR (DMRM), Mike McAvoy - ODNR (DMRM)

Time: 9:30 am

Location: Waterloo Aquatic Education Center

1. Welcome - introductions

2. Watershed Coordinator Update

- Details and paperwork for Ben McCament's new position with the Voinovich School have been finalized. Ben will officially be moving out of the RC coordinator position. A new position (to fill the RC coordinator vacancy) is being created through the OU Voinovich School. This process may take 1 - 2 months. The position will then be posted and the interview process will begin.

3. Raccoon Creek Partnership Update

- RCP Annual Dinner
 - Scheduled for Saturday October 18th at 4:00 pm at the Waterloo Aquatic Education Center (AEC).
- RCP fundraiser results; Poker Run 2008
 - 17 Riders participated
 - Raised over \$600.00
- Waterloo AEC day camps (free)
 - Last camp hosted 14 kids!
 - Next camp Saturday Nov. 1st 10:00am to 1:00 pm (Animals in Winter Day Camp)
- Project Wild training scheduled for Saturday October 25th @ Waterloo AEC
- For upcoming RCP events, visit www.raccooncreek.org

4. RC Water Quality Specialist

- As of August 2008, Amy Mackey has become the RC Water Quality Specialist
- Amy's federal background check went through (to use computers, etc.), and she will work out of the Vinton SWCD office starting October 20th
- RCP will move Brett's water sampling equipment (now housed at OU/RCP lab) to Vinton Soil and Water for Amy to use
- Amy may also spend 1 - 2 days per week at Waterloo (this depends on available funding for adequate resources for her work days, i.e. computer internet access, phone, etc.)

5. Water Quality Monitoring Update

- RC 2008 water quality monitoring efforts are near completion
 - **RC headwaters**; sampling completed. Still need to finish recon at the Orland gob pile (drainage above the wetland area) and Elk Fork (recently documented AMD source, see item # 9)
 - **RC middle basin**; Will complete LTM in December 08. Will sample PR Oreton seep in October 08 and PR main stem sites and PR115 trib in November 08.
 - **Little RC**; Will sample Mulga Run Project (Jaymar and Lincoln Pit). Will sample Flint Run East and Lake Milton project trib (overall discharge). Will sample Lake Latrobe. *Note: all projects working well when sampled in August 08.*
- Mary Ann suggested that WQ data be presented at next TAC meeting, before the next years monitoring plan. Could we invite coordinators from other watershed groups to present their data as well? Yes, we can, and should.
- Trace and Middleton Run in LRC - (Mary Ann Borch has been sampling this future project site).
 - Ben- Data shows that @ low flow, Trace run impacts Hewett Fork, and HF takes a long time to recover from this
 - Mary Ann provided a data summary for Trace Run:

8/13/08

	Ust. Kennard	Kennard UMine	Dst. Kennard	Clean Trib
Acidity	3.9	1049	724	3.74
Alkalintiy	92	0	0	100
pH	7.28	3.92	3.11	7.56
Iron	508	448	332	0.28
Aluminum	40.5	37.2	26.6	< 0.05
SO4	41.4	1958	1431	41.8
8/13 Flow (gpm)	8	42.5	56	
9/29 Flow (gpm)	7.74	26	37	< 5

6. New Project Updates

- Trace Run
- Lake Latrobe (Barrow)
- Harble Griffith Rd. (un-reclaimed surface pits)
- Orland Gob pile 16 acre property w/ 8 acre gob pile.
 - Needs further recon to determine clean water source(s) for potential project development. Overall goal is to improve West Branch (Orland gob tributary flows into the West Branch).
 - Still waiting for county auction of land. Huntly trucking company is interested in purchasing the property. Local community members have been speaking with local officials in order to move the process along, as they are in full support of a reclamation project.
 - Max mentioned that this would be an excellent public relations project (close to road so easily visible, and strong community support already exists)

- E. Branch Phase 2 (5 more steel slag beds, Laurel Run Rd.)
 - Barb mentioned that EB project design needs to be reviewed, cost est. revised, right of entries secured, soil analysis, etc.
- Pierce Run
 - Currently only project that is funded
- Mike - Is there a preference for priority for the listed projects? Ben - more formal conceptual designs and the identification of data gaps will lead to better prioritization.
- OEPA funding for non-profits is approaching, as well as the next round of 319 money. RCP would like to have projects ready for these funding options.
- The option of using a grad student for project development was mentioned (i.e. Trace Run)
- Amy presented data from Harble Griffith strip pits
- RCP would like to set up a tour of Harble Griffith Rd. pits with advisory committee. Stay tuned.

7. AMD Project Updates

- EB Phase 1 & 2
 - Contractor completed repair work on plumbing.
 - Still need to rough up steel slag beds and determine how to prevent the crusting of material (in order to increase flow rates)
 - Possible OU/ATC study to trouble shoot slag bed issues and potential solutions?
- Flint Run and Lake Milton - both functioning well
- Carbondale
 - Maintenance issues: Barb is working on a proposal to remove material from concrete channel.
 - The issue is a large amount of un-reacted lime building up in the channel. Proper analysis of the material should be conducted before the material is sent down stream in large amounts.
 - There has been a landowner complaint of AMD discharge on their property. This issue is to be resolved.
 - Safety issues were also discussed; there has been a recent report (from a community member) of kids climbing on the doser.
- Mulga Run
 - Need vegetation removal in steel slag bed (Lincoln bed)
 - Valve needs replaced at Jaymar
 - Removal of beaver dams was also discussed, and removal of the Beaver. Dams have created a channel of flowing water perpendicular to the limestone embankments

8. Pierce Run 319 Project

- Elected officials tour of this future reclamation site will be held on October 23rd from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. Participants will meet at the Vinton SWCD office.
- PR project preliminary design is complete
- Data shows that PR impacts the main stem of RC. Therefore, completed project will most likely lead to improvements (i.e. metal load reduction) in Raccoon Creek.

9. Elk Fork

- Historically, this second largest tributary to Raccoon Creek has had good water quality (fish data in 1995 showed Elk Fork was meeting WWH).
- No fish data since 95. Recent fish sampling (9/08) showed a significant decline in fish populations (in the stretch of Elk Fork between McArthur and the experimental forest). This site had a pH of 4.5 at the time of sampling.
- Reconnaissance work revealed an upstream (of fish site) tributary that is impacted from underground mine discharge. Therefore, this tributary is impacting Elk Fork (i.e. a significant drop in pH in Elk Fork was recorded from upst. to dst. of the impacted trib).
- Further sampling and recon is needed in the tributary to determine location/impacts of AMD sources
- Elk Fork is a state resource waterway, so this issue should be a high priority.

10. New Business

- There was discussion of increased volunteer monitoring via students (Hocking, OU). This is an inexpensive way to collect basic WQ data (pH, conductivity, etc.)
- Use of brownfield money for mine reclamation?
- Gary Wilson (Forest Service) discussed current projects
 - Filled 9 subsidences in Nelsonville area
 - Hope to, in the spring of '09, to treat AMD sources that flow into the Hocking river with limestone channels