

Raccoon Creek Forum Meeting
Technical Advisory Committee of the Raccoon Creek Partnership
April 14th, 2010

Action Items are underlined!

In attendance: Barb Flowers - ODNR-DMRM, Amy Mackey – OU Voinovich School, John Kellis – Ohio Valley RC&D, Jen Bowman – OU Voinovich School, Ben McCament – ODNR-DMRM, Natalie Kruse – RCP Board & Voinovich School, Randy Spencer – OEPA-DSW, Rina Caldwell – AmeriCorps, Mike McAvoy – ODNR-DMRM, Regan Welch – ODNR-DMRM, Kaabe Shaw – ODNR-DMRM, Brian Blair – RCP Water Quality Specialist, Pam Stachler- USFS, Mitch Farley – ODNR-DMRM

Time: 9:00 am

Location: Voinovich School, The Ridges, Bldg 22

1. Reviewed and Approved January minutes - All

- Comments:
 - RC priority projects are being added to SWERP clearing house. As projects are completed, they will be removed.
 - Brian Blair is new WQS
 - Forest Service funds are not available to fund WQS position
 - Minutes approved

2. Watershed Coordinator Update-Amy Mackey

- Presented at North Central RC & D Conference with Ben McCament on 4/13
- Presented to 3 Athens High School Science classes
- Approved to have 1 ODNR intern
- Will have 1 or 2 AmeriCorps beginning in August, 2010
- 2009 MAIS is complete
- Enrolled in Kroger Community Rewards program.
- Outreach and education programs have begun at WAEC
- Presented to 5 county soil and water districts with positive experience. Jackson wants to work together.
- SWIMS training
- Hocking College intern, Justin Brown has begun to work with RCP on outreach and education efforts through WAEC.

3. Water Quality Specialist Update-Brian Blair

- Sampling events:
 - Hewett Fork
 - Flint Run East
 - Lake Milton-unusual color at ditch. Weir at Hothouse flow was low-90 Mitch suggested a visit with ODNR to identify issues. This project may need maintenance and the site will be looked at again by ODNR.
 - Reconnaissance at Middleton Run with ODNR staff.

- Waiting on pin # for EPA database to enter Pierce Run 319 data
- Vinton County Airport:
 - Aaron Wolfe from EPA will evaluate site next week. Brian may go.

4. Middleton Run Update-Kim Brewster and Kaabe Shaw

- Reconnaissance has begun.
 - Went out last week to identify potential monitoring sites on 2 tributaries.
 - Will participate in monthly sampling once sites are established.
 - Landowners have been contacted. Letters and phone calls will continue. Roger Daniels is one landowner who is participating.
 - In total, 3 or 4 landowners have given permission for entry.
 - Kim and Kaabe may need help with sampling of strip pits.

5. Raccoon Creek MSES Leadership Students-Natalie Kruse

- Leadership Projects:
 - There are 5 students working with RCP
 - Nick Schell has worked on reintroduction of Muskie south of Vinton. Will be presenting on May 10th, 2010.
 - John Braur has worked on Elk Fork reconnaissance. Has identified new discharge sources and will be presenting at the VSWCD on May 24th at 7 pm. He has created a brochure and will go door to door to invite landowners to attend presentation.
 - Kim Brewster is currently working on Middleton Run.
 - Jacob Sissler is working on feasibility, cost analysis for removal of low head dams in Vinton. EPA and DOW were suggested as contacts for this project. Modification versus removal was also suggested as a possibility.
 - Janene Josepi is working on a Leaders and Learners program for high school juniors and seniors. It will include a 2 week camp for 10 students in August held at the WAEC, and will include the creation and implementation of environmental education programs to area elementary schools.

6. ODNR Water quality sampling updates- Mary Ann Borch

- Absent. It is her and Mitch's birthday today.
- Mitch noted that Middleton Run is the largest source of aluminum to LRC when it is flowing. Source control is the highest priority.
- Amy responded saying we will have more information about this issue at the next meeting.

7. AMD Project Updates-Barb Flowers, Regan Welch, and Mike McAvoy

- Pierce Run:
 - It is dry; looking for storm water drainage issues. Will meet with contractor next week. Will add lime to soil for embankments.

- Jen noted EPA would like to know if it will be completed by the grant deadline in June.
 - Mitch suggested monthly updates to EPA.
- East Branch Phase I:
 - Maintenance drawings should be complete by 4/16/10.
- East Branch Phase II:
 - Steel slag project now under construction.
 - Stimmel is contractor; cost is around \$700,000.
 - Completion date is Fall 2010
- East Branch Phase III:
 - Still in design phase, 90% complete.
 - Project is additional slag bed on USFS property.
 - Construction will begin in spring 2011.
- Carbondale Dose:
 - Pre-construction meeting on 4/14/10
 - Contractor is Precision Site Work
 - Maintenance will include: cleaning out the channel, retrofitting the ladder, cleaning out culverts.
 - Mitch proposed to permanently authorize maintenance to Jobs and Carbondale as long as funding is available.
 - Regan and Mike may design and install permanent flume to measure flow at Carbondale.
- JMAR:
 - Beavers need to be trapped. Area is still being assessed.
 - Bill Scripp from the forest service and Vinton Fur Trading Co. were suggested as trapper contacts.
 - Can pay trappers if timing is out of season. Annual contract was suggested.
- Mulga Wetland
 - Still beaver issues, Mitch suggested establishing an annual contract to have someone trap yearly.
- Lake Latrobe:
 - Landowner interested in re-mining
 - Part of project would remove lake. 50/50 change of approval.
 - This project has been put on hold until we know what will happen with re-mining.
- Buckeye Furnace:
 - Was a match for 319 grant
 - Included 65 acres of refuse reclamation. Early SAPS put in then is still working. Also put in ALD and 2 small slag beds that no longer work.
 - Flint Run has improved, but it's hard to tell if BF had positive impact.
 - Needs more research.
- Flint Run:
 - Second Tier project includes adding wetlands to capture metals.
- LRC Gage:

- Jen would like to see rip rap or concrete pad at pump site to decrease debris entering pump / gage house.
- Orland Gob Pile:
 - Site recon with engineers in March
 - Cambridge working on design
 - Have exploratory right of entry
 - Project may be pushed back due to Sunday Creek's expiring 319.
 - Need to test material in drums
- Harble Griffith:
 - Grant awarded, should start around July
 - When we have design and right of entry, we need to apply for OSM grant.
 - Monthly sampling for one year once grant starts.
 - Summer 2011, projected construction start date
 - Need to see if design is counted as match
 - Amy – send ODNR copy of grant

8. Update: Jen Bowman

- AEP Biological restoration project funded in Hewett Fork
 - Working on objectives and goals
 - Sites may be those already being sampled
 - Focus is learn what is happening in transition areas.
 - Will be coupled with historical data analysis
 - Could be used as a model for alkaline addition systems
 - ODNR fish analysis can be used as match
- IEII Teacher Training:
 - For 40 5-9 grade science teachers
 - 2 weeks of energy and environmental concepts curriculum development
 - Ties to math and science standards
 - July 26th and 27th

9. 2010 Biological Sampling: Amy Mackey

- Hewett Fork, West Branch, East Branch, Little Raccoon Creek
 - Others to come as AEP study gets underway
 - Middle Basin in 2011
 - OEPA and ODNR-DMRM will do fish sites in RC (TBD at later date)

10. New Business / Announcements

- Send wader pictures to Mitch for SEOWC calendar
- OMP meeting May 6th, Leading Creek, must register by April 30th
- 2010 Joint Mining Reclamation Conference June 5-11, Pittsburg
- NAAMLIP call for papers, Natalie, Jen, and Amy will submit