

**Raccoon Creek Forum Meeting**  
Technical Advisory Committee of the Raccoon Creek Partnership  
April 2, 2008

In attendance: Mary Ann Borch – ODNR-DMRM, Barb Flowers - ODNR-DMRM, Amy Mackey – ODNR-MRM intern, Constance White – ODNR DSWC, Mitch Farley – ODNR-DMRM, John Kellis – Ohio Valley RC&D, Jen Bowman – OU Voinovich School, and Ben McCament – OU Voinovich School

Time: 9:00 am

Location: Voinovich School, The Ridges, Bldg 22

**1. Review January 2, 2008 minutes / Updates**

- Monitoring plans for RCH, MBRC, and LRC were drafted and submitted to DMRM. Monitoring plans, as well as year end progress reports and data interpretation, are now required for all watersheds.
- New Raccoon Creek Website is up and running ([www.raccooncreek.org](http://www.raccooncreek.org)). It will be maintained by Ben and Amy. Need to add links to partnering agencies (Soil and Water Districts, NRCS, ODNR, etc). Any suggestions or info that you wish to add can be sent to Ben or Amy.
- OEEF grant was submitted by OSU Extension and drafted by Jen, Jerry Iles, and Heike Perko. It appears that this proposal will not be funded but can be re-submitted in July with feedback on improving the grant from OEEF reviewers. Grant money (\$50,000) would be used at the Waterloo Aquatic Education Center for staff, equipment (datasonde on Hewett Fork), and education. Dennis Clement and Michelle Morone could be helpful when reapplying.

**2. AMD Project Implementation Planning / Grant Opportunities**

- 3 priority projects are Trace Run – Kennard Seep, West Branch – Harble Griffith, and Flint Run – Lake Latrobe.
  - Lake Latrobe needs more recon (no lab data since the late 1990s). Water in lake has pH of 5.5, decreases to 3.5 after flowing through spoil dam. Plan is to remove the dam and enhance the existing wetland.
  - Mary Ann is monitoring Trace Run and will enter her results into the Raccoon Creek ArcIMS database. There are 2 potential clean water sources to feed a steel slag bed at this site. Need to contact surrounding landowners, Amy will go to Hocking County Courthouse to view plat maps.
  - West branch has been sampled at low flow (last year) and high flow (this spring). Samples were net acidic with high aluminum concentrations. The plan is to reclaim the strip pits contributing acidity and metals to west branch.
- Primary goal for 2008 is to collect more data at all 3 sites.

- Mapping of project areas has been ordered through ODNR, the contract should be going out soon. Results should be available this summer.
- \$200,000 in EPA Section 319 grant funding will be available for each of the 4 districts, with a \$100,000 maximum award. The grant requires no match. Could possibly be used to fund one of the 3 priority project mentioned above.
- Need to get cost estimates and conceptual / preliminary designs for the 3 projects as soon as possible – choose one project for this fall 319 application.
- Vinton SWCD, OSU Extension, Voinovich School, and OhioValley RC&D are able to apply for 319 grants this fall or in 2009.
- East Branch Phase 2 design is at 90%. DMRM will complete the design and will fund the project. Currently planned to construct in 2009 if adequate funds are available through MRM.
- EPA staff will conduct monitoring at projects sites funded by 319 grants.
- John Kellis has suggested further study into headwaters and sediment loads to protect and enhance downstream projects. Issues to consider would be land use, sediment control, riparian restoration, Wildlife Habitat Improvement Projects (WHIP), and easements. Possible grant opportunities to enhance habitat or decrease sediment.

### **3. RC Water Quality Specialist Proposal**

- Ben met with VSWCD board to develop a proposal for MRM requesting assistance to fund a water quality specialist position to assist with RC monitoring. The position would likely be housed at VSWCD and would be funded by several agencies:
  - ODNR-DMRM \$18,000 (\$16,000 salary, \$2,000 mileage, etc)
  - USFS, verbal commitment of \$10,000 for monitoring of projects on USFS land.
  - OU Voinovich School, Pierce Run Grant \$4,000
  - VSWCD could supply office space, equipment and possibly a vehicle.
  - RCP and board member Mike Schooley could contribute up to \$1,000.
- The proposal was submitted last week to MRM.
- Vinton SWCD is concerned about funding to cover potential unemployment. Several possibilities were discussed:
  - Constance suggested that Ben discuss the possibility Bill Nose, Vinton Board Chairman, to see if the Program Assistance Grants could be available to protect all VSWCD employees. Also may be able to acquire donations from conservation clubs in Athens and Gallia Counties.
  - John suggested that the position could be employed by a nonprofit agency (like RC&D or the RCP) who are exempt from paying unemployment as a public charity. The position could still be housed at Vinton SWCD and utilize equipment, office space, etc...
- Mitch needs a signed cover letter to accompany the proposal and the “Cooperative Project/Grant – Scope of Work” filled out.

### **4. Action Plan Update**

- The Headwaters plan was submitted and has been returned with several minor comments. Ben is addressing them and plans to complete the plan within the month.

## **5. AMD Project Updates**

- Flint Run and Lake Milton project discharges presently have pH readings of in the 4 – 5 range which is below expected treatment levels. There are problems with several of the valves, Barb and Scott Hindall of MRM plan to address this problem. Mead also has bypro available for the site. Mitch would like this site to be a priority and MRM is willing to provide support to remedy the situation.
- East Branch Phase 1 is completed and is in its one-year maintenance period. The significant spring rains have caused 2 structures to overtop. Also, the slotted pipes in the SLBs seem to be clogged as the discharge from the beds is very low. MRM will provide funding to fix this problem this summer if valves need replaced. Several suggestions / solutions:
  - Use a snake, buckets of water, or high pressure flush with trash pump or air compressor to remove fine debris from the pipes.
  - Agri-drains may be oxygenating the water and allowing the calcite to precipitate out, clogging the agri-drain. May need to replace agri-drains with valved straight pipes.

## **6. Pierce Run 319 AMD project update**

- There was a preliminary design meeting with MRM, Ohio University, & ATC Associates held on March 25<sup>th</sup>. ATC proposed 9 options/alternative designs for the project. The design team decided to pursue the steel slag leach bed option using a clean up water tributary (PR0150). Additionally, the existing wetland will be utilized to increase residence time through small berms channelization to prevent short circuiting. Two limestone berms, similar to Mulga Run, will also be installed in the floodplain/wetland area near Radcliff for metal precipitate storage.

## **7. Announcements / New Business**

- Upcoming conferences:
  - 16<sup>th</sup> annual NPS Monitoring Conference will be held in Columbus in September.
  - National Ground Water Association Conference will be held in Denver in October. Mary Ann will be presenting on the Meigs Mine Pool. Jen, Kelly, Ben, and Mitch will be submitting a manuscript on Little Raccoon Creek with Jen presenting.
- Ben and Jen have been assisting Chris Yoder with a USEPA project regarding incremental changes in chemistry and biology as a result of the implementation of Best Management Practices. These changes show significant improvement without necessarily moving a reach from non-attaining to attaining warm water habitat. Ben and Jen have been supplying

data from Huff Run, Monday Creek Dosers, Little Raccoon Creek, and Hewett Fork.

- Ben Lewis, a student from the Wellston middle school, completed a science fair project comparing FGD to SLB. He conducted bench tests on both, scored “superior”, and will be presenting his project at the state level. We will highlight the project on the RC website.
- Constance will be coordinating annual reviews of all watersheds in May for DSWC.

**Next Meeting: July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2008 at Voinovich School, Building 22**