

Raccoon Creek Forum Meeting

Technical Advisory Committee of the Raccoon Creek Partnership

July 9, 2008

In attendance: Mary Ann Borch – ODNR-DMRM, Barb Flowers - ODNR-DMRM, Amy Mackey – OU Voinovich School, Constance White – ODNR DSWC, Jeff Calhoun – ODNR-DMRM Intern, John Kellis – Ohio Valley RC&D, Jen Bowman – OU Voinovich School, Ben McCament – OU Voinovich School, Rocky McNickle – RCP Board, Scott Schell – RCP Board, Dan Imhoff – OEPA-DSW

Time: 9:00 am

Location: Voinovich School, The Ridges, Bldg 22

1. Reviewed and Approved April 2, 2008 minutes

2. Raccoon Creek Partnership Update

- Waterloo Aquatic Education Center
 - Lease has been signed by RCP and returned to ODNR-DOW (waiting on their signatures) and insurance is available as soon as lease is signed. Presently only liability on the building, more coverage (possibly event insurance) can be added as needed.
 - The OEEF grant has been postponed due to time constraints and the loss of our sponsor (OSU extension will not be able to sponsor as they are already applying for an OEEF grant). ILGARD may be able to sponsor the grant in the future but needs further discussion.
 - Athens Foundation awarded a grant of \$2,080 to the center which will cover paint for the building, as well as propane and drinking water for one year.
 - ODNR-DOW awarded RCP a \$10,000 grant to purchase aquatic education equipment.
 - Waterloo Committee Meeting July 17th, 6:00 p.m. at the Center to discuss future plans (equipment, curriculum, programs, etc.). Everyone is welcome to participate.
- Primary RCP fundraiser for 2008 will be a Poker Run. The event is scheduled for September 27th (we will need help if anyone is interested!!) and will cover 104 miles throughout the watershed (Vinton and Gallia Counties). Jeff is working on a webpage for the event and flyers will soon be available. Jen mentioned possibly getting a large sign advertising the Poker Run.
- RCP Annual Meeting will be October 18th at Waterloo.
- Membership renewal forms will be sent out this month (Membership Committee). RCP presently has around 70 members, most are individuals.

3. RC Water Quality Specialist Proposal

- Ohio Valley RC&D received the contract and it was signed by the council, now waiting on Director's signature at ODNR.
- Employee will be housed primarily at Vinton SWCD, with the option of being stationed at Waterloo 1-2 days per week. Ben McCament, RC Coordinator, will supervise the position.
- USFS has committed funding to support the position but will not be able to finalize until after October (beginning of the USFS fiscal year)
- The one-year position is scheduled to start August 1st (awaiting approval from DMRM and Voinovich School).

- A final job description needs to be complete before August.

4. Water Quality Monitoring Update

- From January to June 2008, RCP has collected ~100 samples throughout the Little Raccoon Creek, Middle Basin, and Headwaters sections of the watershed. These samples included Pierce Run (Middle Basin) EPA 319 baseline data, Headwaters, Hewett Fork, and Little Raccoon Creek Long Term Monitoring.
- Mulga Run (completed 2003) still needs to be sampled for post construction analysis.
- All data is available at www.watersheddata.com.
- Little Raccoon Creek data will be analyzed and typed up in a manuscript in August for an October conference in Denver, CO for a joint NGWA and EPA abandoned mine lands conference.
- Mary Ann has been sampling Trace Run, a future project site in the Headwaters, and Middleton Run (completed December 2006) in Little Raccoon Creek.
 - Trace Run – located in Zaleski State Forest off of SR 56, drains into Hewett Fork. Carbondale Doser is capable of neutralizing the acidity in HF from the Carbondale Mine and Carbondale Creek but not Trace Run (Kennard Seep, underground mine). The plan is to use water from a clean tributary (64 acre drainage) near the seep to feed a steel slag bed that would generate alkalinity to buffer Trace Run acidity.
 - Middleton Run – Treatment consists of a clean water pond draining through a Limestone Channel lined with steel slag and reclaim (vegetation is doing well). During the first sampling event the clean water pond treatment was not discharging, which documented a spike in acidity. When system was discharging, the mouth of Middleton Run showed increase in alkalinity.

5. Future AMD Projects

- Orland Gob Pile – West Branch, Vinton County. Gob pile reclamation.
 - Concerned neighbors have been visiting the prosecutor's office monthly, convinced them to file the necessary paperwork to auction off the land so reclamation can move forward.
 - Huntley Trucking is willing to purchase the 7 acres of exposed gob when it is put up for public auction (property is landlocked and must be accessed through Huntley property).
 - A preliminary cost estimate was completed in 2001, DMRM engineers (Scott Hindal) are willing to update the estimate as it is listed as a priority site in the AMDAT.
 - Possibility of OSM funding available.
- Harble-Griffith Rd. – West Branch and Brushy Creek (Hocking County). Gob pile reclamation and drain 10 strip pits.
 - All landowners are cooperative.
 - Seeps from the area draining the pits have been sampled, low iron very high (30-40 mg/l) aluminum concentrations, pH 3-4. More sampling to be conducted this summer.
 - Challenge with reclaim will be finding adequate top soil for reclamation, possibly available on sides of gob piles.
 - May be able to harvest pines that were planted on the spoil.
 - Jen suggested draining the pits and leaving the vegetated gob undisturbed.

- Mapping has been ordered (DMRM) should be available by August.
- Kelly Capuzzi (OEPA) conducted fish sampling upstream and downstream of this area on West Branch, will report data when available.
- West Branch has fairly good habitat, therefore completing Orland and Harble-Griffith AMD projects could have a significant impact on recovery in West Branch.
- Lake Latrobe – Little Raccoon Creek, Flint Run, Jackson County. Strip Pit
 - Sampled once in winter. Water in lake has pH of 5, then filters through the spoil dam, exiting on the other side (to Flint Run) with a pH of 3.
 - Plan is to remove the spoil dam and drain the pit.
 - There is an established wetland downstream of the lake that has potential for metal storage. Also may be able to create a wetland in the drained pit.

6. Pierce Run 319 AMD project update

- Located in the Middle Basin along SR 160. Oreton Seep (underground mine discharge) accounts for 90% of the acidity of Pierce Run.
- Originally planned to use a pond from the active Waterloo Coal mine for a slag bed but are not able to disturb the pond as it is on a permitted site. Working with ATC to develop a design. Now planning to use water from a clean water tributary to feed a steel slag bed that will discharge alkaline water directly into Pierce Run to neutralize acid from the Oreton Seep. Mapping was extended to cover this newly added area.
- The final design should be completed by late fall.
- Barb met with archaeologist Jeff Brown to visit the site. There were no clearance issues but he would like to revisit in the fall.
- Rocky mentioned several AMD sites off of SR 324 but they drain reclaimed land from a post law site. Not clear what can be done at sites with released bonds.
 - Discussion on the need to let administrators at ODNR that mining sites that have bond released but still cause significant water quality issues need addressed. Currently these sites fall between the cracks because they are neither abandoned sites or fall under regulatory jurisdiction.
 - Possibly put together a presentation outlining the problem, effected sites, and the impacts to the watershed.

7. AMD Project Updates

- East Branch Phase I
 - RCP, DMRM, and ATC representatives met on July 8, 2008 to conduct maintenance on slag beds (not discharging properly). Pipes and clean-outs were snaked which doubled the outflow from the bed. Still unsure of the cause of the low discharge (calcite was built up on stop logs of Agri-drain). One pond also has a hard layer of calcite on top of the slag that may be impeding flow.
 - Arranging for contractor to return to several sites to complete embankment and vegetation problems that occurred over the winter.
- Flint Run
 - This spring the Flint Run East SLB was not discharging, it has been fixed.
 - Flow from Flint Run East and Lake Milton beds was increased due to high amounts of rainfall.

- Project Maintenance – Barb is researching the replacement of several faulty valves and options for cleaning out the channel at the Carbondale Doser. Material will be buried on the site. Dan mentioned the possibility of utilizing the alkaline material. Needs to be analyzed for any hazards, can be done at OEPA lab.

8. RC Headwaters Action Plan

- Ben addressed the comments that were suggested. The plan has been endorsed by the Vinton SWCD and is being reviewed by Hocking SWCD and the RCP for endorsement. Once endorsed, it can be submitted for final approval. The plan is available for review at <http://www.raccooncreek.org/RaccoonCreekManagementPlan.aspx>.
- Ben is currently working on the 2nd of the 5 plans; Hewett Fork to Elk Fork.

9. Watershed Coordinator Annual Review

- Ben is in the second year of a 3 year Implementation Grant (expires Dec 2009). Annual review was conducted by Constance White this spring.
- Constance is meeting with Greg Nageotte today to discuss the future of the Coordinator Grant. A simpler version of the Action Plan is needed to allow for more time implementing projects, less on planning.
- The Raccoon Creek Coordinator position is funded by the Division of Soil and Water, MRM, and OEPA with a 40% match by the Voinovich School.
- 2008 review will be conducted in February or March of 2009.

10. Excellent Creek Protection

- Unnamed tributary to Carbondale Creek (severely AMD impacted) in Zaleski State Forest property that was identified and sampled by Jim Grow at OEPA several years back.
- Excellent Creek is a high quality headwaters stream. Spring salamanders, indicators of Class III headwaters streams, were found here in June.
- The RCP would like to discuss the protection of this site (and others like it) by Zaleski, including restricted logging, mining, etc.
- IBI results are not useful, as fish populations in headwaters streams are minimal. An HHEI survey should be completed to evaluate the stream based on habitat, larval salamanders, and macroinvertebrates. Possibly set up HHEI training in the area?

11. New Business

- October 21-22 OMP Conference will be in St. Clairsville
- August 1-2 Ohio River Watershed Summit Conference at Greenbo State Park, Greenup Kentucky. Registration is \$25 by July 21st or \$45 after July 21st.
- Sept 15-18 (?) 16th Annual NPS Monitoring Conference in Columbus. Ben and Jen are presenting.
- October 2-3 National Groundwater Conference in Denver, Colorado. Little Raccoon Creek paper submission with Jen presenting.
- Watersheds are conducting MAIS sampling at Long Term Monitoring sites through July.

Next Meeting: October 15, 2008 at Voinovich School, Building 22, 9:00 a.m.

