

Raccoon Creek Forum Meeting
Technical Advisory Committee of the Raccoon Creek Partnership
5-9-07

In attendance: Mary Ann Borch – ODNR-DMRM, Jerry Iles - OSU Extension, Barb Flowers - ODNR-DMRM, Jen Bowman - OU Voinovich School, Brett Laverty – Vinton SWCD, and Ben McCament – OU Voinovich School

Time: 9:00 am

Location: Voinovich School, The Ridges, Bldg 22

Greeting and introductions

1 – Role of RC Forum within the Raccoon Creek Partnership

- Ben reviewed the formation of the Raccoon Creek Partnership, which became formal in February of 2006 with the adoption of bylaws.
- Raccoon Creek Forum meetings will serve as the technical advisory committee of the Raccoon Creek Partnership, as it has in the past, only in a more formal way.
- Brett Laverty, interim board member, was nominated and accepted the position of chairperson of the RC Forum by the board. According to RCP bylaws the chairperson of the RC Forum committee is elected from the RCP board.
- Discussion related to the role of the RC Forum as a more technical advisory group and will only deal with technical issues: Need to set goals RC Forum, create list of people to invite to be active in Forum, set agenda and priorities for research, plan future AMD projects, other water quality projects, assess progress of AMD treatment, etc...

2 – Reviewed 2006 monitoring plans for Little Raccoon Creek, Headwaters, and Middle Basin

- Discussion related to grab samples and collecting filtered vs. non-filtered samples.
 - Brett reported taking filtered samples since the syringe filters make it easier to filter; only filters metals bottle not cubitainer; no non-filtered metals bottle is collected with filtered
 - Ben and Mary Ann reported collecting mostly non-filtered unless turbid, then collects filtered and non-filtered metals bottle
 - Brett reported difference in filtered vs. non-filtered cubitainer sample at treatment sites such as Carbondale doser.
 - Group decided that this is an important topic, for RC and other watershed groups, that needs further guidance.
 - Conclusion: RC personnel will collect filtered and non-filtered at LTM sites (metals bottle only) for upcoming year to compare differences and to make decision about future filtering vs. non-filtering. Also, cubitainer should be filtered at extremely high alkaline treatment sites such as SLB discharges or the Carbondale doser (do both filtered vs. non-filtered).

Issue of cost for both filtered and non –filtered was discussed and Barb noted that good quality data is more important than cost to DMRM at this point.

- EPA collects totals (nonfiltered) when doing a TMDL.
- LRC Monitoring plan review
 - Agreed upon quarterly LTM chemical sampling at 14 stations (8 mainstem and 6 AMD tribs).
 - Kelly Capuzzi and Ben plan to do fish monitoring at all 8 sites in 2007 if possible; 4 sites were collected in 2006
 - Will collect macroinvertebrate samples at all mainstem sites (MAIS) with MBI doing taxonomy.
 - Lake Milton and Flint Run East monitoring need to be continued quarterly to evaluate project effectiveness.
- Middle Basin RC monitoring plan review
 - Four mainstem sites were sampled for fish and macro's (MAIS) last year as part of NPS project; no need to resample this year.
 - Chemical LTM monitoring will be twice in 2007 and quarterly after construction of Pierce Run AMD project
 - Pierce Run project should start in July – monthly monitoring in Pierce Run to document pre-treatment conditions through second half of 2007 (7 sites).
- RCH monitoring plan review
 - Continuance of quarterly LTM chemical monitoring is recommended.
 - Fish and macro's should have been collected in 2006 as part of NPS project.
 - Hewett Fork quarterly LTM is recommended in 2007. Need to work up data from last three years (biological and chemical for paper/presentation).
 - Hewett Fork fish will again be collected by ODNR Division of Wildlife (Mike Greenlee) and macro's through the NPS project (MAIS)
 - East Branch monitoring is on hold until Phase I is complete. Post-construction monitoring can begin possibly late fall / early winter depending on construction completion date.
 - Ben reported needing to do round of high flow sampling in West Branch near Ilesboro to compliment Mike Schooley's volunteer monitoring field data.
 - Brett reported on collecting field acidity, datasonde data, and flows in Brushy Creek tributaries to further recon area for alternative treatment sites.

3 – ODNR summer internship opportunity

- Mitch Farley is hiring summer intern at ODNR-DMRM to assist with monitoring for the Raccoon Creek Partnership, DMRM staff, and other local watershed

groups. The Voinovich School will serve as the home base for the intern (yet to be determined) and Ben will coordinate work schedule for RC and other projects.

- Need to create calendar to schedule field activities for summer and also create list of projects to work on for non field days. If someone schedules the intern for the day for field work and field is cancelled they are still responsible for intern work that day. Need to notify other groups and work out schedule soon.

4 – Meadow Run study update

- Ben reported on Meadow Run bacteria study underway now. It is a joint effort between the Jackson County Health Department and Voinovich School (RCP). Lynn Holtzman, OU grad student, is doing sampling after he was trained by Ben and Jackson County department is paying for sample analysis for E. Coli and Fecal Coliform. Five samples will be collected within the month of May at five sites to compare to Ohio PA water quality criterion. Final report will be sent to interested parties including Wellston City Council and landowner who initiated study with complaint to Health Department and RCP.

5 – AMD project review

- Barb – beavers are being trapped in pond vicinity in Buckeye Furnace AMD treatment area.
- Ben – Flint Run East flume was reinstalled last week by Berridge Reclamation. Lake Milton valve has not been fixed by Stockmeister as of this date, flow through SLB is 200 gpm and needs to be adjusted down to about 100 gpm over the summer to avoid dewatering Lake Milton again.
- Barb – still waiting on East Branch Phase I construction contract to be mailed as of this date. Construction will begin soon.....

Next Meeting: August 1st, 2007