

Raccoon Creek TAC Meeting Minutes

August 14, 2013

Ohio University, Voinovich School, Building 22, Room 214

Attendees: Sarah Landers (Ohio Valley RC&D/RCP), Amy Mackey (OU Voinovich School/RCP), Kaabe Shaw (ODNR-DMRM), Ben McCament (ODNR-DMRM), Natalie Kruse (OU Voinovich School/RCP), Alie Hermanutz (ODNR-DMRM Summer Intern), Jerry Iles (Ohio State University Extension)

Minutes taken by: Sarah Landers & Alie Hermanutz

ACTION Items UNDERLINED

Agenda Item Number 1: Begin Meeting, Welcome, Introductions

Agenda Item Number 2: Review/Approve May Minutes

Sarah misplaced the minutes during one of many moves and they will be sent out with the minutes from this month's meeting.

OWLs Conference (added to agenda)- Jerry Iles

There are 21 individuals registered for the conference at this time. Amy added that all of the new AmeriCorps members will be registering. Jerry also mentioned that there were lots of new people registering including EPA employees from the central office that had not been to previous conferences. Ohio University vans were reserved by Amy and ODNR secured vans for the other tours. Jerry also talked about the new change to the watershed coordinator program. Greg Nageotte, who administers the watershed coordinator program, is going to talk at the OWLs conference about the changes. The Ohio EPA is cutting funding to the program and current coordinator grants will be completed, but after this cycle ends there will no longer be coordinator grants for watersheds supported by these 319 funds. More funds will be available for implementation funding for projects, but not for coordinators. The coordinator positions supported by other entities (ODNR Mineral Resource Management, Division of Wildlife) will continue.

Back to planning the OWLs conference; Ben will invite the Division Chief and see if he is available to do an opening in the morning of the conference. Kaabe made a path to the strip pit in the un-reclaimed area across from the Harble Griffith reclaim that will be part of the project tour. Jerry Iles will be leading the Hope Clay portion of the Raccoon Creek tour.

Agenda Item Number 3: Watershed Coordinator Updates – Amy Mackey

The Raccoon Creek Water Quality Specialist contract was renewed.

MAIS (macroinvertebrate collection) is still underway, with 11 sites along the mainstem of Little Raccoon Creek and Raccoon Creek remaining. Ben interjected and asked Amy if she had noticed anything about our MAIS bug collection this year because Chad Kinney noticed that he might be collecting fewer macroinvertebrates than in previous years. Could water might have washed away the macros? Amy brought up that the last year (2012) was a

drought year and this year there was rain and that the seasonal variability is why we conduct MAIS at multiple sites year after year. Raccoon Creek MAIS usually gets done in July, so this year the data could be interesting since it is August and not yet complete. The next nice day forecast, Raccoon Creek crew will be calling everyone to help to try to get sites done for the year.

As for fish in 2012, we found fish at the mouth of Little Raccoon Creek and the Keystone Furnace Gage on Little Raccoon Creek that might be new records. Amy needs to sit down to compare previous years to know for sure. The data might be difficult to compare in some ways because there were issues with sediment plumes, turbid water, etc. Last year a shorthead redhorse was caught at the Keystone Gage, but not during the first pass in 2013. There are 12 total fish sites slated for 2013 and 2 down and 10 to go for first passes.

The 2012-13 AmeriCorps members, Rebekah and Darcy have left. Darcy went to graduate school to obtain her Master's degree in Environmental Science at the University of Arizona in Phoenix and Rebekah is doing a second year of AmeriCorps at the SHADOW Bog near Seattle Washington with the intention to attend Evergreen State College for her Master's degree in 2014.

Agenda Item Number 9: New NPS Site – Amy Mackey, Jen Bowman

The new NPS website has the test site up and running and Amy brought it up on a computer to show the group. Ben talked about a statewide roll-out and the possibility now for inclusion of other watersheds (including non-AMD). Natalie took the group on a tour of the NPS site which included an info sheet on each watershed, photos, places for surface water and ground water data to be entered, as well as georeferences river mile maps. There will be a training on the new system. Jerry asked what key pollutants were included and Natalie displayed a list of 150 different pollutants, including those used for organic analysis. Jen Bowman is presenting the NPS website at the National Monitoring Conference in Cleveland in September. AEP funding was used to expand this project so that the capability was added so that other watersheds can be added. Jen talked some about funding and the idea of a maintenance fee to help cover support hours because this work does need some extra funding for helping additional watersheds. ODNR provides support funding for the AMD watersheds and possibly well funded watersheds could pay a maintenance fee.

Back to Amy's Coordinator Update, the 2013-14 AmeriCorps members began their term and will be visiting the office on Thursday. Rand Romas, and Kaylee Moser are Ohio University graduates and were students of Molly Gurien. This year we were a little nervous about the applicant pool during the application period, but are confident about our decision this year. Earlier in the week Amy and Alie went to the Rural Action orientation and Nate with Monday Creek did a presentation and covered most of the watershed work and next year all the watersheds will do one presentation together.

October 26th Raccoon Creek Partnership will have a display and information at ROAR (Rural Ohio Appalachia Revisited). The OMP conference is Oct 15th & 16th at Burr Oak and Raccoon Creek crew is attending. The RCP Annual Dinner is going to be October 13th or 20th. And September 28th Raccoon Creek will have a display and be doing a fish shocking demo at the Gallia County Farm City Field Day.

Ben added that Sept 22nd – 25th in West Virginia is the National Association of Abandoned Mineland Program conference (NAAML). There is some MRM staff attending since the

conference will be in Ohio in 2014. They need topics that have a broad perspective and the conference is not about AMD entirely.

Amy added that another date to note is the 2014 Fish and Wildlife Management Conference will be January 31st in Columbus. This is primarily a student based conference and we advertise Intern and AmeriCorps member positions here every year. The theme of the conference in 2014 is Recovery and Jeff and Amy may put together a presentation.

-End Coordinator Report-

Agenda Item Number 4: RC Water Quality Specialist Updates & 2013 Monitoring Plans – Sarah Landers

WQS 2 Year Report

Semi-annual Report completed for Jan-June 2013. Ben asked that Raccoon and Monday Creeks find a way to get together and make their reports similar. Amy added that the reports could compare to the Watershed Coordinator report format.

For 2 year WQS report Sarah asked Ben if bulleted points fine for each category and they are just fine.

Ohio Valley RC&D

National Spotlight Article. Sarah showed the group an article written by John Kellis, Director of Ohio Valley RC&D talking about watershed management and Raccoon Creek recovery. Sarah has requested RC&D to review and update supply budget and mileage (RCP pays for supplies for WQS and has been paying about \$300 per year that Sarah has gone over in mileage the last 2 years).

Sarah asked ODNR about how to pay for supplies needed to maintain the Carbondale Doser (like chain and cable lube). Sarah will request those items directly from Kaabe and ODNR will purchase them for the doser.

Vinton Co SWCD Annual Dinner

September 26th at Lake Hope Lodge – Raccoon Creek WQS will give presentation.

2012 Data Analysis (Darcy & Rebekah started this project)

Graphs completed for:

- East Branch (I, II, III)
- West Branch (Orland, Harble Griffith)
- Hewett Fork
- Elk Fork
- Middleton Run Mass Balance (6/4/12)
- Mulga (JMAR)

Chemical Sampling

Sarah showed the dynamic tables – which are mostly on schedule – need low flow for long term monitoring events. There were 36 sampling events for projects & long term monitoring as of August 2013. As of June 30th 2013 - 259 sampling event sites managed at 131 individual locations; during a total of 24 days.

Project Maintenance

Updated maintenance plan to reflect current maintenance being conducted – most valves have been exercised (EB II remain).

Agridrains

- What about general agridrain exercising (Kaabe?) – need grease?
- Still need to exercise all agridrains in watershed (Pierce, Lake Milton, EB I)

Kaabe responded that grease on the edge of the agridrains would be helpful and that silicone grease might work well. If the drains are seized then possibly dumping acidic water down the drains would help.

Carbondale Doser

Raccoon Creek WQS (SL): Took over maintenance 7/4/13

Ditch by doser housing needs to be cleared out (Property owned by Zaleski State Forest (Tom Shuman? – SL or KS contact?))

Culvert under Carbondale Rd needs cleaned out – tennis ball attached to rope to start with

Pierce Run

Tree over Road at truck pull-off

Mulga Run

JMAR side - 7/11/13 – left pipe is clogging, valve is seizing, and needs snaked.

Lincoln Pit Side (SLB presently abandoned, SLB outlet under water) – Karst - 7/11/13

-End WQS Report-

Agenda Item Number 5: 2013-2015 WQS Contract – Ben McCament, Amy Mackey

The contract is to begin on July 1st, 2013 and was approved. We'll go over agreements once they go through and the scope of work is up us to do. Sarah is to ask Ohio Valley RC&D to copy her on the invoices. For the Ohio University portion of the contract Jen and Natalie will show Sarah a spreadsheet for hours.

Agenda Item Number 6: Current and Upcoming AMD Project Updates (Including ODOT Mitigation) – ODNR and All

A total of three Office of Surface Mining grants were written and submitted jointly by Raccoon Creek, ODNR, and Ohio Valley RC&D. ODNR doesn't have cooperative agreements with RC&D set up yet for these. The OSM grant for Middleton run has not yet been awarded. Kaabe mentioned double checking the Flint Run Wetland Berms project OSM deadline to make sure it is 2014 instead of 2013. The Army Corps of Engineers permit has next year's date on it and is a 2 year grant.

ODNR has a list of pending contracts and are putting priorities through. Around \$300,000 per year is spent on AmeriCorps, Internships, WQS, and USGS gage stations.

This week the Lake Morrow and Middleton Run projects are to begin and the contractor will start pumping water out of Lake Morrow. They are not treating the water, because the water in Lake Morrow is better quality than that of the receiving tributary. The water is

being pumped into the wetland downstream of Flint Run projects and down a rock channel. The contractor for Lake Morrow is Environmental Restoration Contractors and the contractor for Middleton Run Reclamation is Red Malcuit Inc.

The ODOT/Rich Run mitigation project, if approved, would allocate \$300,000 from ODOT and will be applied to the cost of the Middleton Run Reclamation Project (which has around a 1.2 million dollar price tag). This is because Rich Run, which was the tributary directly impacted by ODNT isn't a priority watershed for remediation.

For the Middleton Run Project the acid is to be reduced by a certain amount, possibly 60 mg/l. There will be 3-5 years of post-construction monitoring required. There is no necessary biological component to the post-construction sampling.

For the Flint Run Wetland Berms project that will begin in 2014, to stop the water flowing into the wetland to do construction on the berms, Dam-it Dams devices will be used to hold back water. This project is looking to begin in the summer of 2014.

Ilesboro Road Reclamation could take place in 2015. Amy is to wait on putting together the OSM grant for this project. In spring 2012, some Recon took place along Ilesboro Rd and in spring 2013 up on the ridge on Mr. Bolton's property. More recon needs to take place and chemical samples taken during leaf-off in the fall of 2013. This project could get expensive and some alternative reclamation strategies will need put together. This area could have double the acreage of Middleton Run. We'll need some post rain event sampling too. Natalie will check to see if there is an Ohio University Master in Environmental Studies student that would be interested in using this for their Leadership Project.

Agenda Item Number 7: Watershed Management Funding – Ben McCament

ODNR is anticipating long term budget funding changes (presently at peak levels). We are doing many projects (in all watersheds) currently and expect to do fewer projects in the future. We have spent the last 7-8 years doing as much as possible and in 3-5 years watershed management will look different. Ben has been brainstorming with Michelle Decker (Rural Action), Jen Bowman (OU), Greg Nageotte (ODNR Watershed Coordinator Program Manager). The problem statement is that the way the programs are funded (thru ODNR-MRM and ODNR Division of Soil and Water) is not sustainable. Watersheds problems arise due to issues of scale (Raccoon Creek Watershed size: 683 sq. mi. / Huff Run Watershed Size: 15 sq. mi.). Monday Creek Watershed is running out of AMD projects to be constructed and is now onto maintenance projects. So, not just AMD, what is the next phase? Comprehensive Management. The idea is that it would be all publically funded and therefore, what are our other options for funding?

This is in the brainstorming phase. Is there a better approach? Should there be an Ohio River Unit? Or an Eastern Ohio Unit? Basin Grouping? Regional Strategy?

This process is being initiated and The Division Chief would meet with the other Chiefs to discuss. Ben asked the group if this approach makes sense? Ben can send some of these ideas out to the group. Natalie brought up the issues of the level of poverty in Appalachian Ohio being a limiting factor for public financial support.

Agenda Item Number 8: The Next 3 Years of Raccoon Creek – Kaabe Shaw and All

In the next 3-5 years in Raccoon Creek will have new project and maintenance projects. Kaabe Shaw shared a list and the group added some to the list during the TAC meeting (pasted below). This list will need to be matched up with Jeff Calhoun's priority list as well since it includes biological monitoring.

RCP Short Term AMD Projects and Monitoring

In planning out the next 3 to 5 years of AMD Projects, Reconnaissance, Maintenance and Monitoring the RCP TAC can begin the discussion of what lies ahead as our list of planned projects winds down. Perhaps there will be a break in projects while the biological data guides us towards the remaining strategic areas of concern. In the meantime, reconnaissance and maintenance can be conducted.

- 1) Projects:
 - Lake Morrow - 2013
 - Middleton Run - 2013
 - Flint Run Wetland - 2014
 - Illesboro Road - 2015
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- 2) Recon:
 - Daniels drainage
 - Hiram Road West Tributary
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- 3) Maintenance: Develop maint. Plans for ALL existing previous projects
 - EBRCII Northwood - DOP to Fix Scour on Embankment
 - Valve at JMAR SSLB
 - Slag replacement
 - SAPS maintenance
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- 4) Pre and Post project WQ monitoring
 - Seems adequate
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- 5) Bio - MAIS and Fish sufficient to cover project improvements within the appropriate time frame
 - Mulga - LRC0090 and LRC0080
 - Middleton and SR124 Seeps - LRC071 and LRC070
 - Flint Run - LRC0070 and LRC0060 or LRC0055
 - Buffer Run - LRC0055 and LRC0045

- Pierce Run – USACE Requires 5 yrs of MAIS and 2 yrs of Fish at 5 sites
- West Branch Headwaters – WB010 and MSBC010
- East Branch Headwaters – EB010 and MSBC010
- Hewett Fork –

The maintenance project for Buckeye Furnace/Buffer Run SAPS was not included in this list. This maintenance may not be completed. Kaabe and Mary Ann are currently studying the water quality improvements as a result of the reclamation compared to the improvements attributed to the SAPS. Another project to consider is the SR 50 gob pile that drains to Elk Fork, this is on state property. West Branch between Harble Griffith project and Orland Gob pile project was brought up as a potential place for recon. Ben added that he had done some recon there and that the source of AMD is probably from a tributary off of an old reclamation project.

In terms of maintenance, we need to develop detailed maintenance for individual projects. Ben will send out Sunday Creek's version. Kaabe has a list. As for post-construction sampling we have the strategy backwards since project performance declines over time and more frequent sampling later rather than earlier would be more beneficial.

Also East Branch Phase I, Site 7 is currently not discharging. Now is not the time to investigate, but in the fall. It was working great before the rehab project. This is the one along Sanner Rd with the private source pond.

Agenda Item Number 9: Addressed During Coordinator's Report

Agenda Item Number 10: New Business/Announcements

Natalie brought up some issues surrounding QA/QC when collecting chemical water quality samples. We are collecting duplicate samples every 10 samples, but are not running blanks. Should we do this? Ben acknowledged that we need to decide what makes sense and what is reasonable for QA/QC. We need to come up with a decision since some watersheds are running blanks and others are not.

The International Mine Water conference has a Good Samaritan Environmental Law policy and the USEPA is looking at doing the same thing for the United States and making it a national law. Pennsylvania and Ohio already have these.

Amy Mackey added a few dates from the AmeriCorps calendar for ODNR to be aware of. Ben informed the group that the Cambridge office has a new project officer (mike Gosnell) that filled Jeff Calhoun's position.

-Meeting ended around noon-

NEXT MEETING: WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20TH 9:00AM
THE RIDGES, BLDG 22, ROOM 214