

TAC Meeting Minutes

March 23rd, 2016

- **Previous Minutes**

- Previous minutes state that the pH of the seep has changed. It should read that the pH of the wetland has changed.

- **Watershed Coordinator Update**

- All of 2015 data has been entered
 - Except for fish data, Amy will be entering that for Jeff
- Mouth of Hewett Fork has an IBI score of 52
- MAIS sampling will begin as early as possible this year in hopes of completing all sites
 - Sampling late in the season produced poor scores in LRC, which were not representative of the actual health of the stream
- 2 new AmeriCorps members are needed for the 2016-2017 term

- **Water Quality Specialist Update**

- Chemical sampling QAQC has been completed for 2015
 - ODNR has approved it
- Raccoon Creek's study plan has been submitted
 - Will be able to share Fish and Chemical data with EPA during their TMDL
- AOCWI (Appalachian Ohio Clean Watershed Initiative) Spring projects
 - Agricultural, urban runoff, etc.
 - Plan to do storm drain stenciling in Nelsonville, Jackson, and other cities
 - They are looking to do storm drain stenciling anywhere in Appalachian Ohio coal bearing region
 - There will be an invasive species removal with Cody Hacker on April 30th near the Moonville tunnel
 - Meet at Hope School at 1pm if you plan to attend
 - Cody Hacker will help EPA reach out to landowners to gain permission for them to access the stream on their property
- The Boy scouts are looking to do a project around Zaleski
 - Sarah will be in contact with them
- Sarah is working to help produce maps that show the impairments present in different HUC 12s in coal bearing southeast Ohio
 - The maps will be mailed to different health departments

- The maps will help guide efforts to improve water and help find people that need the most financial help
- Will help decide who gets funds from HSTS

- **2016 Chemical Monitoring Plan**

- Broken up into 3 packets
 - Little Raccoon Creek, Headwaters, Middle Basin

	Headwaters	Middle Basin	LRC	Total
# of Sites	133	32	93	258
Cost	19,008	4,573	13,292	36,873
Days of sampling	14	4	14	32

- Pierce Run
 - 2017 will be the last year that it is sampled quarterly
 - Project is not currently working, but will continue to be monitored
 - It is currently being inadvertently treated by the mining in the area
- Sarah has been assessing the effectiveness of steel slag beds to decide when they need to have their slag replaced
- Jeff has entered all fish data into watersheddata.com
 - Except for the Hewett Fork data
- High flow is difficult to obtain due to floods in the watershed and most sites become inaccessible during high water events
 - High flow will be defined as when water levels rise above the median, low flow is when the water level is below the median

- **2016 Biological Monitoring Plan**

- MAIS
 - 45 sites planned for 2016 (2015 had 28 sites completed)
 - Late Little Raccoon Creek sampling produced lower MAIS scores than were actually representative of the creek's health.
 - Plan to start sampling for MAIS in mid-June
 - Little Raccoon Creek is the main focus, then West Branch
 - West Branch has not been sampled since the projects were put in
 - May need help from others to complete MAIS sampling this year
- FISH
 - 6 boat sites, 9 long-line sites
 - Many haven't been done since 2012

- West Branch sites have not been done since prior to the projects being put in
 - Little Raccoon Creek has 4 overlapping sites between RCP and the EPA, West Branch has 2 overlapping sampling sites
 - Jordan will have 6 crews to do 109 fish passes
 - The EPA will not do any fish sites in Flint run
 - They will do chemical sampling in Flint run
 - EPA will try to get to the overlapping sites, but if it seems as though they will not be able to complete them the EPA will have RCP sample the sites
- **Maintenance**
 - Every five years there is a large amount of maintenance
 - The projects have been organized on a tertiary system to focus on important successful projects, and to demonstrate that some projects should be dropped for now
 - Ben is currently setting aside money for maintenance
 - Maintenance will begin in 2017 and should not affect the TMDL
 - The doser was constructed in 2003 and needs maintenance
 - A portable doser will treat Hewett Fork during the maintenance
 - When the EPA writes the TMDL they should be sure to incorporate the information about the projects and maintenance
 - It is important to know and inform people that we can't fix every stream and tributary
 - Sarah has created a maintenance sheet to track maintenance for all projects
 - It will be added to the manual
 - The 2nd entrance to Flint Run has been gated, Kaabe will get a lock so RC can enter
 - Sarah needs more NAPA chain lube
 - The rubber mat at the Carbondale doser has been working well for now, but will be improved during the scheduled maintenance
 - The doser channel cleaning will take place in May
 - Monday creek has purchased a power snake, Kaabe will look into getting an extender for RCP to use on their projects
 - RCP has received their money back from RC&D
- **AmeriCorps**
 - Education/outreach
 - Family Outdoors Day May 21st Noon-5pm
 - Waterloo Aquatic Education Center
 - Lots of events
 - Need volunteers
 - Organizations can present posters
 - Jen will have a student do the press releases
 - Summer Camps

- June and July (20th-24th and 18th-22nd respectively)
 - Camps are full already
 - Canoe Skills training
 - April 17th
- **New Business**
 - SWCDs in the Raccoon Creek Watershed have info about the TMDL
 - May 5th OMP meeting
 - April 2nd tree planting in McArthur
- **Next Meeting**
 - June 8th at 9am at the Voinovich School in Athens, Ohio