

Raccoon Creek Partnership
Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday February 23rd, 2011
Room 214, Building22, The Ridges

Attendance: Brian Blair, Rocky McNickle, Natalie Kruse, Dick Hogan, Monty Edwards, Kara Walton, Amber Brookins, Maddie Brookins, Amy Mackey, Molly Gurien

Treasurers Report (Amber Brookins): RCP general funds = \$5833.22; DOW grant = \$2071.32; RCWTA = \$1335.79; Total RCP Account as of 2/23/11 = \$9240.33

Fundraising Committee Report (Amber Brookins): A projected budget of \$120,000 a year is what needs to be generated to support the position of the Watershed Coordinator and Water Quality Specialist and to maintain the Waterloo Education programs. The following ideas for fundraising event are Pancake breakfast at Apple Bee's, a booth at the Athens Farmers Market, guided hiking trip through the Zaleski State Forest in conjunction with Outdoor Pursuits and a haunted hike at the Ridges. A white water rafting trip and a type of biathlon at Lake Hope. It was also suggested that the annual dinner be held at a new location. Suggested to have public meetings at different locations in the watershed.

Coordinator Report (Amy Mackey): got 5 new members from our holiday mailings, been working on SWIMS report (Soil & Water Information Management System) for ODNR. Had a meeting with ODNR about revising Little Raccoon Creek AMDAT plan. Finished all the grant reports on Peirce Run Project and working on the Harble Griffith grant now. Submitted an application with ODNR for a summer intern for 2011. Friday February 18, 2011, had biological sampling meeting with ODNR to determine what sites to sample this year. Sarah Landers (AmeriCorps volunteer) researched Ohio River Clean Sweep which is June 18th this yr. we can pick up trash from Raccoon Creek and areas of the creek to be cleaned needs to be submitted by next meeting. An e-mail will be sent out to members of RCP and RCWTA explaining and asking for volunteers.

Water Quality Specialist Report (Brian Blair): into the 2011 sampling schedule and finished the 2011 monitoring plan with ODNR at the January TAC meeting. Writing the Most Excellent Report on the watershed which is basically going over all the sampling sites in the watershed and all the data to determine if RCP is achieving it goal of improving the water quality of Raccoon Creek.

Waterloo Education Report & AmeriCorps Report (Kara Walton): Sara Landers e-mailed Jackie O's about a RCP benefit concert and haven't heard anything back and is going to follow up with another e-mail. Sara and Kara attended the Passport to Fishing seminar and now are certified to teach fishing. April 2nd is the apple grafting workshop at 9:00am and is limited to 25 people. RCP cost for the event is \$203.00 and the fee will be \$10.00 a person. The Retired & Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) needs a contact person of RCP for the 3 year commitment and Natalie Kruse agreed to be that person. Have 3 libraries committed to our 1 hour Environmental Education program, The Gallipolis Library – June 4th, 2pm; The Athens Library – July 7th, 1pm; The Albany Library – July 13th, 2pm; Sara & Kara are working on the Athens Foundation Grant which is due March 15th, 2011 in the amount of \$3,000.00 and the next Waterloo Education Committee meeting will be March 10th at Waterloo at 6:30pm. Need furnace repair info from Amber.

Water Trails (RCWTA) Report (Molly Gurien): will be attending the Annual Southeast Ohio Tourism Expo on March 5th in Rio Grande, Ohio and will be raffling our kayak there. April 22nd & 23rd RCWTA will be represented at Paddle Palooza at fair grounds in Columbus, Ohio. Spring Float will be Sunday, May 1st and will paddle from Zaleski to Hope School and the back up plan is Lake Hope. Will be at the Paw Paw Festival September 18th & 19th. The Fall Float is October 2nd and location hasn't been decided yet but will be in Gallia County. RCWTA will take part in Ohio River Clean Sweep and is looking at an area of Raccoon Creek up stream of State Route 218 in Gallia County.

Festivals / Summer Programming (All): Paw Paw Festival, Parade of the Hills (for 1 Afternoon), October 29 ROAR, Athens & Gallia County Fairs. Kara and Sarah will research costs and details and other possible events.

New Business / Announcements (All): Monte Edwards of Analytical Associates will be attending the OWEA (Ohio Water Environment Association) Legislation and Governmental Affairs Workshop in Columbus with the Director of EPA as the feature Speaker. Monte will be on the March meeting agenda updating RCP on the Workshop. Dick Hogan announced that March 20th is the start of Green Fire's seasonal festivals/gatherings/workshop and additional information will be sent out on the schedule of events.

**Next RCP Meeting – March 30, 2011
The Ridges, Building 22, Room 214**