

Raccoon Creek Partnership

Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday November 17th, 2010

Waterloo Aquatic Education Center

Attendance: Brian Blair, Rocky McNickle, Helmut Paschold, Nigel Daniels, Natalie Kruse, Heike Perko, Dick Hogan, Monty Edwards, Sarah Landers, Anita Frederick, Rob Wofter, Kara Walton, Amber Brookins, Amy Mackey

Note: There are not meeting minutes to review, as the last meeting was the annual dinner, and no minutes were taken.

Intro of New Board Member: At the annual dinner on October 17th, Helmut Paschold was elected on to the RCP board of directors. Helmut's background is in Industrial Health and Environmental Science. He is teaching environmental health and industrial hygiene at OU and will be teaching a water and wastewater course winter quarter. Helmut is eager to learn what's going on with RCP. Welcome aboard Helmut!

MPA Student Presentation (Rob Wofter): Rob is an OU MPA student working with RCP to develop a communications / marketing plan to increase public knowledge and participation in the Partnership. Rob completed the plan fall quarter and will work on implementation throughout the winter (and spring?) quarters. Rob delivered his final presentation at the meeting on Nov 17th, some of the goals of the project include:

- Creating 4 partnerships with similar local organizations
- Increasing the number of paid members to 100
- 5 positive press pieces about RCP
- Redesign and update RCP website (working with Taeil at OU Voinovich School)
- Increase active Facebookers to 25 (13 current)
- Have at least 5 non-board, non-staff at the May RCP board meeting

Please see Rob's complete plan for full project details! Thanks for all your hard work Rob and we look forward to seeing what happens next!

Treasurers Report (Amber Brookins): RCP general funds = \$5119.82, DOW grant = \$2070.74, RCWTA = \$1900.39.

- Recent purchases include good microscope for MAIS ID and more kids life vests. Possible items to purchase: waterproof camera, rubber fish for fish prints, replacement nets for D-nets. Any other ideas? Need to finish out the DOW grant.
- Need to look at RCWTA agreement to determine end of year treasurers procedures.
- Made \$513 profit on poker run and \$948 on the annual dinner
- October fundraising meeting review:
 - Discussed membership drive, another benefit concert, pancake breakfast at Applebees, bake sale (Dec 18th), Owl Prowl (Pat Q bring owls? – Heike will check), watershed in NW ohio adding \$0.01 to water bills to fund coordinator, maybe look into local electric companies?
 - Next meeting will be in December, will send email announcement.

Coordinator Update (Amy Mackey):

- Sent around a certificate for all to sign for Mike Schooley, board member since 2007 who has been an integral part of many RCP projects and successes. Mike, thanks for all your hard work and we will miss you! Agreed that Mike needs a Raccoon skin cap.
- Hocking College Wildlife students are in need of service learning projects (used to do deer check stations, and will no longer exist after this year). They would like to work with Raccoon Creek. Need project that 80-90 students can each work 4 hours every fall quarter. Possible ideas include: trash clean-up, tree planting, Carbondale doser clean-out, fall day camps, bluebird boxes, tree trail at WAEC. Send other ideas to Amy! This would start fall 2011.
- Pierce Run project is “complete” per 319 grant but is not holding water, dam will be modified with slurry wall next year. Post con tour will be Nov 23rd, all are invited. Will have to give post con funding back to EPA as it will not be completed in the grant timeline.
- New board member Helmut Paschold was given a copy of the RCP bylaws to read, sign, and return at the next meeting.
- Need to work on RCP strategic plan. It was decided that we would focus the Dec meeting on this.
- Fishing trip raffle winner was Nancy Carnes, we need to ship her the pole, etc, and she will get with Dan Imhoff in the spring to plan the fishing trip.
- Newspaper articles: 2 good articles in the paper, one in the Vinton County Courier about 2 field trips that we took VC HS students on in Sandy Run (macro and fish collection), and one in the Messenger and Logan Daily about a Carbondale tour.

Water Quality Specialist Update (Brian Blair):

- Vinton County Airport runway expansion project has been shut down until they can acquire the appropriate permits.
- Sampling update: nearly done for the year, waiting on rain to get high flow samples throughout the watershed.
- Several tours this fall: Ohio Valley RC&D toured East Branch Phase II on the 16th. Rainy but they still enjoyed the tour. Pierce Run tour planned for the 22nd, all are welcome. Will have OU transportation available.
- Working on an OSM grant for the Orland Gob pile, hope to complete grant by end of the year.
- Lake Milton valve not working, has drained the lake, not enough water to run the slag bed. On the 23rd we will be spreading lime in the channel and capping the 18" pipe that is draining the pond.
- EB III will be done by the end of the year (Tuscon Construction)
- EB II, 2 sites are already discharging high pH alkaline water, the 3rd site is not yet full.
- Researching metal and acidity load info from Flint Run projects to evaluate the need for a wetland to store metals precipitated out from the projects.

Waterloo Update (Heike Perko):

- Will be winterizing the building after all fall / winter activities are complete
- Looking into grants for camps and an education coordinator.
- Heike and Sarah attended AOA dinner. They wrote a grant to collaborate with us on some watershed landowner trainings. They were awarded the grant and Heike will contact them about what they need us to do. AOA has protected (purchased with permanent conservation easement) 2 properties along Raccoon Creek.
- Need to plan and education meeting and plan upcoming activities.

Raccoon Creek Water Trail Association (Rocky McNickle):

- Have landowner permission at all access points except one, Rocky will contact them.
- Will hopefully be presenting to ODNR division of watercraft within the next few months with final info.

- Sarah and Kara will help to find places of interest along the trail, it was suggested that they speak to Tom O'Grady (local historian). May find some info in Raccoon Creek management plan as well.
- Next RCWTA meeting Dec 8th, Albany library.

AmeriCorps Update (Kara Walton, Sarah Landers):

- Hoping to have a day camp or activity at Raccoon Creek County Park in Gallia County, has emailed director and hopes to partner more with them in the future.
- There are a group of geology undergrads that are interested in assisting with sampling.
- Education meeting being planned for Dec 1 or 2, will send out email invite and agenda.
- Rina got a job but is still interested in working with WAEC in the future.
- Sarah and Kara attending a grant writing workshop on the 16th and it was very informative, will help them apply for OEEF grant (more later!).
- April 29th they will be helping Hocking SWCD with an activity at the Hocking County fairgrounds. Also Eco Weekend with Heike, in the Hocking Hills.
- Have been researching the OEEF grant and checking websites for other grants.
- Planning trash clean-ups in watershed.
- Adopt a highway program – 2 miles of road, for 2 years, at least 4 times / year. We can chose our section (send in 4 sections and see what is available). They will provide equipment, training, bags, and pick-up. Will look into more.
- Highway billboard – very expensive for sign on rt 50 (about \$1200/month!). Can we find a barn in the watershed along the road that we could paint??? Just a thought!
- RCP Holiday Card/Membership Drive/wishlist going out soon to all RCP members. If anyone has wishlist items get them to Kara or Sarah!
- Conducted 2 homeschool programs, one at waterloo and one in Shade.

Annual Dinner Debriefing (Heike and all):

- LOTS of people came! Over 60 (?). Need to move to larger place in the future. Maybe the New Marshfield Community Center?
- Have had a good response from people who were there.
- Also suggested a fundraising breakfast at the New Marshfield community center.

- Thanks to all who helped and attended!

Election of New Board Positions (Natalie Kruse):

- New Officers as follows:
 - Chair – Natalie Kruse
 - Vice Chair – Heike Perko
 - Treasurer – Amber Brookins
 - Secretary – Rocky McNickle
- Positions begin at Dec board meeting!

New Business / Announcements

- Need to revisit strategic plan for 2011. Dedicate Dec meeting to this!
- Need to decide when and how to winterize Waterloo.
- Keith Mollohan, VSWCD board member suffered a heart attack in South Dakota, just got back home.
- VSWCD levy did not pass, more info should be available in the future.

Next meeting date – December 21st, 6:30 at Waterloo. Will work on strategic plan, so please make all updates brief! Thanks and see you all then!

ACTION ITEMS UNDERLINED!