

Raccoon Creek Partnership Technical Advisory Committee - Meeting Agenda

Wednesday April 8th, 2009, 9:00 – 12:00 PM

Voinovich School, The Ridges – Bldg 22, Conference Room 214, Athens, OH

Attendance: Barb Flowers (ODNR-DMRM), Mike McAvoy (ODNR-DMRM), Regan Welch (ODNR-DMRM), Constance White (ODNR-DSWC), Mary Ann Borch (ODNR-DMRM), Rocky McNickle (RCP), Mitch Farley (ODNR-DMRM), Kelly Capuzzi (OEPA), Randy Spencer (OEPA), Jen Bowman (OU Voinovich School), Ben McCament (OU Voinovich School), John Kellis (Ohio Valley RC&D), and Amy Mackey (Ohio Valley RC&D and Vinton SWCD)

2. Watershed Coordinator Update – Ben McCament

Watershed Coordinator Grant: Current implementation grant expires December 31st 2009. A decision on an RFP for 2010 will be made after state budget is determined by probably not likely. ODNR-DSWC and ODNR-DMRM will have discussions after July 2009 about continued support for Raccoon Creek (& Monday Creek). Annual review for Voinovich School & Raccoon Creek Coordinator is scheduled for April 10th.

3. Water Quality Specialist Update – Amy Mackey

Sampling - Water sampling early in 2009 was restricted due to frozen streams. Ben and Amy were able to get caught up on most of the sampling scheduled to date. Sampling still needing to be done in April / May includes Lake Milton Projects, Headwaters LTM, Lake Latrobe, Elk Fork, and East Branch Phase I Projects. Samples sent to the lab this spring must be limited, as Jason McClarren will be out of the lab / on light duty until mid-May. Until normal water sampling resumes, Ben and Amy plan to conduct recon at Middleton Run and other future project sites.

Lake Milton – discharge from SLB had decreased significantly in early 2009 (from 70 GPM to 40 GPM). After increasing the flow from Lake Milton, SLB flow returned to 70 GPM. However, there seems to be a crusting issue on this slag bed as observed on the East Branch Phase I.

Mulga Run – Flow from both Mulga SLB's has decreased in the past year. Valves were exercised with little improvement. Needs to be investigated. Possibly schedule a visit with ODNR engineers and Guy Reifler. Beavers had plugged the Jaymar culvert and raised the water level in the source pond ~1 ½ feet, dam was removed. Beaver dams in Mulga wetland still need to be removed.

AmeriCorps / ODNR Intern Update – Final brochure will be finished and ready for distribution soon, will be available in hard copy as well as pdf. Online application dates April 15th, 2009 – July 15th, 2009. Detailed directions on how to apply are available at www.raccooncreek.org. Candi Withem from Rural Action will receive all applications, then send those interested in Raccoon Creek to us to review. RCP will be responsible for conducting interviews and hiring. Rocky mentioned possible increase in AmeriCorps stipend, will ask about this at the next meeting. Next meeting – Friday June 12th, 10:00 a.m. at MCRP office. Contact Amy Mackey at amylmackey@gmail.com for more info about AmeriCorps positions. ODNR – DMRM will be sponsoring 5 state-wide 2009 watershed interns (Huff Run, Yellow Creek, Sunday Creek, Monday Creek, Raccoon Creek). \$4800 total available for each watershed (12 weeks, full-time, \$10.00/hr). Application deadline for interns is April 24th.

Waterloo Update – presently conducting spring day camps (have been very successful) and planning summer camps (July 6-10, August 11-13). If anyone has any ideas for summer camp topics email Amy (Mike Greenlee – DOW will be electrofishing, Bob Scott Placier – Hocking College – will be mist-netting birds). Mary Ann suggested a nature art program at Waterloo, need to contact Chris Melfi, Marty Husted, Terri Forcamp, Max Leurs... Next Education meeting – May 1st, 6:30 p.m. at Waterloo Aquatic Education Center.

4. West Branch –Harble Griffith Road 2009 EPA 319 grant application discussion – Ben McCament

Site consists of 10 abandoned surface mine pits in the headwaters of West Branch (along Harble Griffith Rd, Washington Twp, Hocking County) and several locations of gob/spoil. This project was researched in the 1980's but funding for reclamation was unavailable. Trees were planted on the sites, many of the trees may now be harvested for pulp. All pits are very high in aluminum, low pH (2-3), and low in iron. Pits drain to West Branch, and Brushy Fork (trib to Brushy Creek). All landowners have agreed to allow reclamation except for one. RCP (through the OU Voinovich School) will be applying for an EPA 319 grant (up to \$400,000) to drain and reclaim the pits. Project will likely be phased due to scale and costs. Meeting with ODNR – DMRM on April 13th to decide on reclamation and treatment approach (conceptual design). Reclamation of the pits will result in permanent water quality improvements and all alkalinity added to West Branch will help to buffer the acidity from East Branch.

319 Grant application deadline is May 7th, must have preliminary design and cost estimates. There will be funding in the grant for outreach and education pertaining to the project. Dave Altfater, from the EPA will be conducting monitoring (chemical, fish, bugs, sediment) at select sites pertaining to the project. RCP will need to find out which sites he will be sampling to set up a complete monitoring plan for the project.

5. AMD Project Maintenance Discussion – Ben McCament, Barb Flowers

Raccoon Creek has 10 projects completed since 1999. Buckeye Furnace was the first and the SAPS is still functioning (needs to be sampled and flushed). MRM is developing a maintenance budget. Starting next year they will set aside 10% for project maintenance. RCP will develop a detailed maintenance plan for all completed projects (exercise valves, flush systems...) and all future projects will include an operations and maintenance (O & M) plan. Could possibly add an O & M data entry section to the NPS site. May be able to utilize volunteers to maintain systems??

Flint Run East – SLB alkalinity concentrations have decreased by half since installation. Water may be flowing along the liner and not through the slag? Need to clean out beds and scrape the surface of the slag. Mike would like to visit all of the sites needing maintenance. Mary Ann suggested Group II sampling at some sites to get more data regarding SLB issues.

Carbondale – maintenance has been postponed.

6. East Branch Phase II Design – Mike McAvoy

Draft plans for 3 SLB's being constructed in Phase I should be complete by April 15th, 2009 and then will be sent to Columbus for bidding. All beds will include sand filters upstream of SLB to catch sediment and also infiltration risers to reduce the effects of possible slag crusting (water will be able to enter the bed through the risers instead of flowing straight across the surface of the slag).

Forrest SLB – along Laurel Run Rd, will be an on/off system with slide gate valves (like those at Jobs in Monday Creek). Agridrains instead of pvc pipes (to discourage vandalism) to control water level. Stand pipe will be designed with different sized holes at different levels to help restrict flow during the dry season.

Northwood – by the gasline, will include a small impoundment. The surface mine reclamation there has been recently burned. Will access this site from Meada Rd.

Kern Hollow – on Kern Rd, most complex of 3 systems in Phase I. Large impoundment across hollow (<10' high). Anticipate 12 days of storage during high flow, 30 days during low flow. Will discharge below the beaver dam and we will be able to measure flows with a bucket from the discharge pipe.

East Branch bat trees have been cut. Total cost estimate for the project is ~\$800,000. An OSM Clean Streams Grant may be available. John Kellis will research RC&D applying for the grant. Grant will need to be submitted to Dave Agnor (OSM).

East Branch Phase III will include 4 more SLB's.

7. Pierce Run AMD Project – Ben McCament, Barb Flowers

Still waiting on a corps permit. Working with Scott Moody (in cooperation with DOW) to conduct timber rattlesnake survey in the area (mid April – mid May). Forest Land Group has already harvested bat trees. They will also be removing the pulp wood from within the project limits.

Pierce Run Project Public Meeting – April 9th, 6:00 at Radcliff Church.

Raccoon Creek 9th annual Public Canoe Float – May 2nd. Will canoe the Middle Basin of Raccoon Creek, past the mouth of Pierce Run. Meet at 11:00 a.m. at the SR 160 bridge near Radcliff.

8. Trace Run Update – Mary Ann Borch

Carbondale doser provides enough alkalinity to buffer Carbondale mine, Carbondale Creek, but not Trace Run / Kennard Seep. There are 2 tribs in Trace Run watershed that could support an SLB. Wetland development or enhancement is also possible in the lower reaches of the tributary for metal storage. Engineers need to visit the sites, soils analysis, determine landowners, and possibly conduct more mapping or surveying. Mary Ann mentioned possible lime sand dumping, possibly material from Carbondale doser? Calcium in doser sludge may not be source of alkalinity but should be tested for applicability.

9. New Business / Announcements – All

Jen discussed submitting proposal to implement the RC Headwaters action plan for the Federal Stimulus Package. East Branch Phase II would create jobs in Hocking County, would have match from ODNR DMRM project funding. Need to research funding, Sharrod Brown's office has a guide. Watersheds are to receive \$340 million total, Watershed Operations section would improve watershed improvements. John Kellis agreed to assist Jen with research.

Ben – At least 3 landowners or known to apply for the Floodplain easement program through NRCS announced recently (Mike Schooley – West Branch (Hocking Co.), ReUse Industries – Raccoon Creek (Vinton Co.), Appalachian Ohio Alliance – Raccoon Creek (Gallia Co.))

Constance - 2009 River Rally – May 29 – June 1 Baltimore, Maryland; OMP Spring Meeting – May 7th, Yellow Creek, Jefferson County; Fall Meeting – October 13-14, Burr Oak Lodge; Captina Creek, Belmont County, hired a Watershed Coordinator, Eric Gibson. Starts April 13th.

Mitch - topics for next TAC meeting – look at project prioritization again:

- Middleton Run
- Buckeye Furnace
- Pierce Run Wetland Berms
- Trace Run / Carbondale Creek

Randy – consider looking at TDS data and relationship with biological recovery in Little Raccoon Creek. It has been documented to have an effect on mayflies and small fish.

10. Next Meeting Date: July 8th , 9:00 AM at Voinovich School