

## **Raccoon Creek TAC Meeting Minutes**

**November 20, 2013**

**Ohio University, Voinovich School, Building 22, Room 214**

Attendees: Amy Mackey (OU Voinovich School/RCP), Rand Romas (RCP), Constance White (ODNR Division of Surface Water), Mary Ann Borch (ODNR DMRM), Rocky McNickle (RCP), Kaylee Moser (RCP), Jeff Calhoun (ODNR DMRM), Jen Bowman (OU Voinovich School), Joe Webber (NRCS Athens and Vinton Counties), Ben McCament (ODNR DMRM), Kaabe Shaw (ODNR DMRM), Sarah Landers (Ohio Valley RC&D/OU Voinovich School/RCP), Natalie Kruse (OU Voinovich School/RCP), Nora Sullivan (OU Voinovich School).

Minutes taken by: Rand Romas

ACTION Items are Underlined

### **Agenda Item Number 1: Begin Meeting – Welcome, Introductions**

### **Agenda Item Number 2: Review/Approve previous Minutes**

May and August 2013 Meeting Minutes approved.

### **Agenda Item Number 3: NPS & Bio Data Review – Jen Bowman**

Jen and Natalie need to leave early and are at the top of this morning's schedule. Before they began Amy announced that she is working on making sure the RCP and TAC meeting minutes are up to date on the RCP website. The website still needs moved over to a newer system and Natalie added that she has a student who could help with the web work. As part of the roll-out of the new NPS system ([www.watersheddata.com](http://www.watersheddata.com)) biological information will be condensed and consolidated and simplify data entry by 1/3. IBI, MIwb, and MAIS scores will be in the same place. Jen has over 3,000 lines of data and found some data issues and showed the group an excel document with those issues.

- Jen needs RCP to conduct one final data “look over” before it can be finalized and submitted. Amy and Sarah will do this with Jen.
- One example of a data issue: 1990 data @ 3 passes from USGS??? OEPA???  
Need to verify with original data (Bio-Data Review)
- NPS-Bio-Newstructure-allwatersheds excel document – Jen will send to AMY.
- Comments “Default Date” M/D/Y, old system was only M/Y so the “Default Date” becomes 1. If we can find those actual dates, manually edit and enter.
- 2012 Annual NPS Report Packets with project descriptions are on their way. (20-25) spiral bound reports with edits compiled today by Jen and to us by Thanksgiving (maybe?)
- BRUCE (an Ohio University Master's in Environmental Studies student)  
KNOWS HOW TO USE R STUDIO!!! Bruce Underwood and Steve Porter are

working on an R program to automate the data to be graphed; this will be helpful for stream reach graphs.

- Graphs on NPS will look different while updating and standardizing all of the data this is part of why the report has taken longer than usual to produce this year since the formatting has been redesigned.
- Captina Creek Watershed, Friends of the Lower Muskingum River = New members to NPS, in order to appeal to other watersheds, we have added other variables and data options such as nutrients. Cleveland Metro Parks is interested in using the system to manage their data and is reviewing it.
- For NPS to be efficient, effective, and widespread, we must first demonstrate useful state cooperation and then attempt to locate grants and find new members for the system.
- Not ALL data is made publically accessible, such as OEPA.
- Constance=OEEF and other grant opportunities. She will be retired soon and would be available to help watersheds with grant writing (Call her in 10 days, once she is retired).

#### **Agenda Item Number 4: Watershed Coordinator Update – Amy Mackey**

- Ohio University Students in Raccoon Creek: there are many. Caleb Hawkins was pulled in the door and he is working on East Branch steel slag beds. Nora Sullivan will talk later in the meeting about her project, Godfrey (data collection with deployable sensors), Henry (working in several watersheds on Recovery Model similarities and differences between three dosers), Sarah Maj (steel slag bed analysis), Sam, Katherine, Myra (these three are doing theses and dissertations in the watershed), Bill Hellyer (Middleton Run, crayfish & aluminum toxicity), Taylor Macy (undergraduate thesis on terrestrial change on reclaim land, comparing unmanaged to the Wilds).
- Ben brought up that the NAANLP (National Association of Abandoned Mine Land Programs) 2014 Conference is September 23<sup>rd</sup> in Columbus, Ohio and some of these student projects could be possible presentations.
- ASMAR (American Society of Mining and Reclamation @ Oklahoma City June 14<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> – a group of students might be going down to the conference from Ohio University.
- 2014 River Rally @ Pittsburgh May 30<sup>th</sup> – June 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- The OWLS conference @ Lake Hope was a successful event and included tours of Monday, Sunday, and Raccoon Creek
- Harble Griffith 319 Grant ends 12/31/13, some \$ was used for updating RCP Display boards and \$ is left over however we need to check the limitations of its spending. Amy will meet with Mike Finney to discuss.
- DATA ENTRY CATCH UP! Then data checks are needed for end of the year reports, any glitches with the NPS System we should let Jen know.
- 30 MAIS and 12 Fish sites sampled in 2013.

- Culvert Unclogging at Carbondale Doser just a few weeks ago. Will do this two times per year when we shovel the doser channel.
- Sarah will schedule Channel cleaning in December and then attempt to get off the extremely hot/cold cycle for upkeep.

#### **Agenda Item Number 5: Water Quality Specialist Update – Sarah Landers**

- Six days available in December to finish 2013 chemical sampling
- Low Flow Sampling is more of medium flow for 2013. High flows were collected in the spring, but this summer we missed most of the brief low flow season due to getting behind from rain and MAIS getting pushed back.
- Long Term Monitoring in the entire watershed is finished, Post-Con monitoring catch-up is continuing.
- Jeff C. and Jen B. will hold a meeting to assess biological monitoring for 2014 in February.
- Sarah reviewed O&M manual draft for Raccoon Creek and Kaabe will send her the Word document version. Sarah will be working on this for Raccoon Creek projects.
- Carbondale Ditch flooded, will Parks Dept. fix? (Wetland/Parking Areas) It is the Zaleski State Forest. It is on their to-do list, but they got behind helping with the fires in the western US this year. Sarah will follow up with Kaabe.
- Lake Milton SAPS valve is broken. Looking downstream toward Lake Milton it is the one on the right. Valve can't be flushed and needs to be flushed. Kaabe will check and see if it can be maybe added to work that is already being done out in that area on other AMD projects.
- JayMar/4" PVC Elbow. The valve on the right is seized and we need an elbow to sample it. Kaabe has a brush. Kaabe and Sarah will schedule a day to go out there, maybe while sampling Daniels' Run in January. ODNR will purchase elbow.
- Also, the East Branch Phase I site #7 SLB is not discharging post maintenance and needs to be checked out. Sarah will do this when sampling in December.
- Doser cleaning supplies and other important maintenance equipment were purchased with WQS funds so we no longer have to use our own personal tools.
- Hazard Danger stickers @ Carbondale are worn away, need to be fixed/updated for safety concerns. Sarah will email photo to Kaabe.
- AMDAT will be submitted by the end of the year. Sarah will make this happen.
- Update land owner permission. This was started by Alie Hermanutz (ODNR summer intern) and Caleb Hawkins will finish it. Sarah will follow up with Caleb on this.

#### **Agenda Item Number 6: Ilesboro Road Project Recon/Update – Nora Sullivan**

- Nora is using a new program developed by the Voinovich School. It is an App to do Recon @ Ilesboro (ODK Collect)

- Nora showed everyone the program output: Tributary Fusion Table (Fairview Rd)
- Pictures can be updated from App to watersheddata.com

**Agenda Item Number 7: Current and upcoming AMD project updates (Including ODOT Mitigation) – ODNR & All**

KAABE:

- Projects- reclaim @ Middleton Run is 1/3 completed, moving spoil in the winter. Hwy Pit is no longer draining. There are three of the locations drained, regraded and re-vegetated. These are the garbage pit, Dodd's, and Highway pit.
- Hwy Run, Upper Teton, Crater Lake, and Cammink's: spoil movement through the winter.
- Lake Morrow project is coming along well. The dam has been breached and the inlet and outlet have been created and concrete and rebar have been installed. There are now two pipes through the dam. This has been going slow. This project will need to be winterized and re-vegetation is slated for 2014. Amy and Kaabe need to double check to make sure the OSM grant covers into 2014. The inlet and outlet will be poured and no work will be done during deer gun week.
- Removal of Lake Morrow Water through draining greatly reduces AMD into the watershed.
- Hollingshead Rd. sign site by the highway is down, but not the one by the project site which is just off Hiram Rd.
- Middleton Run (Teton) spoil movements, mats, winterize.
- Pierce Run Maintenance Project = Completed . There is going to be coal mining done above the project. They are going to build a sediment pond above the right hand bench.
- ODOT Revised Agreement under Review: \$310,000 towards Middleton Run Reclamation project for mitigation because Rich Run work was penalized by EPA so... project assessment by ODOT (KAABE/BORCH)
- Kaabe will send out a list of proposed Raccoon watershed projects for Amy and Sarah to double check. These could be projects that would be available for any future potential mitigation funding.
- Idea floated as to whether Raccoon Creek staff could become approved ODOT contractors and would be able to do water quality monitoring for projects related to AMD.

BEN:

- ODOT/Army Corps of Engineers in regards to Monday Creek from Sunday Creek Coal property @ 3,000 acres used for bat mitigation/Eco. Restoration mitigation.

- Impact @ West Branch from Orland = Recon, and it is probably coming from an old reclaim. Amy pointed out that if we don't take care of this then recovery on West Branch is limited.
- Continuous Development of projects working with ODOT.
- Buckeye Furnace Maintenance = Reclaim 90% water improvement. Kaabe suggested continuing monitoring the mouth during LTM, but no longer need to monitor the project discharge.

### **Agenda Item Number 8: New Business/ Announcements**

- Ben continued with the Regional Approach of SE Watersheds idea.
- Watershed management plan with funding. Is there a more effective way to do this?
- The idea is to work more on tying into Ohio River basin (time and resources) Regional Basis.
- Planning effort with Michelle Decker (Rural Action) for watershed re-organization.
- Need to come up with watershed management and funding strategies that will take us into the post AMD time period. Idea to get all the watershed coordinators together to consider this. Maybe at the next South East Ohio Watershed Counsel Meeting?
- SEOWC upcoming meeting @ Marietta on December 9<sup>th</sup>.
- MWCD to expand area and help Huff/Mud Run
- Mike McAvoy is to leave ODNR for private work (Engineer)
- Middleton Run/Lake Morrow/Flint Run East Wetland/Monkey Hollow are all ongoing or upcoming projects. Mike is finishing the work on these this month.
- 2014 grant to OSM = \$15,000,000 for AML Program
- Up to 30% (3.4 million) for AMD 2014 projects with carry over. Federal AMD Acct. = \$7,000,000 left over not counting what is under contract. 2022 Mitch Farley (former AML program manager) set goal for account to have = \$18,000,000 for O&M on existing AMD projects. We have 7-8 years to get to \$20,000,000.
- June 2014 MRM is moving to Zaleski CCC camp.
- There are some new research proposals: Akron U microbiology bioassessment for microbes in AMD treatment systems/seeps to better understand microbial communities.
- Dr. Lee (Ohio University Geology) is working on controlled release AMD @ 2014 with Sam Miller. Hydrogen peroxide works well to release metals, but we don't use it because it is unstable.
- On January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2014 Amy and Jeff are presenting at the Fish & Wildlife Conference in Columbus.

**Next meeting date: TBA**