

# RCP Board Meeting Minutes

## Wednesday, December 2nd 2015

- **Introductions**
  - Amy Mackey (Watershed Coordinator)
  - Sarah Landers ( Water Quality Specialist)
  - Dustin Gross (2<sup>nd</sup> Year AmeriCorps member)
  - Steven Malueg (1<sup>st</sup> Year AmeriCorps member)
  - Vance Rannells (Newly elected RCP Board member)
  - Molly Gurien (RCWTA Chair, and newly elected (with previous experience) RCP Board member)
  - Jessica Makosky (Newly elected RCP Board member)
  - Lauren Dick (Returning Board member)
  - Chelsi Hempstead (Newly elected Board member)
  
- **Review and approval of last meeting's minutes**
  - Will be approved at next meeting
  
- **Treasurer Report**
  - Water Quality Specialist- \$298.00
  - RCWTA- \$2,359.62
  - Waterloo- \$539.75
  - General- \$7,847.19
  - Quidel- \$1193.72
  - Total RCP account value- \$12,238.28
  - American Electric Power bill- \$18.76
  
- **Watershed Coordinator Report**
  - Macroinvertebrate identification from MAIS sampling during summer has begun, and should be completed sometime in late January
  - 28 MAIS (Macroinvertebrate Aggregate Index for Streams)
  - About \$1,000 were raised at the annual dinner, from membership purchases and silent auction items
  - RCP was present at ROAR (Rural Ohio Appalachia Revisited) and managed to get information out to a few people, as well as sell a few items
  - The EPA will be conducting a TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) assessment of The Raccoon Creek during 2016

- This will be the first time the EPA has conducted a TMDL in Raccoon Creek since the 1990s
    - Should show, officially, the improvement of 42 river miles to Warm Water Habitat standards
    - Amy and Sarah will be meeting with the EPA on December 11<sup>th</sup> to discuss what all will be done, as well as their involvement in the process
  - An underground mine seep that feeds into Pierce Run, and has, historically, had the worst pH in our watershed ( around a pH of 1) currently has a pH around 6
    - Efforts are being made to understand why this is happening
  - Amy and Sarah re-staked Chestnut trees that had been planted by RCP
    - Of the 30 originally planted, 14 are still healthy and growing
- **Water Quality Specialist report**
  - Break down of funding
    - 60% of time can be spent doing RCP activities
    - 10% of funding can be used to support time with students doing work in the Raccoon Creek Watershed on various projects
    - 30% of time can be spent doing things with non-point source pollution that is not AMD (Acid Mine Drainage)
      - This is made possible by the 319 Grant
  - Will be working with the Appalachian Ohio Clean Water Initiative
    - Partnered with OU and Rural Action
  - Will be participating in wetland restoration projects with the Vinton SWCD (Soil and Water Conservation District)
    - Has stenciling materials for storm drains
      - Will hopefully be able to raise awareness in the community of the actual function of storm drains, and why no litter should ever be thrown in them
  - Currently working to maintain the ~18 projects in the RCP watershed
  - Has offered to take any member on a tour of the Carbondale Doser
  - Field monitoring has almost been completed for the year
  - The hole in the Carbondale Doser delivery pipe has been fixed and a new shipment of calcium oxide will be delivered on December 3<sup>rd</sup>
    - The doser did not run out of material while it was damaged, and continued to dose continuously, unhindered
- **AmeriCorps members update**
  - They have managed to catch up with all data entry, and are now waiting for more data to be delivered from the lab
  - Presented at Hocking College Mineral Resources Management Class on November 5<sup>th</sup> with members from Monday Creek

- They have begun working to bolster the outreach and education portion of RCP in hopes of increasing the number of people reached per year
- Both members attended the Inquiry based Environmental Education conference on November 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>
- Both members taught during Survival Day at Warren High school
  - Nearly 180 6<sup>th</sup> graders were educated
- Plan to change the format of day camps to include families in hopes of higher turnout
- **Owl Prowl 2016**
  - Will be held either very late in January or very early in February
  - Will be held at Lake Hope
  - Efforts are being made to confirm with Pat Quackenbush that he will present at the event
  - RCP AmeriCorps members will contact the Lake Hope Lodge to discuss the cost of renting a room for the presentation
  - The Owl Prowl is usually the largest event that RCP puts on during the year
- **Water Trail Update**
  - The Water Trail is a sub-committee of RCP
  - The RCWTA (Raccoon Creek Water Trail Association) usually holds 2 canoe floats a year on the Raccoon Creek
    - Planning for the Spring float will be done at one of the next meetings
  - Efforts should be made to bolster membership
    - Molly will contact Bruce Martin, a teacher at OU in the Outdoor Recreation department
    - Student memberships are free
    - Perhaps an intern should be hired to do marketing and help with recruitment
  - RCWTA currently has signs ready to be placed at the put-ins marked on the map of Raccoon Creek, but requires the man power to do so
    - Still need correct U-Bolts
    - Someone needs to contact ODOT (Ohio Department Of Transportation) to make sure we can place the signs at the put-ins, as well as contact property owners to let them know about the signs
    - The Boy Scouts could be used to help put up signs, Molly will see if there are any members looking for an Eagle Scout project
  - Molly made mention of adding another float during the year
    - Possibly make it open only to water trail members
  - Plan to have a skills training class open to people before the Spring Float
  - Molly is a certified Canoe Instructor Trainer
    - Certified Sarah, Dustin, Steven, Bob Eichenberg, and others during the Summer to be instructors

- December 31<sup>st</sup> is the last day to register for the Tourism Expo
  - It will be held on March 5<sup>th</sup> and set up will be the morning of the 5<sup>th</sup>
  - Molly will be unable to attend, but Dustin and Steven will be able to attend and man the booth
  - Dustin and Steven will take a hat and map to use as the raffle items for the event
- The decision to move the RCWTA meeting from 6:00pm to during the RCP board meeting was made, all RCWTA updates will take place during the RCP board meeting until there are more events taking place and the RCWTA requires a full 30 minutes to discuss its business
- The decision has been made to hold another kayak raffle this year as it has been shown to raise money and increase curiosity in our booth at events
- RCWTA currently pays 10% of all money raised in a year to RCP
  - A discussion was held to find the best use of this money, it currently goes to a general fund
  - Amy suggested that it be put into the Water Quality Specialist fund to help give the Water Quality Specialist more freedom in their actions, as well as help purchase any items they might need for sampling and monitoring
  - The possibility of using it to help pay the \$1,000 insurance on Waterloo was also discussed
  - The money will likely continue to be put into general funding
- **Step Outside Grant**
  - The 2014-2015 AmeriCorps received this grant to help pay for food and fishing supplies during the 2015 Summer day camps
  - Money for fishing supplies still remained, Dustin purchased 8 new fishing nets and the money has officially all been used
- **RCWTA Maps**
  - It has been decided that due to the excessive number of maps we currently possess, we will begin giving maps to people when they sign up as members, or to those who make large donations
- **Waterloo House**
  - RCP would like to have the house and barn fall under their control
    - To be used as cheap housing for AmeriCorps, and storage for any materials
  - Currently waiting for a response from the head of the Division of Wildlife
  - Dustin will do the annual report on events held at Waterloo

- **2016 Goals of the RCP**
  - Create a strategic plan
    - The plan will help guide decisions and efforts during the year
  - Possibly expand the summer camps
    - Plan to write grants for a summer intern to help with camps
    - Currently the reason camps cannot be expanded is that we do not have the man power to do so
  - Improve the RCP website so that it is more accessible to the public, and that it has current information posted on it
  - The possibility of having guest speakers at future board meetings
    - Open them to the public
    - Have a presentation on invasive hogs, or a presentation by the Moonville Rail Trail Association
  - Workshops
    - In an effort to raise awareness and funds, more community events should be held
    - Rain Barrel construction, Birding, Apple Grafting, Edible Plants,
      - Homer from Sunday Creek could lead the Edible Plants workshop
    - Amy will send out an email about guest speakers and workshops
    - Workshops with landowners about removing invasives and the federal funding that exists to help them do that
  
- **Voting for officer positions**
  - Molly Gurien was nominated to be chair, Chelsi Hempstead was nominated to be Treasurer (needs to be added to OUCU RCP account), Jessica Makosky was nominated to serve as second-to-the treasurer (needs to be added to OUCU RCP account), Bob Eichenberg was nominated to serve as secretary, Heike Perko was nominated to be Vice-Chair, and Lauren Dick was nominated to serve as second-to-the Vice-Chair.
  - Molly Gurien made a motion to accept all nominations
  - Vance Rannells seconded
  - Motion passed unanimously
  - Chelsi Hempstead is now acting treasurer for the Raccoon Creek Partnership after Amber Brookins stepped down after reaching her term limit. Amber needs to be removed from the OUCU RCP account.
  
- **A request from the new Chair**
  - Molly asks that members of the board inform her if they will not be able to attend meetings
  - Any member not able to attend a meeting should inform Molly no later than 3pm the day of the meeting

- This request is made to ensure that meetings are productive and well organized
  
- **Next meeting**
  - The date of the next meeting has been set for January 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm at the Ridges Building 22 room 214
  - There will be snacks in celebration of Sarah's birthday
    - It should be pretty awesome