

Raccoon Creek Partnership meeting 4-22-07

Minutes by: Jen Bowman

Attendance: Constance White, Ben McCament, Mike Schooley, Mary Ann Borch, Brett Laverty, Jen Bowman, Ben McCament, Bill Knowles (Vinton SWCD), Vick L. (Vinton SWCD), Rosemary Joyce (AOA), Clyde Gosnell (AOA), Heike Perko, and Jerry Iles

Waterloo Building Tour by: Heike Perko –

DOW building, 2500 acres of land, 2 ponds, 35 miles of trail, adj. to Zaleski State Forest, etc....Some ideas discussed were murals, wildlife museum, water quality gage station, etc....

Clyde Gosnell discussed his role with Appalachian Ohio Alliance (AOA) and their interest in eco-tourism and the Natural history group's interest in education and preservation. He would like to see the Waterloo Aquatic Education Center as a satellite facility to Old Man's Cave with the Friends of the Hocking Hills State Park. He want sto educate young people on conservation and preservation.

Ben checked with Matthews Insurance for the liability costs they are approximately \$500-1000/yr, after they talk with their underwriter they will have a better estimate.

Jerry Iles reported on an OEEF grant proposition to pursue funding for a coordinator and possibly building maintenance costs. He said this project would meet 5 or the 6 listed priorities and that the grant is very competitive. The group gave Jerry a green light to pursue this grant.

ACTION ITEM: July 9th a letter of intent from RCP is due

ACTION ITEM: July 16th grant submittal

It is a 2-yr grant for \$50,000

Constance volunteered to be a reviewer of the OEEF grant with Jerry

A special subcommittee was set-up by Mike for the Waterloo Facility members are: Heike Perko, Jerry Iles, and Jen Bowman.

Vinton SCWD and the Raccoon Creek position

Vick and Bill were present to express their interest in the Raccoon Creek Project. Brett's RC position expires Dec. 31, 2007. They provide office space and are the grant recipient for Brett's position. They are interested in continuing in some capacity but are not sure how to do this. Some ideas were to explore 319 mgt. plan grant for Salt Creek as well.

ACTION ITEM: They are going to bring this topic up at their next strategic planning board meeting and work with Brett for the next 7 months to explore their options (319 '09 grant, AML funding, etc...).

ACTION ITEM: Brett will send the minutes from these board meetings to the Vinton SWCD.

Treasurers Report

Mary Ann set-up a bank account at the OU Credit Union and the IRS application is ready to go.

ACTION ITEM: Mary Ann will email needed funds for IRS application

Mail solicitation

Mike can throw out all solicitation junk mail – all in favor.

Waterloo discussion for board members only

ACTION ITEM: Mike will set-up a meeting with AEP for a presentation to be given by Heike

Items discussed regarding the Waterloo facility:

1. We need an itemized list of costs to solicit money from funders
2. We are just the interim board, will Waterloo be a obstacle or an opportunity for the new board?
3. Possible funding source – Athens County Commissioners
4. Ben's position is for three more years, then what? The waterloo facility might be a good way to start to create a foundation for the RCP to grow.

Jen requested a 'Vote of confidence' for the signing of the lease of the Waterloo Facility regardless of OU's standpoint. – All were in favor.

ACTION ITEM: A formal vote will be need on the Waterloo facility at the next meeting and it majority in favor then a letter of intent will be needed by June 1 to ODNR-DOW.

Membership

ACTION ITEM: Ben send presentation of RC history to RC committee

ACTION ITEM: For the membership board is to create a basic/simple start-up membership package and bring draft to May's meeting.

The following fee structure was adopted –all in favor

Fee structure:

Supporting membership

Individual \$15

Bronze (or Manganese) \$100

Silver (or Aluminum) \$500

Gold (or Iron) \$1000

General membership

Organization/entity \$50

Bronze (or Manganese) \$100

Silver (or Aluminum) \$500

Gold (or Iron) \$1000

ACTION ITEM continued from March-Items the RCP wants the membership committee to develop for review at the next meeting are:

- 1) Membership brochure explaining the fee structure, membership benefits, the mission/vision of RC, major objectives of the group, map, etc....
- 2) Membership package – what would the member receive after giving to the RCP? (email, letter, card, sticker? etc....)

- 3) Mary Ann and Wendy, as part of the finance committee, would like to participate in this membership subcommittee meeting.

Next Meeting – Nelsonville Library May 30th 4:30-6:30pm

- 1) Water Trail group relationship and any other special committee relationship to the RCP Board, discuss use of money, membership, what do we need membership money for, active representatives from special committees etc....
- 2) Membership sub-committee draft membership system
- 3) Mike will invite a Water Trails member to the next meeting.
- 4) Waterloo Facility vote

Adjourn 7:30pm