

**Raccoon Creek Partnership
Board of Directors Meeting
January 27th, 2010
Voinovich School, Building 22, Rm 214**

Attendance: Natalie Kruse, Amy Mackey, Rina Caldwell, Jen Bowman, Heike Perko, Amber Brookins, Dick Hogan, Kim Brewster, Molly Gurien, Dana Larsen, Hillary Shilosio, Nora Rye, Anita Fredrick

Prior Meeting Minutes: December meeting minutes were reviewed and approved by the board. Action items were addressed.

Treasurer's Report (Amber Brookins):

- Total RCP funds = \$8873.76 (\$5118.18 RCP General Funds, \$3755.58 DOW Grant)
- RCWTA funds have been transferred to RCP account. RCP will take 10% of total balance at the end of each year for managing the funds.
- \$1200 was spent from the DOW grant to purchase and Enviroscope, 5 new D-nets, and pH testing strips for the Center.

Fundraising Plan Presentation (Dana Larsen, Hillary Shilosio)

- Final project was presented to the board (Dana will send ppt to board)
- Board will read the Fundraising Plan and be prepared to discuss and schedule fundraising events at the February meeting.
- Fundraising ideas that were discussed include:
 - Installing donation boxes/pipes at Waterloo by the bulletin board when created (Molly suggested that Charles might be interested in building a bulletin board).
 - We need a flag for Waterloo. Heike suggested that 4-H or Girl Scouts may be able to do this as a project.
 - We still need to contact DHI and Holzer about possibly donating to the center. Heike will send Rina the 2007 DHI grant that was never submitted. Rina will review, edit, and resubmit.
 - Nora Rye is creating an RCP DVD that we will be able to use at presentations and to possibly include with a packet to go to corporate sponsors and interested donors.
 - There was a RCWTA video created several years ago, we need to locate that video, Ben might know?
 - Haunted Hocking – Moonville Tunnel
 - Have a restaurant/bar sponsor us for a benefit. Would need to find a band to play cheap or free. Suggested Jackie-O's or Casa
 - Pancake breakfast at Applebees
 - Raffle – RCWTA will do kayak raffle again. RCP could do nature print from watershed, fishing trip, canoe float...
 - "Explore Raccoon Creek" – we need to promote recreational opportunities in the watershed. Put together a packet of brochures in watershed. Could also put together a basket of stuff to raffle.
 - Need a presence at OU – possibly with Green Network or Sierra Club. RCP could set up a booth at their events. Nora will research.
 - Can we set up a booth at Baker Center?
 - Bake sale – Walmart will match our profits up to \$500.
 - Sorority or fraternity to support us – Natalie will check into service fraternities.

- College Green – get our activities listed (email Erin Sykes) and link to College Green from RCP website.
- Could have a special “members only” event
- Donation wall at Waterloo – clay tiles for each donor
- RCP Quilt
- Poker Run – need to contact motorcycle clubs, if we can be guaranteed riders, we will do it again.
- Albany Baptist Church – big fundraising event. Talk to Mike Greenlee.
- Final Fridays – April-October. Rina is checking if we can do art projects. May need to pay \$10/month to set up. Could sell birdhouses, tree cookie ornaments, walking sticks...

Waterloo Update (Heike Perko):

- Building was winterized, will re-open in March.
- Owl hike was successful, 55 people.
- Will need to move computers out of cold – move to lab in R-tech building

Water Quality Specialist Update (Amy Mackey):

- Submitted semi-annual report to all partners
- Created RCP outreach powerpoint, will burn to CD for all board members to use.
- Amy Mackey officially resigned from board (due to accepting RC Watershed Coordinator position). RCP needs new board member and secretary.
- Hiring new Water Quality Specialist
 - Will be housed at VSWCD
 - Accepting applications until Feb 5th.
 - Interviews will be held Feb 18th at Voinovich School.
 - Hopefully new WQS will start early March.

Water Trails Update (Molly Gurien):

- Spring Float – May 1st
- Will be setting up at Nelsonville Music Festival – May 14th -16th.
- Next meeting – Feb 10th, 2010.
- All RCWTA money has been transferred to RCP OUCU account.
- The Water Trail has not made any decisions as to how to proceed with designation. They are waiting to hear back from the Division of Watercraft on their decision regarding private access points. Then they will review their options and determine how to proceed. Division of Watercraft is meeting with Muskingum Water Trail group about same issue and they will let us know if the state policy regarding private access liability is changed.

AmeriCorps Update (Rina Caldwell):

- Submitted Captain Planet grant for \$500 to put in organic garden at center. Will know in March – April.
- Sent out letters to 64 teachers in watershed offering curriculum enhancing programs this spring.
- Still planning to conduct library programs later in spring / summer.
- 2009 data compilation – Rina compiled all field, lab, and flow data for 2009 into one book, separated by sampling event.
- Has been doing a lot of promotion with brochures, flyers
- Presenting at Hocking (with Amber and Amy) Feb 11th to update on volunteer, intern, AmeriCorps opportunities.

- Amy and Rina have been attending all Soil and Water board meetings in watershed (attended Gallia and Jackson, Hocking coming soon). All are interested in cooperating with us for outreach and possibly sampling.
- Spoke with Bernhard, we will be able to use HTC vans for camp as long as he, Natalie, or HTC students are present.
- Researching festivals to promote Raccoon Creek, working on getting info about fees and registration. Some possibilities include: Nelsonville Music Festival, Parade of the Hills, Paw Paw, Foothills Blues and Arts, Boogie on the Bricks...
- Some professionals already agreed to present at summer camps – Pat Quackenbush (birds of prey), Rebecca Miller (archery), The Turtle Lady (rescued reptiles), possibly Mike Greenlee. Also looking into Lake Hope staff.
- Board approved \$75 for Rina to attend 3 upcoming conferences (Vernal Pools, Wildlife Diversity, Reptile Research and Conservation). Rina will send links to board.

Coordinator Update – (Amy Mackey):

- Completed and submitted 2010 work plan, have not gotten any comments back yet. Included all upcoming and current implementation projects.
- 2010 monitoring plans nearly complete, will be lots of sampling due to new projects!
- Alan Rees called and described a new program – The Wetland Reserve Program. Funding available for easements and restoration of wetland / riparian areas that were previously used for agriculture. Call NRCS office or visit www.oh.nrcs.usda.gov for more details.
- All RCP board members need to read and sign a copy of the RCP bylaws, bring to Feb meeting.
- Receipts have been created to send to new and renewing members. Amy sent out receipts to all renewing and new members since 2009 annual dinner. Will be responsibility of new secretary.
- Rural Action is impressed with our work at Waterloo with camps and outreach, and is meeting with us on Feb 10th to discuss.

Education Committee Update (Heike and All):

- Next meeting Feb 12th, 6:00 at Natalie's house, potluck!

Board Vacancy (all):

- Because Amy has resigned, we have a vacancy on the board. Bylaws state that when a vacancy arises mid-year, the board can nominate members 2 weeks prior to the next meeting. Then vote to fill the position at the next regular board meeting. The elected board member must be official elected at the next annual dinner.
- Mike Schooley was nominated.
- Someone will need to take over the position of secretary.

2010 Strategic Outline (All):

- Tabled until February

New Business / Announcements / Upcoming Events

- Lots of fans on Facebook
- We will be getting a High School intern, Audrey Payne, for February and March. She will be able to help with fundraising, sampling, outreach...
- Dick announced "Awakening the Dreamer, Changing the Dream" symposium at Christ the King Catholic church, Saturday Jan 30th.

****Action Items****

Scott

- ✓ Ask Sowash about Water Trails access points

Amber

- ✓ Get RCP account out of Amy's address

Heike

- ✓ Send old DHI grant to Rina
- ✓ represent WAEC during SECO (Science Education Council of Ohio) meetings
- ✓ help Rina set up visiting school districts during superintendent meetings
- ✓ monthly updates to RCP members
- ✓ move computers to R-tech lab (work with Amy)
- ✓ contact Vinton motorcycle group

Molly

- ✓ Locate RCWTA video

Dick

- ✓ look into bringing sustainable living and permaculture concepts to WAEC
- ✓ contact motorcycle groups

Amy

- ✓ Burn ppt CDs
- ✓ Email Erin Sykes about College Green
- ✓ Contact Jackson motorcycle group

Natalie

- ✓ contact some service organizations at OU to see if they can do a fundraiser for us (sororities, fraternities, environmental and wildlife clubs etc.) and ask staff at OU to teach a session this summer at Waterloo.

Jen

- ✓ Research fundraising / RCP raffle options

Rina

- ✓ DHI grant
- ✓ School and library programs
- ✓ Final Fridays and other festival research

ALL!

- ✓ read and sign a copy of the RCP bylaws to be kept on record at Waterloo. Bring to Feb meeting!
- ✓ Review strategic outline for 2010.
- ✓ Fundraising suggestions

Next Meeting February 24th, Location TBA 6:30 p.m.

