

Raccoon Creek Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 1st, 2013 - 9:00am-11:30am
Ohio University Voinovich School, Building 22, Room 214

Attendees: Natalie Kruse (OU Voinovich School/RCP), Amy Mackey (OU Voinovich School/RCP), Sarah Landers (Ohio Valley RC&D/RCP), Jerry Iles (OSU Extension), Mary Ann Borch (ODNR-DMRM), Darcy VanDervort (RCP), Kaabe Shaw (ODNR-DMRM), Rebekah Korenowsky (RCP)

Minutes taken by: Darcy VanDervort

ACTION Items UNDERLINED

Agenda Item Number 1: Begin Meeting, Welcome, Introductions

Agenda Item Number 2: Review/Approve January Minutes

Agenda Item Number 3: Watershed Coordinator Updates – Amy Mackey

The Water Quality Specialist (WQS) contract ends June 2013 and Amy has been working with Ben McCament (ODNR-DMRM), John Kellis (Ohio Valley RC&D), and Jen Bowman (Ohio University Voinovich School) to write the new two year contract. The contract was sent to Ben McCament and then sent to the Chief. Significant changes to the contract include funding the grant money for the Raccoon Creek Water Quality Specialist 90% through Ohio Valley RC&D (historically this has been 100%) and 10% through the Ohio University Voinovich School. The 10% would go through an existing technical support contract with Ohio University and the WQS will take over maintenance of the Carbondale Doser, which is presently maintained by the Monday Creek WQS. Also, the WQS will be getting office space across from Amy and Jen at the Voinovich School. The WQS also has an office at Vinton County Soil and Water Conservation District.

The ODNR-DMRM summer intern contract has been submitted and is awaiting approval by the Chief. Interviews were conducted on April 30th and four qualified candidates were interviewed. A hiring decision will be made by the end of the week. There are two candidates that stood out, but we'll likely only hire one full-time and would recommend the other to another watershed group if there would be any other positions available. ODNR-DMRM confirmed that Sunday Creek is not getting a summer intern this year. It was brought up that Friends of the Lower Muskingum River's AmeriCorps VISTA is leaving following the end of his term.

The Raccoon Creek AmeriCorps positions are posted for the 2013-14 service year.

The Middleton Run Office of Surface Mining Grant was put together by Amy Mackey and sent to John Kellis, Ohio Valley RC&D to finalize and submit. Kaabe Shaw updated that the grant had been submitted to Dave Agnor, Office of Surface Mining and the grant is on its way.

May 10th is the Harble Griffith AMD Reclamation project post-construction tour. Amy mailed tour invitations to all the nearby landowners and the Hocking County Commissioners and she

will email the Raccoon Creek Partnership membership later that afternoon. Kaabe will be at the tour and the details will be coordinated later regarding assignment of duties. Mary Ann remarked that she is not happy with the deer protection on the trees. Kaabe informed the group that the trees that the deer killed last year were replaced and there were nine trees replaced.

Amy continued that many fish shocking demos had been conducted this spring for:

Waverly high school

Ohio Energy Project for Ohio University's Voinovich School (Jackson area high school students working with the Piketon Plant) to teach biological water quality monitoring methods

2 Vinton County high school classes

Also a Carbondale Doser tour was conducted for the Ohio University Geology Alumni Board.

Macroinvertebrate identification was completed from the 2012 biological monitoring season and submitted to the ODRN Division of Wildlife.

Two AmeriCorps positions with Raccoon Creek are posted and the application period is open until June 7th. Rural Action will not have a Leading Creek AmeriCorps position, but is working on having a civic tourism AmeriCorps member that may do historic site clean-up in the watersheds. Mary Ann commented that she has been acting as the de facto Leading Creek coordinator and that without an AmeriCorps member, she will need help sampling. Amy and Natalie Kruse let Mary Ann know that Amy and Sarah can be available as well as Raccoon Creek or other watershed AmeriCorps members and Ohio University students to help with sampling Leading Creek.

Amy Mackey had her annual Watershed Coordinator review and it went well.

Gallia County SWCD asked RCP to participate in their Farm and City Field Day on Saturday, September 28th. We'll likely do a fish shocking demo, bring fish from Raccoon Creek and look into bringing canoes. There will be local bee keepers and a petting zoo too!

The next Raccoon Creek Water Trails canoe float will be Saturday, May 18th and will meet at the Lake Hope School House.

There were two Hocking College Geoenvironmental students working with Raccoon Creek during the Spring Semester and one Ohio University student working with Raccoon Creek.

The OWLS conference (Ohio Watershed Leaders) will be held September 5th and 6th in the Raccoon Creek watershed at Lake Hope Lodge

Agenda Item Number 4: Water Quality Specialist Updates – Sarah Landers

Little Raccoon Creek AMDAT (Acid Mine Drainage Abatement and Treatment) Plan –

It will be completed soon, Sarah is just finalizing some things. She can send the data from it now, though. DNR isn't sweating it.

Are we going to update other AMDATs when it's finished? Not a bad idea to start on the headwaters. Let's wait until Ilesboro project is done and decide later says Kaabe.

Data Analysis 2012 – looking at projects individually
Darcy and Rebekah will complete it. DNR isn't sweating it.

Sampling Timeline –
Sarah's "dynamic tables" are on schedule.

Ilesboro: Kaabe will join for Ilesboro sampling. MaryAnn, Jeff and Ben went out to Ilesboro project recently and it needs recon (exposed soil and high aluminum). MaryAnn said it's best to cover up spoil; traditional reclaim is the best bang for your buck. Bolton Enterprises has borrow material and will probably have someone stop by the Harble Griffith tour. Back to a potential reclaim on Ilesboro Rd; it was suggested that we could break the pit and let it flow. Natalie said we might as well eliminate the load. The group agreed that we should go do reconnaissance at Ilesboro Road before the multiflora rose gets worse.

The recon date is set for May 9th at 9am and the rain date is May 13th at 9am. Sarah will bring the YSI and titration kit.

Kaabe ordered and received J tubes for titration.

EBI project sampling done in one long day. We only need to sample it once a year at high flow, *changed from twice a year to once a year in the 2013 monitoring plan*. We will try to fit it in a second time in 2013 if we have time.

We are falling behind on data entry, but we are (hopefully) getting an intern who can work on this.

Pre-construction chemical sampling at Middleton Run is being completed.

Zaleski wetland is still bad. The hypothesis is that it could be fed by shallow underground mine. Gary was just there 2 weeks ago and the pH was ~3.8. Webb Mine Hollow trib feeds it. Recon with canoes is needed to chemical sampling upstream and downstream of the wetland to see if it is having an impact on Raccoon Creek mainstem.

Land Owner Permission – ODNR Intern Project

We don't know all the land owners now, and they could be different from the last time we got permission. Could get all Raccoon Creek Watershed land owners to sign an exploratory form for water, soil, etc., although this is typically only done for project sites. Verbal confirmation is okay says Kaabe, but an exploratory contract could be signed as well. Natalie has "rights of entry" documents from OU projects that we could use for examples, Jen would also know how to find these.

Flint Run: Lake Milton valve is discharging at 30 gpm, right at target. When it goes down we can put depth stick in. Flint Run sign is coming down per Kaabe.

Recon 124 seeps, does anyone know where it is? Natalie has a student, ask Ben where it is.

Logging of Riparian: in Jackson, Gallia and Vinton Counties. Logjam removal is occurring throughout southeast Ohio. Some concerns raised about logs being removed from bank areas and disrupting the riparian zones, which comprise much of the habitat in Raccoon Creek. Michelle Shively, Sunday Creek Coordinator, talked to workers and gave a quick training – they were concerned but there was nothing that they could do. Recommended that Raccoon Creek talk to Jack Frech, Athens ODJFS or Rural Action Forestry group.

Vinton County Annual Meeting: September 26 at Lake Hope Lodge

Agenda Item Number 5: Water Quality Specialist and Intern Contract Update (already discussed above during Coordinator Update)

Agenda Item Number 6: NPS and AEP Updates – Natalie Kruse, Amy Mackey

NPS & AEP: Water body breaks based on restoration goals: Hewett Fork, Little Raccoon Creek, Raccoon Creek Headwaters, Middle Basin of Raccoon Creek. Some folks mentioned calling it a “stream segment” instead of a “water body”. NPS will have a maintenance guide for each project and water body performance updates, will work so that we are not redoing the same thing every year. Late summer / early fall is the *loose* timeframe for the launch of the new system. Don’t use firefox to enter data, use internet explorer.

Natalie let the group know that there are 4 AEP watershed grad assistants: Katharine Schleich, Sam Drerup, Mariah Thrush, Caleb Hawkins and one other grad student working under a different grant on project monitoring.

There will be an Ohio University seminar for students doing watershed research, from all programs undergrad in HTC plant bio – ecology on reclaim sites @ the Wilds

Agenda Item Number 7: Ohio Watershed Leaders Conference tour, speakers, etc. – Jerry Iles

OWLS: September 5&6 at Lake Hope Lodge

Watershed tours in Raccoon, Sunday, Monday creeks. We would like to show off progress at reclaimed sites and show a non-reclaimed site to see the other side of things. Support: van are to be provided from ODNR in Columbus and OU through Raccoon creek. OU vans are \$40/day and then a cost per mile. 13 cabins reserved at Lake Hope, lodging is included in cost. There was a suggestion to have an educational canoe tour on Lake Hope for the evening activity. We could float out to where the Lake Hope mine was plugged or we could do a boat shocking demo in the lake? This idea will be further explored during the planning meetings by the OWLs planning committee.

Agenda Item Number 8: Current and upcoming AMD Project updates – ODNR & All

Project Updates:

Orland: no new developments.

Flint Run: the bi-pro and vegetation around the Lake Milton SLB is doing well. The filter sock was left on the left but not right side of the Lake Milton SLB.

Harble Griffith reclaim: regarding the grass fertilizer, the north pile is good, but the south pile is not so good. The contractor replaced 9 trees, took out the silt fence & reseeded along the edge of the road.

Lake Morrow project to be started late summer 2013: Low bid was rejected and ODNR is working on this.

Middleton Run Reclamation Project: Pre-bid meeting May 21st @ construction entrance off Hiram Rd. The nationwide permit was received. The OSM grant was approved.

Flint Run Wetland Berms Project: Will take place in 2014 and the grant has been extended to December 2014.

Daniels Run is potential for 2014.

5 year plan for projects in Raccoon Creek brainstorm: Hiram Road, Middleton, Salem Rd. Rehab original project, Zaleski Wetland, potential to enhance any additional wetlands? Kaabe will send a "this is the plan as of now" e-mail.

Agenda Item Number 9: 2013 Planned Biological Monitoring – Amy Mackey, Jeff Calhoun, Ben McCament

12 planned bio fish sites for 2013: HF 010, 060, 090, LRC 0030, 0010, MSBC 010, 015, 100, MSLH 020, MSBM 004, 010, 040

New Business/Announcements

Pierce Run needs holes drilled on valve – Amy and Kaabe

Northwood erosion scour – work request went to parks

Next meeting August 14th, 2013 @ Ohio University, The Ridges Building 22.