

## Raccoon Creek TAC Meeting Minutes

November 19, 2014

Ohio University, Voinovich School, Building 22, Room 214, 9:00am

Attendees: Amy Mackey (OU Voinovich School/RCP), Sarah Landers (Ohio Valley RC&D/OU Voinovich School/RCP), Mary Ann Borch (ODNR DMRM), Kaabe Shaw (ODNR DMRM), Natalie Kruse (OU Voinovich School/RCP), Alicia Rector (RCP), Dustin Gross (RCP).

Minutes taken by: Sarah Landers

ACTION Items are Underlined in Red

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

### Agenda Item Number 2: Review/Approve previous meeting minutes

5-7-14 Meeting Minutes approved. August 2014 TAC was cancelled due to macroinvertebrate sampling.

### Agenda Item Number 3: Watershed Coordinator Update – Amy Mackey

- Introduced 2014-2015 AmeriCorps members: Alicia Rector & Dustin Gross.
- Two Rio Grande Students assisting with 2014 data entry and verification for internship hours.
- Finished 2014 biological sampling - 36 MAIS sites, 9 fish sites
  - o Thanks for all the help!
  - o Started MAIS ID yesterday, hope to finish by January, Kelly Johnson took Hewett Fork bugs to ID
  - o Amy has ID days designated throughout the winter and Aaron Coons (OU Voinovich Scholar, and former Monday Creek/ODNR summer intern) will help with ID in January. Sarah will also help as needed in January.
  - o All bug sites will be scored and info submitted to Division of Wildlife (DOW) in March. Jen Bowman would like Watersheds to submit all biological data to NPS database in February.
  - o Amy and Jeff Calhoun winterized generators this week.
    - Conversation regarding the status of continuing to use the DOW shed to store OU/RCP generator. Kaabe Shaw will ask Jeff Calhoun about the status of using the DOW shed after MRM moves to new Zaleski offices. Natalie Kruse suggested there may be an opportunity at OU to have a location at the Ridges to place a shed in a fenced in area where the OU/RCP generator could be stored. The generator can not be stored inside an Ohio University building.
    - Some additional work needs done on the long line regarding taping and replacement of the net. Amy will head this up this winter.
  - o Gallia Farm City Field Day electrofishing boat demo and Lake Hope ROAR RCP table – lots of compliments from residents of Vinton and Gallia Counties on Raccoon Creek Water Quality improvements.
- Level III fish training for Amy and Jeff
  - o finished field work (thanks Jeff, Sarah, Tim, Nora!)
    - 3 QHEI sites (scores calculated)
    - 1 wading site

- 1 headwater site
  - Need to:
    - complete field sheets
    - prepare vouchers
    - calculate IBI and MIWB
    - submit all to MBI
  - Will submit this winter
- Future of Watershed Coordinator Funding
  - Current grant expires December 2015 – Need to begin evaluating in six months.
  - Unsure of funding commitment in Ohio
    - No new coordinator grants
    - No EPA funding
  - Possible solution to funding watershed coordinator position. Part time RC (MRM funded), part time other Voinovich School environmental projects
    - Level III fish is an asset to Ohio University's CE3 program and allows them to be more competitive in grant applications and with Amy's expertise they won't need a subcontractor for environmental projects.
- 2014 Raccoon Creek Analysis Report
  - We need a template from MRM of what they want reported
  - We don't want to report what's already reported in NPS and maintenance tracker; need to identify data gap.
  - What will be useful to MRM?
  - Mary Ann Borch and Kaabe Shaw will discuss and get back to Amy and Sarah Landers regarding a report format.
- New RCP website coming soon!
- Painted Waterloo over the summer

#### **Agenda Item Number 4: Water Quality Specialist Update – Sarah Landers**

- Other Things Sarah Does (that aren't sampling and maintenance)
  - Fall 2014 RCP Newsletter & RCP website & RCP facebook
  - 2014 Presentations at ASMR, NAAML, WMAO
  - Attended annual dinners for Vinton, Jackson, Meigs SWCD's
  - Lake Hope ROAR, Pawpaw Festival, Gallia Co. Farm City Day
  - Student volunteers for field work
  - Conducted Doser Tours, Ohio University Aquatic Biology field trip
  - Lab and equipment maintenance (YSI 2nd pH probe being replaced under warranty by Fondriest)
    - Mary Ann suggested contacting YSI directly to talk about the pH probe replacement because uncertain that these issues get reported to YSI. Sarah will do this.

- Natalie discussed being smart about using our field meters and rotating the Myron's and YSI's. Use the Myron when we are doing sampling where we don't need Dissolved Oxygen (Myron takes ORP instead) this way we can preserve the life of the YSI's for situations when we really need them over the Myron meters.
    - We have probably over \$20,000 spent on YSI meters and we aren't getting what we need out of them.
    - In the field YSI meters are taking up to 20 minutes for pH to stabilize. This issue impacts the length of field days and the Myron has been more efficient for long field days with varying water conditions.
    - YSI is deployable, we would continue to use the YSI when we would like continuous data at a site to capture stream conditions over time.
- Sarah began a review of her water quality monitoring "Dynamic Tables" to summarize sampling conducted in 2014 and identify what is left for the rest of the year. Kaabe informed Sarah no sampling will be able to be conducted the week of December 15<sup>th</sup> due to ODNR- MRM moving offices.
  - December Sampling Priorities (sample dates: December 8, 9, 10, ~~15, 16, 17~~)
    - West Branch Harble Griffith & Orland post-con (4<sup>th</sup> time of 4x per year)
    - East Branch Phase III post-con (4<sup>th</sup> time of 4x per year)
    - East Branch Phase I (1<sup>st</sup> time of 1x per year) (last sampled as a whole 4/8/13)
    - ~~Elk Fork (1<sup>st</sup> time of 1x per year) (last sampled 10/8/12)~~ Determined will not sample in 2014
    - ~~Mulga & Jaymar (2<sup>nd</sup> time of 2x per year) – might drop, don't need for NPS~~ Determined will not sample again in 2014 – don't need for NPS and was recently sampled.
    - Pierce Run was already sampled for 4<sup>th</sup> time right before Thanksgiving
  - End of Year Loose Ends for 2015
    - Ilesboro Road – Create Sampling Plan
    - Hope Clay – To sample when sampling Zaleski if there is water
  - Wish List for 2015
    - Recon West Branch for AMD between Harble & Orland
    - Zaleski Wetland: canoe to get WQ upstream & downstream of wetland
    - Recon Daniels Run & Kisor Rd w/ Kaabe
- Maintenance – Can't keep up.
  - Stoplogs need pulled & greased on all agridrains (need muscle)
- Big General Maintenance things we need ODNR to help make happen (purchase supplies?)
  - Stakes & Flags at valves (can't find in tall grass!!!)
  - Depth Rod at Lake Milton
  - Trees removed off Dams/Ponds (LM SAPS, Pierce SSLB Discharge)
  - Backhoe AMD channels (FR0170) and FR SAPS discharge channel to wetland ditch– Mark for Johnny Jenkins ODNR DOW
  - Pipe brushes & rods
- Other Bigish Maintenance things:

- Weeds pulled in SSLBs (EB III, Kern)
- Tree stump removed at Pierce Run gate
- Tree moved at mouth of Hewett Fork
- Conversation regarding keeping up with project maintenance. Sarah and Kaabe recognized that maintenance issues are numerous. We could work with DOW, but they are currently under lots of pressure regarding their own maintenance issues and our issues would be low on their priority list. Idea of ODNR-MRM owning own maintenance tools was suggested. Anything from a back-hoe to a weed wacker. They could be operated by operators in another division. [Back to Pierce, does ODNR-MRM have chains to pull the stump at Pierce Run? Can Kaabe check on this?](#)
- Dam it!@#\$% - Lots of Beaver Dams & obstructions currently (photos shown to group)
  - Flint Run Mouth
  - Goose Run/Tar Camp Run Mouth (LRC probably dammed again)
  - Multiple Hewett Fork sites (HF060, HF039) & tree down at mouth making flow measurement difficult
  - Pierce Run Mouth
  - Pierce Overflow intake
  - Hot House Lake outlet
  - Six days available in December to finish 2014 chemical sampling
- Lake Milton
  - Status on broken valve on SAPS – needs to be flushed. Discharging 0.19 GPM [\(SL dig up Brian's field book and compare to 4/12/2010\)](#)
  - According to Kaabe, this was going to get lumped into Monday Creek's Monkey Hollow project, but that project is at maximum and Lake Milton SAPS is going to have to be its' own project. [Sarah follow-up with Kaabe in 2015.](#)
  - Need to install measurement stick (Now, during low lake levels) to mark when syphon is lost. Kaabe has the elevation on his plan set. We could eyeball it, use GPS, or have it surveyed. Maybe a T-post would work. Can ODNR purchase? [Sarah and Kaabe work on this.](#)
  - SSLB clogging issue – how to address
    - Kaabe visited site on August 25th:
    - No problem. I went out and cut the lock off of the sed pond valve lock box. I see what you are saying.
    - The agridrain stop logs are way low but the water level in the slag bed is high.
    - The one thing that I did notice was the 8" valves from sed pond to slag bed have a tendency to close on their own, thus the wire someone installed to keep them open. I altered the wiring to keep them open but it may not last for long.
    - These 8" intake pipes are now fully submerged as before the water level in the sed pond stayed at the level of the upturned intakes .
    - A fair amount of water is still going out the overflow spillway.
    - I didn't have time to close down the big red valve up top but it seems to me that we should because the system can't treat all that water.
    - I'll try to get out there today and mess with it.

- As a result the following was proposed:
    - 1) Open all cleanouts to determine if an air lock is present .
    - 2) Clean out the piping system. To include cleanouts, inlets and outlets, etc .
    - 3) Remove sediment from the top of the bed. Not sure this is an issue but it may be our last resort if options #1 and #2 are not successful.
    - Sarah and Amy will trouble shoot clogging issue using above suggestions.
  - General Maintenance Needs at Lake Milton
    - Backhoe AMD channel FR0170 and FR SAPS discharge on FR side!
    - Trees need removed from SAPS Dam
- Pierce Run
  - SSLB clogging issue – how to address
  - Target pH for mouth 7 or 6.5? – At present treated mine water is still being discharged into Pierce, but won't be for too much longer. Kaabe and Mary Ann are in contact with mine operator. After discharging stops, we'll need to work on regulating the system.
  - Beaver Dam at mouth...what to do??
  - SL trying to contact landowner, can't find phone number online. James & Barbara Boggs of West Jefferson, OH – Does Kaabe have any info? Probably not. Sarah will keep looking for phone number in field book.
- Harble Griffith
  - New landowner: putting down tiles near borrow area, contacted Amy regarding wetland. Amy let him know that we are still conducting post construction monitoring.
- Carbondale Doser
  - Extra stuff in the doser housing needs cleaned out. Parshall Flumes, Piping, Trash (can we take trash to ODNR dumpster?) Yes, we can take trash to ODNR. RCP partners can take care of cleaning up the doser house after ODNR-MRM moves to Zaleski. If the flumes and PVC can be used in a project, they should be used!
  - Need new sprockets for doser wheel (in gear box & by wheel). When we turn off the doser we could put briquettes in the channel if it is going to be off for an extended period of time. There are some left in the doser house. We need to take Loretta (ODNR-MRM) to TSC to purchase the sprocket. Amy, Kaabe & Sarah set-up time to turn off doser and remove and replace sprockets.
  - Rust & painting (see photos) & other housekeeping items. Sarah check back in 2015 with Kaabe regarding doser maintenance project.
  - Inside, outside, insulation / mice – debate about whether to include replacing insulation (or at the very least keeping it). Insulation helped in the winter and might have kept the wheel from freezing in very cold temperatures.
  - If a maintenance project happens here, can we install a weir/flume in the channel?? One of the Parshall flumes that are in the doser house?? Need to be able to keep it clean. Up high in the channel. This is possible.

- Gate in bad shape, everyone driving around gate, does it matter? – Gate can be fixed/replaced as part of maintenance project. It presently is dragging across ground and there needs to be some gating next to it to prevent drive around space.
- Safety status on climbing. Carbondale has 2 possible anchor points (see photos). See Agenda Item 6 for Doser safety.
- WQ data on doser bridging & unloading (Charts reviewed by group)
  - Note: Doser Unloading JUNE 17th. Delivery JUNE 18th. Turned back on JUNE 19th. Doser still bridging JUNE 20TH – 23RD

### **Agenda Item Number 5: Water Quality Specialist Contract Renewal - Sarah, Amy, Jen, Ben**

Ben McCament and Jen Bowman were unable to attend the meeting and this will be discussed at a later date. The current Water Quality Specialist Contract through Ohio Valley RC&D and Ohio University is set to expire June 30, 2015.

### **Agenda Item Number 6: Carbondale Doser Safety - Natalie Kruse**

- Natalie brought with her equipment purchased for doser climbing safety. She worked with the owner of Peddler and the Packer to put together this safety system and purchased materials there. It is all OSHA compliant.
  - Singing rock working harnesses – these are less cumbersome than the roofing ones, but still meant for the use.
  - Static climbing rope (I think ours is 200-300', need to check)
  - Locking carabiners for connections
  - Webbing to make loops from for anchoring
  - ASAP fall arrestor and sorber (fall arrestor will not let you fall down the rope, sorber absorbs the shock you have a chance of reproducing later)
  - An Ascender for self/team belay
  - Several lengths of cord to make self belay/ascending/descending devices with
  - The outstanding items are:
  - There needs to be a solid anchor point on the doser to tie to—a rusty railing basically makes all the rest of the gear useless. When doser maintenance is scheduled this anchor point needs to be installed in the doser channel.
  - We need to leave a cheap line on the anchor that we can use to feed our good line up to the top when we arrive at site
  - We need to organize a training for all users—this is key, good gear used badly won't help anyone. Training for the Carbondale Doser will occur first and the group scheduled it for December 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Natalie went over the equipment during the meeting and Kaabe took notes. She also provided information on the equipment to help Kaabe be able to find it for possible purchase. Others that maintain dosers will need equipment and safety training. This could be done by the Peddler and Packer or maybe OU outdoor pursuits. One issue identified by ODNR is that the training would need to be paid for somehow. This will be arranged in the late spring after Natalie returns from maternity leave.

- There are still a few things to be purchased. Sarah needs to measure the openings of the two anchor points at the top so we can determine carabiner size. She will also test the locking carabiners to see if they fit. Sarah also needs to price and use WQS funds to purchase a chain that can handle a load of at least 2,000 lbs and it should be 20ft in length. Also a nylon rope 3/8 inch (inexpensive) that can be strung top to bottom and left out in the elements.

#### **Agenda Item Number 7: Current and Upcoming AMD Project Updates - ODNR & All**

- Meeting set up for December 4<sup>th</sup> on specifics of how to conduct pre and post con monitoring for projects (ID what sites need sampled etc.) Amy will reserve conference room and make sure that Jen Bowman can attend and provide insight in regard to annual reporting needs for projects.
- Lake Morrow project is substantially complete. Barren side has been re-seeded since it didn't take the first time. No post construction monitoring until 2015.
- Middleton Run is nearly complete. The last of the dirt was being moved this week and grass was to be seeded the following week. Crater Lake was just finished. Monitoring will begin in 2015. Access to the project site will be available by Cammink's property. There are native seed plots put in with guidance from The Wilds. Two acre plots with ½ the fertilizer usually used and the same amount of lime. The plots are seeded at 15 lbs per acre and 20 lbs per acre respectively. ODNR usually seeds at 50 lbs/acre. Kaabe is going to be monitoring these seed plots.
- Flint Run wetland berms project has 6 weeks until pre-bid date. John Kellis (Ohio Valley RC&D) will be extending the contact for one more year. Since the project has been changed from three berms to one berm, changes might need to be submitted. Kaabe needs to check with Ben to determine if this needs to be submitted to OSM. Kaabe can write a paragraph and send to John Kellis to submit.
- Illsboro Rd. - will get Nora's reconnaissance data from Jen. Terry, former land manager for property owner is retired and there is a new person, Larry Darlington. All communications are to be made through the lawyer regarding the project and sampling. Kaabe will manage this for us.
  - o Project will be divided into parts with the Bolton's first, then Lammers and then Lapp's will be part of phase II.
- Daniels Run – Sarah and Kaabe set up time for reconnaissance in December if possible. Kaabe displayed a map with sample sites he had already looked into. They need to be further evaluated and preconstruction sites need to be established.

#### **Agenda Item Number 8: Project Maintenance Updates/Action Items - Sarah, Amy, All**

This section was address during other portions of the meeting.

#### **Agenda Item Number 9: New Project Sampling Needs, Archiving Some Sampling**

Amy Mackey brought up that sampling being conducted in the watershed needs to be evaluated in a new way. Raccoon Creek filters samples at all tributary mouths, but other watersheds do not. This needs to be evaluated since it is an opportunity for increased efficiency and cost savings if we reduce the number of filtered samples collected. This will also be discussed at the December 4<sup>th</sup> meeting.

#### **Agenda Item Number 10: Regional Watershed Planning - Ben McCament**

Ben is not present at today's meeting to address this agenda item. Amy had a meeting with some of the Rural Action watershed coordinators regarding the regional watershed concept and it is being explored. More to come in 2015 regarding this concept.

### **Agenda Item Number 11: New Business/ Announcements - All**

Sarah and Amy informed the group of the following winter projects:

- 2015 RCP project tour (like Monday Creek does) – Jackson County projects with Jackson SWCD
- Landowner inventory overhaul (sample sites & projects), mailing, and phone calls to reestablish permissions to cross property. Create 1 page (front & back) guide for sub-watersheds to mail to landowners and follow up with phone call. Need to add landowner info to NPS
- Volunteer project monitoring program “Adopt a project program” – Ask volunteers to 1x a month visit a project, photograph components, measure flow, take pH, make observations and submit info to maintenance tracker for Sarah to check
- Photos of all project components – add to NPS
- Air photos of each system with components labeled – add to NPS
- Photos of all sampling sites added to NPS
- RCP website is going to be being completely overhauled too.

Raccoon Creek AmeriCorps members provided updates regarding their water sampling and project maintenance activities, two fall camps, RCP annual dinner and activities for the coming months, including planning the annual Owl Prowl.

### **Agenda Item Number 12: Wrap Up - Review Action Items - All**

[See Red Underlined items](#)

### **Agenda Item Number 13: Next Meeting Date**

February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at the Ridges Building 22 Room 214, 9:00am