

# Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2015

## ODNR Zaleski Complex

- **Introductions**
  - Jen Bowman, Amy Mackey, Sarah Landers, Ben McCammet, Kaabe Shaw, Mary-Anne Borch, Jackie Clepford, Claire Sorrell from OEPA, Dustin Gross, and Steve Malueg in attendance
- **Review/Approve previous meeting's minutes**
  - Minutes were not provided and will be reviewed next meeting
- **General Watershed Coordinator Update**
  - Macroinvertebrate identification has begun, currently have 19 of roughly 60 jars finished
  - Waiting to hear back from Kelly Johnson for the Hewett Fork MAIS scores
  - The Raccoon Creek Partnership has new Board members
    - Jessica Makosky, Vance Rannells, Chelsi Hempstead
  - Returning RCP Board members
    - Molly Gurien, Lauren Dick, Bob Eichenberg, Heike Perko
  - Greg Nageotte gave Amy her contract review
    - Informed her that the Raccoon Creek project is doing well and is a model other watershed's should implement
    - He will work to spread the word about Watersheddata.com and its potential
  - The AmeriCorps grant has been extended to next year
  - The Ohio Fish and Wildlife Management conference is Feb 5th in Columbus and Raccoon Creek will be represented at it
- **Pierce Run Recon**
  - The Oreton seep hasn't been monitored since 2012
  - A class from Marshall University was on a tour with Amy in hopes of finding extremophiles living in the wetland near the seep
    - Historically this seep has produced the worst quality of water in the watershed (pH of 1.7)
  - During the tour, Amy tested the pH of the water and found that it was 5.8 (conductivity was at 4,000) there was also a larger amount of water in the wetland than usual
  - Amy returned a few weeks later with Sarah and the AmeriCorps members to do reconnaissance. The pH was 5.57
  - A sediment pond lies on the other side of a small damn above the wetland, and it has a pH of 8.23. The pond is surrounded by loose limestone

- It is believed that the pond was recently pumped into the wetland and that was the cause of the high water levels and high pH. Further observation is required to see if the water will remain at the pH it is currently at.
    - Pierce Run postcon will occur 4 times a year, and samples will be taken from where the wetland outlets into Pierce Run
  - One of the Marshall students plans to conduct research in the area to attempt to find extremophiles
    - More details will be given as he decides what he will be focusing his studies on
- **Pierce Run Steel Slag Bed**
  - The Pierce Run SS Bed may be clogged
    - Outlet into Pierce Run is barely trickling, but bed is half full and continuing to receive water from source pond
    - Sarah will go to check the inlet and outlet to the bed
    - An area between the clean out and agri-drain cannot be reached, currently, to be cleaned and may be accumulating debris
    - Hopefully we will be able to remove and replace all agri-drains in the future
    - Any clean outs that are installed in the future should go both ways
- **Maintenance Tracker**
  - The committee has asked Jen to make manuals and entry forms more accessible
  - Jen has also been asked to change the “Edit” button to a “View/Edit” option to reduce confusion
  - Raccoon Creek Flint Run Wetland Berm is currently listed under erosion
- **General RC water quality specialist updates**
  - The hole in the delivery pipe at the Carbondale Doser has been fixed and the delivery company is delivering material to us again
    - The Doser was not interrupted and had enough material to continue dosing even though it wasn’t getting deliveries
    - Sarah wants to schedule another delivery before Christmas
      - The committee agreed that it would be wise and that there is money in the budget for another delivery
  - Steel slag bed analysis
    - PR0134 (Pierce Run SS bed)
      - Alkalinity load is very small
      - Steel Slag present in bed is old and not as reactive
  - Sarah will make scatter plots to show if there is a relation between flow and Alkalinity concentration from steel slag beds
  - Flint Run
    - There are 4 projects in this area and they are expensive
      - The projects should be prioritized by their effectiveness and cost and it should be decided which projects should stay and if any should be removed or repaired

- **Water Quality monitoring 2015**
  - 2015 was tough for sampling because of the weather
  - All quarterly sampling of Pierce Run was completed
  - 2016 will be Middleton's first full year of monitoring
  - East Branch 2 and 3 should be sampling during high flow in 2016
  - West Branch Ilesboro pre-construction is behind
    - There is no proposed date for the project construction yet though
    - Ben is currently looking for funding for the project
- **2016 monitoring plan**
  - EPA monitoring plan may affect ours
  - EPA would like historical data for the sites they will be sampling
  - More will be discussed during the TMDL meeting Friday, December 11<sup>th</sup>
  - Mary Anne and Kaabe will sample the post-con at the Flint Run wetland
- **Coolers**
  - All of the watershed groups have been having trouble with their dry bags leaking during shipping
    - C&E employees informed us that UPS will charge \$9.00 for any old/damaged boxes
      - It is believed that this charge is a result of our coolers leaking
    - Kaabe suggested that samples be sent in the new coolers with latches, to ensure there is no leaking
    - Packages should weigh less than 50 lbs (as requested by members of the ODNR Cambridge Lab)
    - We will need to have different sized boxes if we decide to ship using these new coolers
  - Watershed Coordinators need to have more direct contact with the Cambridge Lab
    - Coolers have been leaking for months and the coordinators weren't informed until recently
    - Ben will give the contact information of all the coordinators to the lab in hopes of encouraging regular correspondence
  - C&E uses industrial totes for shipping and are looking into finding larger ones which would suit our needs for samples
  - Fiscal department has informed the us that we should not be using C&E to ship our packages, but with no alternative we will have to continue using them
- **2015 Year end data needs, WWH 2015 "attainment miles"**
  - 2015 is the 5 year mark to assess the number of stream miles improved (last checked in 2010)
  - Fish data is sporadic and would not be useable in statistical analysis
    - May just have to compare 2010 and 2015 and not be able to show the changes during 2011-2014 (Raccoon Creek used this method for the 2010 assessment)

- Jen and Jeff will meet later in the year to discuss fish scores and the best course of action
  - TMDL in 2016/2017 will add legitimacy to our claims of WWH attainment roughly 40 miles of stream in the watershed
  - Sarah and Amy will submit an EPA Study plan for 2016 so that we are able to collect at level 3 EPA standards and share our data with the EPA while they do their TMDL
    - Our data is eligible to be counted as level 3 since we function under ODNR supervision and it is processed in an ODNR lab
  - Entering our data into the EPA submission process would take a very long time, we are unable to handle that duty at this time with our current level of staffing
- **Current and upcoming AMD project & Maintenance updates**
  - Daniel's reclaim (2016)
    - Currently no OSM grant to fund it
    - Has been approved for \$200,000 from public health and safety fund (because it was listed as a priority 2 site) and will be receiving \$200,000 match as well
  - There is currently no engineer for O and M
    - Kaabe and Cathy will work on managing construction and maintenance in the Monday Creek Watershed during 2016
    - Raccoon Creek will still be able to plan for future construction and maintenance events
  - Work will be done to prioritize projects in the future
    - There should be 3 levels of priority based on price vs. return
  - The project at Pierce Run may no longer be necessary, continued monitoring is needed to back this claim
  - Illesboro requires reconnaissance
    - Pits and spoil
    - There has been a possible land owner change there
  - Ben is trying to get funding for maintenance in 2016 but will need to know which projects will require maintenance for his reports
    - It will be up to Amy and Sarah to inform him of their needs for projects
  - The committee will meet on January 15<sup>th</sup> to discuss the priority levels of each project and possible changes that will be made
- **AmeriCorps Update**
  - No dates have been set for educational events yet
  - Dustin and Steve presented at Hocking College along with the Monday creek watershed AmeriCorps members
  - They are currently going through the process of changing the outreach and education program in hopes of having more success with events
  - All data available has been entered into watersheddata.com and they are awaiting new data to arrive from the lab

- **New Business**

- Sarah is working on a “Rain to River” project with the Appalachian Ohio Clean Watershed Initiative (319 grant) to help raise awareness about storm drains and non-point source pollution
- Amy informed the committee that John Higgenbottom found Spade-foot toads in the watershed near Moonville
  - There will be surveys held in the spring to find out how large of a population is currently living there
- Ben met with Tiffanie from the E.P.A. to discuss MRM funding for watershed coordinators
- There will be a meeting some-time in February for all data collectors and people doing maintenance to discuss QAQC on data
- There will be a push in the future to have all data for the state hosted on Watersheddata.com
  - Will reduce the amount of time it takes to share data between organizations
  - Will also remove the need for Raccoon Creek members to input data by hand
- The 2016 AML OSM grant has been completed and \$1.3 million is currently set aside for mine drainage treatment

- **Next meeting**

- The next TAC meeting will be held on March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 9:00am