

Raccoon Creek TAC Meeting Minutes

February 18, 2015

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), Jen Bowman (OU Voinovich School), Ben McCament (ODNR DMRM), Mary Ann Borch (ODNR DMRM), Kaabe Shaw (ODNR DMRM), Alicia Rector (RCP), Dustin Gross (RCP).

Minutes taken by: Sarah Landers & Alicia Rector

ACTION Items are Underlined in Red

Agenda Item Number 1: Begin Meeting – Welcome, Introductions

Agenda Item Number 2: Review/Approve previous meeting minutes

November Meeting Minutes approved.

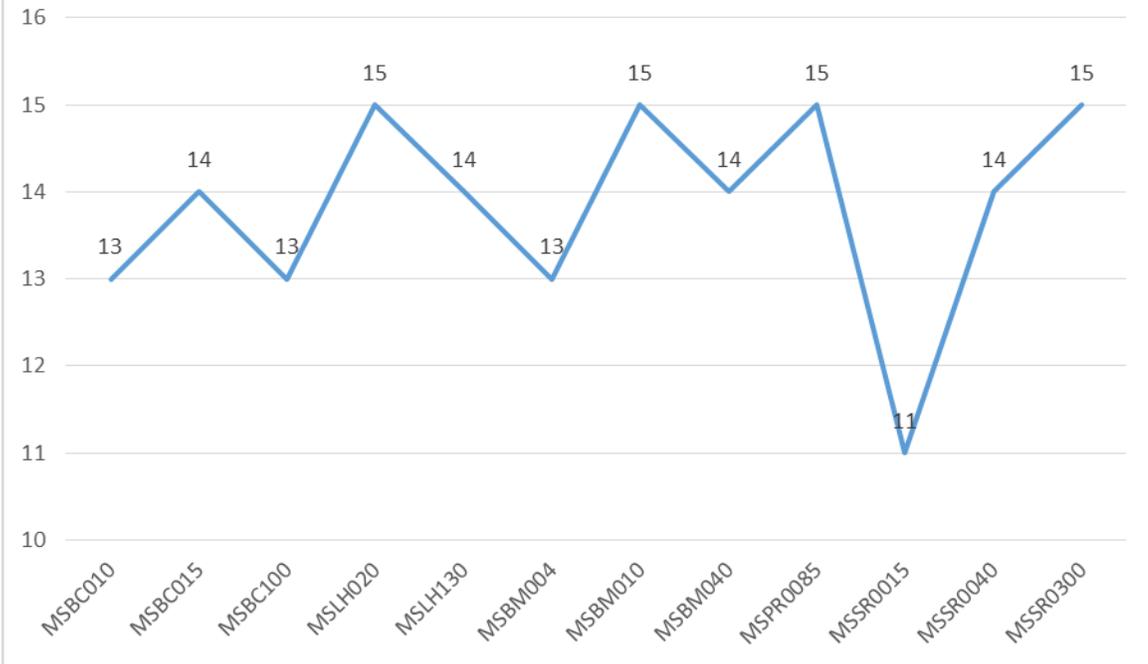
Pre-meeting Chatter

- Amy & Sarah fixed the broken door to the ODNR-DMRM shed located at DOW. Since DMRM moved to Zaleski we need to find another location to store fish shocking equipment. There is a fenced in area available at the Ridges, but a shed needs to be built or purchased. If we need to move generator before a plan is formulated then we could look into moving it to Kelly Johnson's greenhouse, and bring plastic to cover because it is moist inside the greenhouse.
- Kaabe and Jeff pulled large stump out of Pierce Run at the road crossing. Some discussion regarding how to use the maintenance tracker to update resolved issues. Some clarifications: Red flag = checked box and needs follow-up, Grey flag = nothing needed, just data entered. When updating a new issue decided to start a new date, but when updating a previously existing issue (Pierce Run stump in crossing) then use old entry and remove the flagging and write comments. Kaabe brought up that though the stump is removed, it is still flagged and needs to be un-flagged. There is however, still another issue with clogged pipes potentially so the whole entry on maintenance tracker remains flagged.
- Amy received the heater for the Carbondale doser. Cylinder needs picked up from Rutland in the Plains. Once we are ready to get it we need to contact Loretta and ask her to pay for it over the phone. Need to also call Rutland in advance as then have limited pick-up times. When transporting the cylinder it must stand upright securely. Side note, when it gets warmer RCP crew is going to replace the sprockets on the doser.

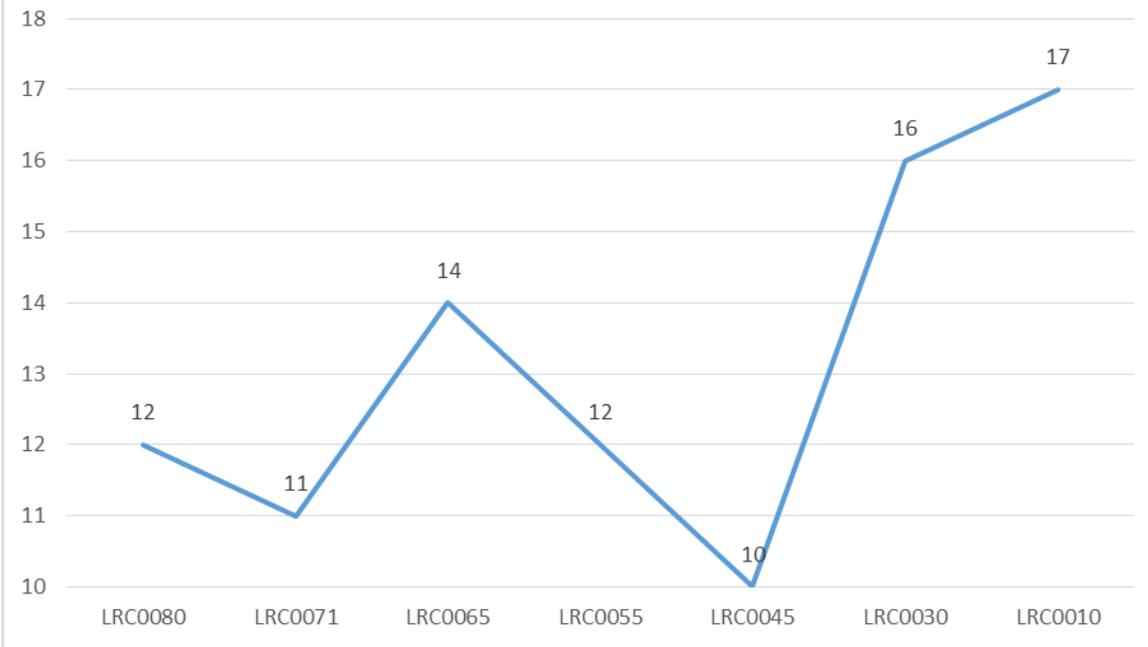
Agenda Item Number 3: Watershed Coordinator Update – Amy Mackey

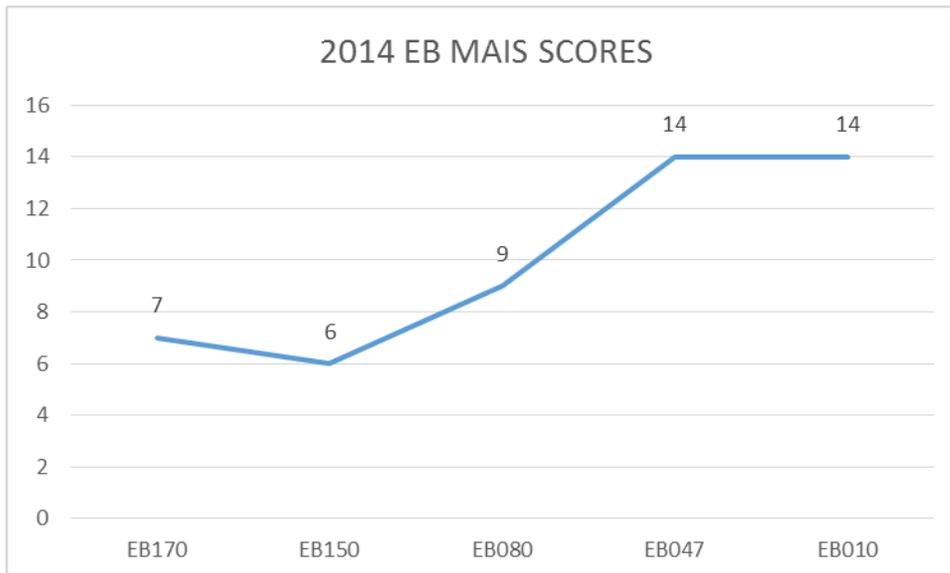
- Amy submitted her test documents and is waiting to hear back for her Level III Fish Creditable Data Collector status.
- Amy presented 2014 MAIS scores. Jen Bowman is working with Kelly Johnson to refine the MAIS recoverability model. Mayfly habitat may be a limiting factor. Amy created some quick graphs of MAIS data and shared them with the group (three graphs below).

2014 MAIS SCORES RC MAINSTEM



2014 MAIS SCORES LRC





- Regarding MAIS scores there are some sites that are held back by habitat being a limiting factor (muddy for example). Jen brought up that they want to find a way to show habitat influence in the MAIS index. For East Branch (pictured just above), Caleb Hawkins (MSES student) added sites. Logging occurred in 2014 just before MAIS at our historically best site: EB047 with a logging road running through our best riffle at the site. They have since left and the creek and riffle returned to a natural state. West Branch mouth, WB010 scored a 10 in 2014 (not pictured). The site has cows in the creek and bank erosion and in 2014 was dammed up and was essentially one big pool.
- Amy mentioned to Jen that in the NPS data management system it would be nice to have the graphing feature available for MAIS also be available for IBI. Jen said this is possible down the road.
- Data verification process for 2014 MAIS is nearly complete; Sarah is finishing last of it.
- Amy applied for a grant (Amy fill in grant name). The grant is for a fish tank at the Voinovich School featuring native fish with a display as well as funding for field trips for fish and bug demos.
- RCP has been using the grant funding from the Ora Anderson Fund. When Natalie returns she will be spending the remainder on materials for monitoring.
- RCP display is being set-up at the Ohio Fish and Wildlife Mgmt. Conference and the Wildlife Diversity Conference. Amy is also presenting at a Green Jobs event at Ohio University.
- Amy has an AmeriCorps meeting on Friday and getting dates for AmeriCorps applications for 2015-16.
- Waterloo Aquatic Education Center last signed lease was good for 7 years and this was relatively recently signed. Possibility that the house the Perkos have been living in on the property might be torn down by the state. Hoping that we can still keep our building. RCP and grant funders put \$1,000's in paint on the building last summer.

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

- Brought up that Mary Ann's emails are getting returned. Something to do with transition to new office and new server.
- Sarah emailed water sampling summary. [Sarah will resend.](#)
- 242 chemical samples collected in 2014 and 35 of those were for Caleb's SSLB recovery research.
- 114 different sites

- 28 total sampling days in 2014 and Sarah participated in 18 of those days.
- Chemical data entry and validation COMPLETE
- Sampled for Caleb's thesis research on 1/27/15 – no other sampling in 2015
- Have not yet conducted project maintenance in 2015. Everything is still frozen and we don't want to break anything.

Agenda Item Number 5: Water Quality Specialist & Watershed Coordinator Contract Renewal - Sarah, Amy, Jen, Ben

Group is looking together at a way to change how the contract is being done. Ohio University is looking at how to put water quality monitoring into the technical support contract. Whether OU can bring the WQS in as a Group I, II, or III depends on whether they have enough work. Need to look at how much time will be dedicated to Raccoon Creek and how much elsewhere. One issue is that for Raccoon Creek what is being done now in terms of maintenance isn't everything and there isn't time to get everything done. Sarah is going to make a table of her job responsibilities throughout the year and the hours necessary to complete them and send to Ben, ODNR, Jen. Ben adds that we know what we need, we need to figure out what we can realistically fund. Ben talked with John Kellis, Ohio Valley RC&D about not going forward with continuing the WQS contract through RC&D. OU and RCP are possibilities to take over, thought it might be too much work for RCP. Agreed that it would be too much for RCP and don't have the capabilities or funding. Jen is working on trying to make a full time position so there are benefits available even if we do a Group III. Funding will be needed to help cover benefits.

Amy's contract will be in a similar position in December when her contract expires. We have a little bit of time and are going to work out Sarah's first and then work out Amy's.

Agenda Item Number 6: Regional Watershed Planning/Watershed Assistance Center – Ben McCament, Jen Bowman

- Jen discussed the process of developing a new way to fund watershed coordinators. Looking at the potential to set-up a Watershed Assistance Center in the coal bearing region of Ohio. There is funding available from Ohio EPA for 4 centers in Ohio and they would like to see more non-AMD water quality issues addressed in our region. Other centers are around Cleveland and Cincinnati. OU and Rural Action are working together to write a two year 319 Implementation Grant to be able to assist SWCDs, Municipalities, Conservancy Groups, WQ Improvement Projects. OEPA wants more SWIF and 319 grants for our area the Assistance Center would help write them to address non-coal issues.

Agenda Item Number 7: Current and Upcoming AMD Project Updates, Maintenance Tracker - ODNR & All

- Kaabe indicated that they are still putting together an overall operations and maintenance plan. Sarah is completing the 2015 Maintenance Plan for Raccoon Creek.
- Lake Milton is clogged (significantly) and have estimates on getting it cleaned out. Sarah will put her observations into Maintenance Tracker.
- Flint Run Wetland Berms project is good to go in 2015. King Environmental was awarded the contract.
- 2016 projects include Illesboro Rd. and Daniels Run. Daniels Run might be a health and safety adjacency project due to dangerous highwall.

- Pierce Run: Waterloo coal is not currently mining by Pierce Run. There could be a new permit above the source pond for the SSLB.
- Time to look to small projects since program is losing funding. There is some interest in Sandy Run upstream of Lake Hope. How much of Sandy Run is impacted by Big 4?
- For 2015 monitoring plans; “For 2015 Raccoon Creek Partners determined that rather than filter all tributary mouths, as had been done historically, filtered samples will only be taken under the following three conditions: when water is turbid, in the receiving tributary downstream of an alkaline addition, and during AMD investigations.”
- Jen has a student who is going an analysis of filtered vs non-filtered samples to figure out the statistical difference. Ben suggests to separate by pH and find if a difference exists. If there is a difference, what does it mean, is it still meaningful?

Agenda Item Number 8: 2015 Monitoring Plan Brief Review - Sarah, Amy, All

This section was addressed for the most part during other portions of the meeting. Highlights and changes specific for 2015:

Hewett Fork

Still sample West seep? – not sure.

East Branch Phase I

For 2015 Raccoon Creek Partners decided it was no longer necessary to take lab and field parameters in source ponds to save time and resources.

East Branch Phase II

East Branch Phase II was sampled three times in 2012, twice in 2013 & 2014 and will continue to be sampled twice annually in 2015. For 2015 Raccoon Creek Partners decided it was no longer necessary to take lab and field parameters in source ponds to save time and resources

East Branch Phase III

East Branch Phase III was sampled 4x in 2012 and sampled 3x annually in 2013 & 2014. Beginning in 2015 EB III will be sampled 2x per year. For 2015 Raccoon Creek Partners decided it was no longer necessary to take lab and field parameters in source ponds to save time and resources. Also, for 2015 the SSLB discharge will be taken in the combined location only and not at the left and right discharge pipes.

West Branch

Super-combo sampling for Post-con HG & Orland & Pre-con Ilesboro Rd.

Orland: Only WB050 will be monitored

Need AMD investigation of WB055. Acid source between WB075 and WB055. There is a site on NPS

Middle Basin

No significant changes – stopped monitoring Elk Fork in 2013

LRC LTM

- Water samples and field data will be collected biannually (high and low flow) at 15 LRC monitoring sites (Table 1).
 - 8 Little Raccoon Creek mainstem sites &
 - 7 AMD tributary confluences
 - Dickason Run was added in 2012 due to mine blow-out – will only be sampled during low flow
 - Goose Run will only be sampled during high flow beginning in 2015

Mulga

No longer monitoring

See LRC monitoring plan for Middleton Post Con & Morrow Post Con and FR Wetland Pre Con

Agenda Item Number 9: Set Date for Bio Sampling Meeting (if needed) – Jen Bowman, Jeff Calhoun

The date for this meeting will be chosen another time. Also time needs scheduled by Jeff and Amy to fix the electrofishing boat trailer (tire ruined at Gallia Co. Farm City Day last fall).

Agenda Item Number 10: AmeriCorps/Upcoming Events Update – Dustin Gross, Alicia Rector, All

Upcoming events announced: Apple Grafting Workshop, Kids Amphibian Camp for spring events. Working on planning for summer camps, spring canoe float, etc.

Agenda Item Number 11: New Business/ Announcements - All

No New Business

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

See Red Underlined items

Agenda Item Number 13: Next Meeting Date

TBA