

Raccoon Creek Partnership
Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday May 25, 2011
Waterloo Aquatic Education Center

Attendance: Heike Perko, Amber Brookins, Rocky McNickle, Molly Gurien, Dick Hogan, Amy Mackey, Brian Blair, Sarah Landers, Kara Walton

Treasures Report (Amber Brookins): RCP general funds = \$6,264.42; DOW Grant = \$2032.15; Waterloo Camp = \$700.00; OEEF = \$2540.00; RCWTA = \$1286.18; Total RCP Account as of 5/25/11 = \$12813.75; Total Account increase from 4/27/11 to 5/25/11 = 42477.97

Fundraising Committee Report (Amber Brookins): These years the Fundraising Committee decided not to conduct a raffle. There will be grafted trees to sell at the Paw Paw Festival. An idea was proposed to print some RCP shirts to sell at events. There is a bake sale taking place on Friday, June 10th in Athens. There will be baking going on at Amber's house on the 9th. There is also potential for having a benefit show at CASA this summer.

Coordinator Report (Amy Mackey): Amy received a letter from the Ohio Environmental Council (OEC) asking if RCP would like to become a member. The RCP Board voted to pay \$25.00 membership fee to OEC. Pre bid for Harble Griffith and Orland gob pile is completed and work is scheduled to begin in July of this year. Have decided on 6 interns to interview; Mark Rendes, Kenner Simms, Lisa DeRose, Karla Sanders, Joshua Phillips, Badger Johnson. Will interview on May 26th, and June 2nd. Still accepting AmeriCorps applicants. Kara and Sarah are on the front page of the federal Department of Energy newsletter for helping with the Science Alliance Day in Piketon. Kim Brewster has completed her Masters project in Middleton Run and will present her findings on June 1st at 10:00 at the Ridges, all are encouraged to attend. Discussed having a watershed day for kids at the mall on State Street in Athens, will provide more details when they are available. RCP (Amy and Sarah) presented "Protecting Watershed Health" during the AOA Conserving Family Lands Conference on May 12th.

Water Quality Specialist Report (Brian Blair): Water sampling is slow due to rainy weather and high flows. East Branch 2 is moving along, however the sand used for the filtering system was of poor quality and is clogging up the discharge. East Branch 3 is now on line but the valves that are being used leak water when they are closed. ODNR said they would replace every valve in East Branch 2 & 3. 50 additional tires were removed from the Flint Run area.

Waterloo Education Report (Heike Perko, Kara Walton, Sarah Landers): Heike Perko was hired as Camp Facilitator. The summer camps date is June 20th thru 24th and August 1st thru 5th. A committee meeting will be scheduled to finalize the agenda for the camps.

Water Trail (RCWTA) report (Molly Gurien): Annual Spring Float was May 1st with 10 paddlers. Water level was perfect. RCWTA annual dinner will be August 6th at the Vinton Village Park in Vinton Ohio in Gallia County. Ohio University Department of Recreation donated three canoes to RCWTA/RCP.

AmeriCorps Report (Sarah Landers, Kara Walton): Will be doing an Environmental program at the Gallipolis Library Saturday June 4th. There will be an RCP workday at the Waterloo Aquatic Education Center on Sunday, June 5th. There will be a potluck, so please bring a dish to share. Bring work gloves and gardening supplies to help clean up the building inside and out and there will be some Hocking College students coming to help and clean up litter. RCP and RCWTA are participating in litter clean ups on Saturday, June 18th. RCWTA will meet at St Rt 218 and Raccoon Creek at 10 AM and will clean up via canoe/kayak. RCP will meet at Waterloo at 9:30AM to carpool to nearby clean up site. Sarah and Kara attended ECO Weekend at Camp Oty 'Okwa at Hocking Hills on Saturday April 30th and Sunday May 1st. Helped Heike with a nature walk and assisted with various programs for youth. Kara worked with RSVP program through COAD to recruit senior volunteers for both summer camps. There are two people interested, one for the June camp and one for the August camp.

Hiring Process for Water Quality Specialist (Amy Mackey): Contract from ODNR is in the mail, Job description is completed and approved by RC&D will post next week. Announce to Hocking College, OU, Rio Grande, RCP website, OH watershed list serve. Will decide on interview committee at next meeting, need board member who is not applying to serve on interview committee. Application deadline July 11th.

Annual Dinner Planning (All): Need larger venue to hold the dinner, suggestions, New Marshfield Community Center and Uncle Bucks Saloon – Heike will ask both. Possible dates October 9, 15, 16. Also suggested holding a benefit at Uncle Buck's saloon if not the Annual Dinner. Need to confirm Derek will attend with apple tasting as main speaker. Need to beef up silent auction this year. . START GETTING DONATIONS NOW!!!! Suggestions:

- Canoe Float – Hocking Hills canoe livery – Tim will ask
- Bat boxes, bird housed – RCP will build
- One large canvas painting from camp kids – need to get canvas
- Ask Mike Schooley about veggie basket again.
- Rocky will make wooden basket
- Natalie – cake / cake certificate???
- Heike – scarves
- Walking Stick – Nathan Brookins
- Dick Hogan – solar hot water consult
- Sarah – ice cream
- Sarah's mom – art item
- Have campers make extra stepping stones
- Nelsonville railway tickets?
- Stay at a local cabin

5 Year Strategic Plan (All): Sarah attended a conference that suggested having a plan...what do you want to do in the future?? We need to show some goals and priorities for spending money that we raise. Maybe develop a 'thank you wall' for larger donations. Sarah will look at templates.

Public Meeting in Vinton (All): Maybe have August meeting in Vinton. Amy suggests Craig Hicks from USDA as speaker. Talk about feral hogs in the area. Tim will contact Craig, Rocky will contact McCoy's.

New Business/Announcements (everyone): Discussed having our August meeting at McCoy's in Vinton, Ohio. Rocky will check and see if it's permissible. This years RCP annual dinner will be either October 9th, 15th or 16th of this year with one of two locations being New Marshfield Community Building or Uncle Bucks Saloon. Dick Hogan has received the film "A Land Ethic for Our Time' and a tentative date of July 21st for showing at the Waterloo Aquatic Education Center is set. Heike, Sarah, and Kara will make flyers to distribute, Dick will get the software to them.

Next meeting date: June 29th 6:30 Waterloo