

## **Raccoon Creek Partnership Technical Advisory Committee - Meeting Agenda**

Wednesday January 7th, 2009, 9:00 – 12:00 PM

Wayne National Forest Headquarters, Nelsonville OH

**Attendance:** Jeff Calhoun, Amy Mackey (Ohio Valley RC&D and Vinton SWCD), Barb Flowers (ODNR-DMRM), Mike McAvoy (ODNR-DMRM), Regan Welch (ODNR-DMRM), Constance White (ODNR-DMRM), Gary Willison (USFS – WNF), Rocky McNickle (RCP), Scot Hindle (ODNR-DMRM), Dan Imhoff (OEPA), Mitch Farley (ODNR-DMRM), Kelly Capuzzi (OEPA), and Ben McCament (OU Voinovich School)

### **1. Watershed Coordinator Update – Ben McCament**

Group was updated on process of hiring a new watershed coordinator. The Voinovich School is the sponsor for the Raccoon Creek watershed coordinator grant through ODNR-DSWC. Since the most recent state budget cuts the Voinovich School has decided to put hiring a new coordinator to replace Ben on hold. This is because the Voinovich School receives a portion of their funding from the general fund of the state budget, and this is what is used to provide matching funds to the grant. This means that Ben will keep doing watershed duties to make sure grant responsibilities are met. Constance mentioned that a 2009 RFP does not look promising at this point due to aforementioned budget cuts. This would affect Raccoon Creek since the current watershed coordinator grant expires in 2009. Mitch requested to Constance that Greg Nageotte, Russ Gibson, and himself should meet to discuss the future of the program before any decisions are made. Rocky suggested that possibly the governors stimulus package request could be a way to get additional monies to help support watershed coordinators since it creates jobs. Constance will talk to Cheryl Johncox at OEC about that idea.

### **2. Water Quality Specialist Update – Amy Mackey**

Amy asked about updated computer from ODNR-DSWC since current one at Vinton SWCD is barely functional. Constance said it was coming and was going to follow up on it. Mitch and John offered to help if DSWC can not.

Amy updated group on the # of samples collected during 2008 (~360) and that we met our 2008 goals according to our management plan. She is working on putting together a summary of the data to provide to Mary Ann by the beginning of February. Ben mentioned that we submitted a pre-proposal to the Tiffany and Company Foundation to help support monitoring and maintenance in Raccoon Creek and it would help fund Amy's position. Probably February until we hear back if we can submit full proposal. Since the Wayne NF has not been able to come up with \$10,000 to support Amy's position due to budget issues, we will be requesting another

\$10,000 from ODNR-DMRM to continue position through June. We also need to come up with funding for next year (July 2009 to June 2010).

In 2008, recon was conducted in Orland Gob Pile and Elk Fork basins. These areas will be added to the 2009 Monitoring Plans. The Orland Gob Pile has been purchased by Leigh Huntley. More recon is still needed at Elk Fork. Nate Schlater (Monday Creek WQS) is maintaining Carbondale doser, but Amy is checking it regularly. Amy, Jeff, and Nate cleaned material out of the channel in the fall, which has helped with material mixing and treatment, but the entire concrete channel still needs to be cleaned (more info in AMD Project Update).

If any of the partners have info / events that they would like to have posted on the RCP website ([www.raccooncreek.org](http://www.raccooncreek.org)) get them to Amy ([amylmackey@gmail.com](mailto:amylmackey@gmail.com)) and she will add them.

Outreach and Education - Waterloo Aquatic Education Center was a success in 2008. We held 4 day camps, a Passport to Fishing Workshop, and Family Fun Day. We are in the process of planning 2009 events. Contact Amy if you would like to be involved. Ben and Amy will be presenting to the Vinton County Commissioners on January 26<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 regarding the Pierce Run Project. Amy will present to Professor Bishop's OU class on January 21<sup>st</sup> about RCP and Waterloo. They would like to become involved in the organization. Amy will be assisting with the Aquatic Section of the 2009 Multi County Envirothon at Lake Hope.

**3. Rural Action/AmeriCorps Positions for Watersheds Update** – Amy Mackey Raccoon Creek (as well as Sunday Creek, Monday Creek, Moxahala, Leading Creek, and Huff Run) will be getting AmeriCorps members through Rural Action (match provided by MRM) for one year: August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2009 to August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2010. Raccoon Creek will be getting 1 full-time person. They are required to work 1,700 hours over that year and will make \$920 per month. Plus a \$4,725 education stipend at the end of their completed term. Some mileage money is available and they will be reimbursed at .38 cents per mile. RC may have to come up with some additional mileage money because our watershed is so large and may require more driving. AmeriCorps positions can do direct service as opposed to VISTA volunteers. 10% of their time has to be training. Will be able to assist with sampling, outreach and education, public relations, member recruitment... A memorandum of understanding between Rural Action and RCP has been developed and approved. The position description has also been submitted and approved. Positions should be posted in late fall. Posting, interviewing, and hiring will be the responsibility of RCP.

Constance suggested that the person become registered as an Earth Team volunteer, which would make them able to drive a federal vehicle if needed.

#### **4. Water Quality Monitoring Plans for 2009 – Amy Mackey**

Drafts of monitoring plans for 2009 were discussed. They will be revised and sent out electronically for all to review. Also, once finalized, maps of each basin, with sample points will be added to the Monitoring Plans. A few key points:

##### *Little Raccoon Creek*

- Since FR East and Lake Milton are functioning, we should conduct fish sampling upstream and downstream in 2009.
- Mary Ann agreed to continue monitoring Middleton Run. Extensive reconnaissance is planned for Middleton in 2009 to determine the source of elevated acid and aluminum loads.

##### *Raccoon Creek Headwaters*

- Kelly (OEPA) is willing to assist with fish sampling in 2009 (sites TBA)
- Mary Ann agreed to continue monitoring Trace Run
- Mitch suggested further investigation into the Carbondale Creek basin for future projects.
- East Branch Phase II pre-construction sampling will be conducted in early 2009
- Recon is planned for Brushy Creek, and Pumpkin Ridge for 2009
- WB LTM sites have been established due to several pending projects in the watershed.
- Orland Gob Pile sampling plan has been developed.

##### *Middle Basin Raccoon Creek*

- Pierce Run pre-construction sampling will continue until construction begins (June). No sampling will be conducted during construction. A post-construction plan has been developed and will be enacted at the project's completion.
- Some investigation is necessary at Rockcamp Run due to unexpected alkalinity levels during last sampling event.
- Elk Fork sampling and recon is scheduled for 2009.

#### **5. Future Water Quality Project Implementation Prioritization – Jeff Calhoun**

Jeff presented some data and information on 4 potential AMD projects to pursue implementation for. Water quality was evaluated for these sites..... **Jeff, please provide summary here.**

Ben mentioned that the only current grant funded project underway is Pierce Run, which should be complete by the end of 2009. We need to get more projects up to date with engineering designs, cost estimates, potential load reductions, and stream miles affected for grant applications this year. A discussion for prioritization and needs occurred regarding each project.

**1 – East Branch Phase II** – MRM is completing design and will construct summer of 2009. MRM is funding project directly with no grants or cost-sharing. This will consist

**2 – Lake Latrobe in Flint Run (LRC)** – Simple project because dam (mine spoil) for Lake is most likely cause of severe AMD. However, exploratory drilling in the area is underway for re-mining, so a project there might be premature if re-mining could take place and fix our water quality problems.

**3 – Orland Gob (West Branch)** – Property has been auctioned off by Vinton County and was bought by Leigh Huntly. Local landowners who want to see this reclaimed pushed the County prosecutor to move forward on this, which we were not able to do in the past. Lawrence Daft, husband of Leigh and former coal miner, contacted MRM about the project and possibly doing a landowner cost share. A meeting with him will be scheduled to discuss. Amy and Jeff have been collecting new data in the vicinity of the pile. Group agreed that this is a good project to pursue and that the landowner cost-share option should be explored first.

**4 - Mt. Pleasant/ Harble Griffith Road (West Branch)** – Data in 2009 was collected at the strip pits and tributaries draining them. Appears to have big impact on water quality of West Branch and potential reclamation and treatment could have big benefit. Group agreed that it is a good candidate for a grant application. Need to work on and formalize conceptual design and engineering cost estimate for this project. Need to investigate potential borrow areas for reclamation.

**5 – Trace Run (Hewett Fork)** – Trace Run's impact on the recovery of Hewett Fork is noticeable and removing acid loads here would likely benefit a few miles of Hewett Fork (section of stream along Waterloo Wildlife Area). Doser at Carbondale cannot completely neutralize acid loads from Trace Run. This is also a good project for a grant application. There is good water quality upstream of the Kennard Seep that could be utilized for a steel slag bed. Mitch also recommended investigating steel slag bed in Carbondale Creek as an alternative because its ODNR property and access is easy. Both options will be pursued for this project.

## **6. Lake Milton Water Quality Update – Dan Imhoff**

Lake Milton is a 15 acre lake that was/is being treated as part of a 319 project that was completed

in 2007 and is being used to run a steel slag leach bed.

Dan passed out a sheet with the data from two grab samples and two depth profiles collected in the lake in the summer of 2008. The sheet also had typical data of local lakes for comparison as well. In summary, the lake had decent water quality but had exceptionally high Manganese. Dan found limits for Manganese from Canada and Lake Milton levels far exceed those. Toxicity of Manganese is unknown to some degree though and the high hardness is likely binding up the available manganese. Nickel, TDS, TSS, conductivity, sulfate, calcium, hardness was also high compared to other lakes in the region. Nutrients were very low, which you would expect in the small forested watershed. Lake profiles of field data showed good clarity, high conductivity, and good dissolved oxygen (DO). The lake was about 9.5 meters (or about 30 feet) at its deepest sample location. ODNR Division of Wildlife is interested in stocking the lake if water quality is good enough. This data should be presented to them in the near future. Bluegill are present in the lake currently but the source of them is unknown.

#### **8. AMD Project Update** – Barb Flowers, Ben McCament, Amy Mackey

*Carbondale* – ODNR-MRM is finalizing design to clean out ditch next to adjacent landowners property as well as the doser channel as well. The material from the ditches will be buried on site.

*Mulga Run* – Scot Schell was planning on trapping beaver at the Mulga Wetland, which have decreased residence time. Update post meeting: Scot sent an email saying that he went to trap beaver there but traps had already been set and beaver activity looked low.

*Flint Run* – Upper Lake Milton SAPS pond had a pH around 5 in December, which is lower than recorded below. Need to look at the system to see what is going on. High flows likely decrease residence time in the SAPS pond though and decrease treatment. This was high flow sampling event. Lake Milton SLB was running at 50 gpm instead of 100 gpm. Valves need to be exercised and reset flow to 100 gpm, especially during this wet period (winter and spring). All valves will need exercised as part of maintenance program.

#### **9. Pierce Run 319 Project Update** – Ben McCament, Barb Flowers

The final location of the slag bed, impoundment for water storage, and access road has been decided upon in the PR0115 tributary. Wetland delineation is complete and project will avoid wetland areas. Map from ATC was viewed. Barb Flowers indicated that a nationwide permit from the Army Corps was obtained for a low water stream crossing for the project. ATC is under final design contract, which has a completion date of March 13<sup>th</sup>. Construction needs to be completed this year to meet grant timelines. EPA 319 grant expires Dec. 2009. Baseline

sampling was completed in 2008 and will continue until project begins construction. Ben and Amy will be presenting on Pierce Run project to the Vinton County Commissioners on January 26<sup>th</sup>. A public meeting will be scheduled in Radcliff as well prior to construction to inform the public of the project and it's affects (or lack thereof) on flooding in Radcliff.

#### **10. New Business**

Mitch Farley: ODNR-MRM is working on "Good Samaritan" legislation with regard to abandoned mine lands; Also working on "mine land" disclosure legislation; the AML program is working on developing an operation and maintenance fund internally for AMD treatment projects, OEPA has created a website where watershed groups can list there projects for mitigation funding and AMD watershed groups have been encourage to get their projects from AMDAT listed; January 28<sup>th</sup> – Paul Z. from WVU will be presenting on WV's AML program plans to ODNR staff (Columbus); The Applied Research Conference (ARC) will be held this December at Ohio University (2009)

Kelly Capuzzi: OEPA will be posting intern positions in February. Help getting the word out about these positions would be appreciated.

Constance White: Mandatory SWIMS (data reporting system) training for all watershed coordinators in February (2 dates). Mitch requested that Amy attend in the place of Ben because of presentation on the second date (Feb. 24<sup>th</sup>). Constance thought that would be fine.

Ben McCament: Will be presenting Little Raccoon Creek paper at WV Surface Mine Drainage Task Force conference this Spring.

#### **11. Next Meeting Date: April 8<sup>th</sup> , 9:00 AM at Voinovich School**