

**Raccoon Creek Partnership
Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
Wednesday October 21st, 2009**

Voinovich School, The Ridges, Building 22, Room 214

In attendance: Ben McCament, Amy Mackey, Regan Welch, Mike McAvoy, Mary Ann Borch, Kaabe Shaw, Kelly Capuzzi, Pam Stachler, Jen Bowman

ALL “TO DO” ITEMS ARE UNDERLINED

Interim Watershed Coordinator Update (Jen Bowman)

-Jen is submitting the RC watershed coordinator grant to ODNR-DSWC by Friday Oct. 30th, match has been secured by Ohio University \$30,000 for wages and benefits and \$35,625 in-kind (mileage and not charged indirect). Position will be posted, search committee is being developed, and hopefully have a full-time coordinator by the first week of January.

Water quality specialist report (Amy Mackey)

-80 chemical sites sampled at LTM sites (Hewett, LRC, and Headwaters).

-Sampled Orland gob pile upst and dst; dst was better water quality than upstream during low flow condition, will need to target a high flow runoff sampling event.

-Lake Latrobe pH 5.19 and Fe 1.44 mg/l @ dam @ surface, dst the dam pH drops to 3.0 and Fe increase to 14.7 mg/l. Lake is 9.1 meters deep. Kelly will get data from Dan Imhoff, samples were taken at specific depths throughout the lake.

-Working with Jon Brauer, OU MSES student, completing his Leadership Option with RCP. He is working with Amy on characterizing Elk Fork with chemical and biological data. It was suggested to look at historical data from study Mitch has.

-assisted with MC mass balance sampling

-Do to: sampling LTM in Middle Basin and Headwaters, Harble Griffith (invite Mary Ann), EB Phase I and II, Flint Run and Lake Milton.

-Amy needs high magnification microscope to complete the MAIS IDing

-Discuss further the possibilities of setting up a volunteer monitoring plan for maintaining the project sites; exercise the values, visual inspection, etc....

ODNR summer internship (Jen reported on Qian’s work and outcomes)

-Conduct a QAQC analysis yearly and build results into annual reports.

-SWERP-mitigation clearinghouse database: West branch, Pierce Run-and East Branch – all have been added to the database

Water quality sampling update (Marry Ann Borch)

-Possible treatment here will be a steel slag bed across the street at the clean water tributary, however this needs investigated b/c it may flow through possible deep mine area, need to conduct geo-technical work. Property is owned by Brian Blair. There is a remnant gob pile that may need to be reclaimed as part of project. Considerations on this project: State Route flood-ODOT built levee same level as creek.

-Constance will track down old photos from Owen Kennard and check on mine history –carry over from last meeting

-Need to sample Middleton Run during low flow

-Need to sample upst and dst Kennard/Trace Run (invite Amy)

RC coordinator grant objectives (Jen)

Handout reviewed and discussed – it was suggested to add a sustainability objective

RC coordinator grant 2010

From the by-laws

Mission: “to work toward conservation, stewardship, and restoration of the watershed for a healthier stream and community”.

The primary objectives of the Raccoon Creek Partnership are:

1. To partner with local, state and federal agencies and organizations to facilitate and implement water quality restoration, enhancement, and protection projects.
2. To conduct outreach activities and provide environmental education to the public and watershed partners with regard to Raccoon Creek watershed management.
3. To create, enhance, and promote recreational opportunities on Raccoon Creek.
4. To support and coordinate watershed related research activities.
5. To develop and support stewardship programs to activate and educate the local watershed community.
6. To advocate and support activities that support and further the mission of the RCP.

Priority Objectives

- 1) To reduce acid and metal loads in Raccoon Creek, specifically in East Branch, West Branch, Hewett Fork, and Little Raccoon Creek with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Mineral Resources Management and other partners.
- 2) To support and promote watershed education activities at the Waterloo Aquatic Education Center.
- 3) To support and promote watershed recreational activities with the Raccoon Creek Water Trails Association.
- 4) To conduct, assist, and/or participate in research activities with Ohio University faculty and students in the Raccoon Creek watershed.
- 5) To develop and support stewardship programs to activate and educate the local watershed community.

AMD project prioritization list (All)

- Group will re-convene and finish filling in the detail next Wednesday Oct. 28 2-3, 2009 at Athens ODNR building
- Look into Quick Base options for project status updates

Project updates (Mike McAvoy)

East Branch Phase II – low bid came in \$160,000 under estimate and an unbalanced budget, this bidder was not chosen, appealed by bidder. Second low bidder was contacted (Stimmel) should have contract by January with a March/April construct date.

East Branch Phase III Winifred – Starting design in November with an estimated bid by April or March.

Pierce Run – Currently under construction with delays due to dam material, dam will be maintained as needed. Jen will schedule an OEPA visit to the site with Russ and Martha this Fall/Winter. Will hold the citizen's tour in the Spring. There is a chance that the construction will not be completed by the “stop construction” date of Nov. 15. If this happens construction will resume as early as March 15. Construction is still planned to be completed by June 30, 2010 according to the 319 Grant timeline.

Maintenance (brief notes regarding the projects that need maintenance):

J-Mar – Dale Stewart will fix steel slag valves this fall for \$3,600

Lincoln pit will be looked at next spring 2010.

Carbondale – plan to extend channel Spring 2010

Lake Milton – fix valves, vegetation barren slopes, skimmer on top Spring 2010

East Branch Phase I – work on Spring 2010

Flint Run East – Run a new pipe at the slag bed Summer 2010

Conceptual Design:

Trace Run conceptual design alternatives were presented and discussed to be included in the RC management plan. Mike will send the cost estimate tomorrow. The project will require ODOT and AEP right of entries.

Announcements

Vinton County Airport expansion required an Army Corps permit but it was not received prior to work. The stream has been culverted and valley was filled with spoil and gob. There is high erosion off the site into a section of Raccoon Creek that has been targeted for recovery from upstream reclamation. EPA is pursuing enforcement for sediment violation. Kelly is scheduling a site visit. RCP will write a letter of support to EPA use \$ to fix this problem and remediate the damage to Raccoon Creek.

Pam announced that she will send the WNF annual plan for review, and she will take our request to Gary Willison to support the RC water quality specialist position with funds from the WNF.