

**Raccoon Creek Water Trail Association
March 16, 2006 Meeting Minutes
Wells Public Library**

Opening

- Ben McCament opened the meeting, new participants recognized, and introductions were made all around.

Water Trail News

- Kim Baker (ODNR Division of Watercraft) spoke with ODNR Division of Forestry about a water trail in Zaleski State Forest. Apparently Zaleski SF is presently on board for the water trail concept.
- The ODNR Division of Watercraft public boating facility grant deadline has been extended until June 1, 2006.
- A partnership for long term maintenance may be possible with ODNR – Division of Wildlife. Contact person is Mike Greenlee in the Athens District Office.
- ODNR Division of Watercraft would like to speak with the RCWTA about a long-term water trail program involving watershed inventories, stewardship development, and mapping. The group agreed that Kim Baker should attend some future meeting.
- Ohio University graduate student Sarah Watling is organizing several airplane flights over Raccoon Creek to benefit the water trail project. She will contact everyone when the date of the next flight is set.
- Raccoon Creek canoe floats dates are set for May 6, May 7, and May 20. The May 7 is a special float for water trail members, family, and friends. We will use this day to inventory the Zaleski State Forest water trail section.

Discussions

- Glen Stout was concerned about who take responsibility of long term maintenance of the water trail access sites.
- Brett Laverty raised the issue of liability for private landowners and the importance of understanding this issue while in the early planning stages. He agreed to do research on this issue for the next meeting.

- There was some discussion on the design of the boat launches. Brett Lavery agreed to do some research on launch design and possibly create a power point presentation for the next meeting.
- The Zaleski State Forest Water Trail was identified as the first water trail project. A total of 6 sites were chosen as likely launch sites and included: low water bridge (above Zaleski), Route 278 bridge, Hope School, Moonville Tunnel, bridge downstream of Moonville, and Crow Road. The group agreed that a future meeting with Zaleski SF (Dick Lusk) is needed.

Resolutions

- A site visit of the Zaleski SF launch sites was set for Sunday March 26, 2006. Meet at the Hope School at 2:00 PM.
- Contact Kim Baker (ODNR DOW) about attending a future meeting
- A grant committee must be organized in order to meet the June 1 deadline.
- The next water trail meeting is scheduled for April 13, 2006. The meeting will be held at Wells Public Library @ 6:30 in Albany, Ohio.