

Raccoon Creek Water Trail Association Meeting
Thursday, February 8, 2007
Wells Public Library, Albany

1. Phil Miller, current Ohio Water Trails contact from Division of Watercraft joined the meeting and answered questions about a public access site inventory.
 - a. The site inventory can be taken in stages or segments.
 - b. Written approval from land owners of access points is mandatory.
 - c. Division of Watercraft will do a site visit after we submit a project for approval.

2. www.raccooncreekwatertrail.org
 - a. Updates:
 - i. Molly & Wendy created the page.
 - ii. The Division of Watercraft can post our link once we receive "designation".
 - b. Donations:
 - i. The site has instructions for donations.
 - ii. We are considering adding our link to Nice Racks for donations.
 - c. To do:
 - i. Please submit input, feedback, pictures, and maps!
 - ii. We will continue investigating other sites who will add our link.
 - iii. Matt Miller will create a Raccoon Creek entry for wikipedia.
 - iv. **DO A YAHOO OR GOOGLE SEARCH FOR "RACCOON CREEK WATER TRAILS"**. The more visits the site gets, the more visible the site becomes.
 - v. Brett & Ben are going to make and add maps.
 - vi. Brett volunteered to write a piece about day trip options for posting.
 - vii. Brett also mentioned investigating publicity with the ACA (American Canoe Association).
 - viii. Create a blog for folks to post info or descriptions of their trips on the creek.

3. Inventory:
 - a. Updates:
 - i. The Inventory Committee is Ben, Brett, Matt, and Glenn.
 - ii. They will be meeting at Molly's on Wednesday February 21, 2007.
 - iii. Wendy would like to have her Spring quarter Hocking College students do an inventory of a 15 mile stretch to include: potential interpretation, vending, stops, waysides,

camp sites, classroom mapping. There will be around 15 students. Between Zaleski and Re-Use was suggested.

- iv. Brett suggested that the water trails group take an inventory of the stretch from Re-Use industries at Route 50 between April and May.

b. Inventory Criteria:

- i. Every 10 miles we need to obtain landowner consent.
- ii. Inventories of: natural, cultural, historical, geological sites.
- iii. Record GPS points for each put in or relevant site.

4. The Grant:

- a. We will be more competitive with match cash.
- b. April 1st is the deadline, we probably won't be ready for this year but we will continue preparing the proposal.
- c. Put ins can't be on private property so, in cases where the site *is* on private property, we'll need an easement or a lease. The lease has to be for 25 years.
- d. We need to develop an 25 year O&M program
- e. The grant must demonstrate a commitment to the project from the public sector.
- f. Leanne Nabinger from Ohio Outback drafted some great plans for canoe launch structures. Itemized rough estimate list for one: \$12,000 per launch.
- g. Brett needs 2-3 folks to work on specific grant tasks.
- h. A Zaleski team will be lead by Jeff Fite. This team will remain consistent throughout the grant process.

5. Fundraising:

- a. Kids on campus donated \$ from lemonade sales!
- b. Donations can be suggested/collected at public floats.
- c. SOFA might help us acquire a canoe for the raffle.
- d. An Uncle Buck's event with Re-Use intern/member of Southeast Engine was suggested by Brett.

6. Calendar of Events:

- a. Village of Vinton to Bob Evans' Farm, no date was set.
- b. April 14th, Saturday, Zaleski clean-up with put-ins around Moonville/Hope School, Glenn is the contact person.
- c. April 14th, Saturday, simultaneous clean-up at Lake Hope
- d. April 28th, Saturday, Little Raccoon Clean-up, 8 a.m.-1 p.m.
- e. Weekend of the 21st-22nd: Tentative Water Trail members float
- f. April 29th, Sunday, Water Trail members float, Re-Use-Vales Mill
- g. May 12th, Saturday, Annual Public Float, Hope School to Crow Road. PRE-REGISTRATION is required to use our boats. Also, set a departure time for all participants.

h. Sojourners can also schedule an independent float for their crew.

7. Festivals:

- a. The Water Trail group can run tables at various festivals and/or sell raffle tickets for an item like a canoe at the following festivals and others (Glenn is working on getting a canoe donated!!!):
 - i. Spring turkey festival, 2nd week of May
 - ii. July 4th
 - iii. Various County Fairs
 - iv. Welsh Festival
 - v. Bob Evans' Farm Festivals
 - vi. Feast of the Flowering Moon in May in Chillicothe
 - vii. Hocking College trail day
 - viii. Hock Hocking fest

8. Other Business:

- a. The Vinton County Soil & Water may donate the canoes to us after December 2007. We'll need to draft an MOU detailing boat storage and waiver of cost. We'll need to re-register the boats, establish a maintenance schedule, and possibly update the life-jackets.
- b. Prepare a brochure using Brett's display information and images.
- c. We received a request from the Waterloo Education Center to write a support letter explaining that we could/would use the Center. The Center is trying to form a nonprofit and make the site an educational site.
- d. We may consider another design for the t-shirts.

9. The next meeting is March 8th and the location is to be decided.