

**Raccoon Creek Water Trail Association**  
**6:30 PM Thursday, April 12, Nelsonville Public Library**

Attending: Kathy Sanford, Mike Schooley, Neil Shaw, Glenn Stout, Gene Mapes, Leanne Nabinger, Mimi Morrison, Randall Fields, Elisa Schafer, Gary Kellough, Brett Laverty, Gorden Pettey, Ben McCament, Molly Gurien, and Suzanne Fisher

1. Treasurer's Report—Glenn Stout

a. Checking account

- i. Original balance: \$335.26
- ii. Check to Wendy Shields for website: \$142.80
- iii. Current balance: \$192.46

b. Membership dues

- i. Discussion of membership dues: Brett said the RC Partnership uses sliding scale; money would be used for publications, web page setup and annual renewal, watercraft registration, etc.; Glenn stated SOFA (atsofa.com) charges \$12/year; membership may not qualify as a tax credit because RCWTA is not specifically a 501(c)3 organization

1. Motion by Molly to charge dues as below:

annual membership is from May 1st to May 1st, with any dues received prior to May 1st, 2007 providing membership from receipt of dues to May 1st, 2008

\$10	Individual
\$15	Family
\$25	Organization

2. Glenn seconded, motion carried

c. Acquisition of nine Vinton SWCD canoes

- i. ODNR Division of Watercraft will not give us a waiver as we're not a government entity; the registration is \$15/3 years per canoe and \$25-30/year for the trailer according to Glenn
- ii. We may be able to get grants for these costs
- iii. We may need insurance, although the OH Recreational Use Statute should apply, as long as we're not charging for using the canoes and have a safety plan, according to Brett
  - 1. Suz is researching a safety plan; we need to have people trained in water rescue along on all floats, and we need a liability waiver which we can get from the ACA
- iv. Brett recommends waiting until after summer events to pay registration fees
- v. Canoes may need to be registered under the RC Partnership as we're not a legal entity with an address, etc.
- vi. Discussion of whether or not we need a lawyer to look over this information; we will get one when we start our own 501(c)3 process

2. Newsletter

- a. Brett volunteered to create an electronic newsletter, which likely would be sent prior to events, otherwise may be a quarterly newsletter
- b. We need to enlarge our circulation list from just the current RCWTA list; send Molly any suggestions
- c. Suzanne will ask Rebecca Wood to write an article about the resource inventory her Resource Area Management (RAM) class will develop for RC

### 3. Upcoming events

- a. April 20-21, 2007: RCWTA group-only camp and float
  - i. Let Brett know this week whether or not you need a boat for the float on Saturday, April 21
  - ii. McNichols Brothers in McArthur are starting a kayak livery with a special for us \$20/day for this event
  - iii. We are camping at ReUse on Friday, April 20
    1. Come after 6 pm
    2. Bring some food for a campfire potluck
- b. April 28, 2007 from 9 am-12 noon: Little Raccoon Creek Cleanup
  - i. Meet at the Lake Alma shelterhouse at 9 am
  - ii. Glenn will provide trash bags
  - iii. Need more volunteers—Suz will ask her Conf/Festival Mgmt class to volunteer; the OH Outback Conservation Corps (OCC) may come
- c. May 12, 2007 at 11 am: RCWTA Annual Float
  - i. 15 canoes are available to reserve; contact Brett Laverty at 740-596-8826 or [brettlaverty@hotmail.com](mailto:brettlaverty@hotmail.com) to reserve a boat as first come first serve and all boats are departing at 11 am for the single float
  - ii. RCWTA members may have a campout the night before on Friday, May 11 at either Lake Hope or another area
  - iii. Ben will get an OU van and Gary will bring the Sojourners van to shuttle people
  - iv. We need volunteers for food sales (bag lunches, drinks, etc.), logistics, gofering, staffing the display and donation box, and PR: contact Molly at [molly@freestylecanoeing.com](mailto:molly@freestylecanoeing.com)
- d. June 3 or 10, 2007: RCWTA group-only camp and float
  - i. Tentatively camping near Northup Dam—Brett will look into it
  - ii. Tentative dates as several people will be gone later in the month

### 4. Publicity

- a. RCWTA display: Brett asked for input, and members made the following suggestions: remove the word "snakes," break up the text, use pics with people in PFD's, and remove AMD
- b. RCWTA logo: Barbara Klaer, Mike Schooley, and Brett Laverty are submitting designs; anyone else can submit designs also at the next meeting
- c. Festivals
  - i. May 3-6, 2007: Wild Turkey Festival, McArthur; booth fee is \$75, and Brett will ask Debbie at VSWCD if we can split that amount with Sojourners
  - ii. October 5-7, 2007: the Hocking College festival, formerly known as the Timber and Outdoor Show; the OCC is planning to have a tent dedicated to paddlers and will possibly borrow Hocking College canoes, the OCC invited the RCWTA to volunteer and display a booth in the tent
    1. Motion by Jean to display a booth, and some RCWTA members may volunteer
    2. Glenn seconded; motion carried
    3. We will have no insurance for the event; the OCC used a waiver last year

### 5. Inventory

- a. Ben: RCWTA Inventory Committee has listed potential sites on a spreadsheet
- b. Glenn will get plat maps for all sites in Vinton County

- c. We need Gallia plat maps to establish ownership so we can contact landowners about access sites
  - d. Brett says ReUse is definitely interested in providing an access site, which can be a place to start improving access right away
6. Launch designs
    - a. Leeanne submitted two different launch designs; the group liked the small step design better
    - b. OCCC will submit a proposal with cost estimates to our group, ODNR Division of Watercraft, and Zaleski State Forest
  7. New business: Moonville Rail Trail group owns a 400 ft x 200 ft access point to RC in Zaleski State Forest for which they need road barriers, signs, and gates, and they will allow us access at that point
  8. Next meeting: May 10, 2007 at the Hope Schoolhouse