

Raccoon Creek Water Trail Association Monthly Meeting Minutes

Voinovich School, Room 214

3/8/12

Present: Molly, Karla, Randall, Charles, Glen, Rocky, Kristin, Kim and Sarah

1) Treasury Report

-As of 3/8/12, balance is \$1,695.23

- Not including the \$350 Molly paid Rocky for kayak purchase for raffle

-RCWTA earned \$50 for the raffle tickets that were sold at the Southeast Ohio Watershed Council Meeting on March 2, 2012 and at the Southeast Ohio Tourism Expo in Rio Grande on March 3, 2012.

2) Memberships

-Kristin presented a draft card and letter for membership drive, she will edit and email to Molly for review. Sarah also suggested having a brief statement saying the relationship between RCP and RCWTA for the membership drive.

-RCWTA will be having a new member. He works at AEP and his last name is McDaniel. We met him at the Tourism Expo last Saturday. He wanted to come to the meeting but couldn't make it.

-RCWTA group membership will be in May

3) Promotional events

-Charles, Kim, Kristin and Molly were at the Southeast Tourism Expo on Saturday March 3, 2012. The expo wasn't as busy as we anticipated it to be.

-RCWTA put one of their hats in a door prize drawing and a little boy won the hat. Charles got a picture of the little boy because he looked cute in the hat.

-Molly talked to the Bob Evans guy and he said that Bob Evans sold their property that Daniel Boone's cave is on to a gentleman. The property owner is unlikely to allow people on his property to see the cave.

-RCWTA talked about having an informational booth on Final Fridays with RCP in Nelsonville, OH. RCWTA would sell more raffle tickets for the kayak. We also think that it would be better to go when the weather is warmer.

-Final Fridays are the last Fridays of every month.

-Molly doesn't want to go to final Friday in April because we have too many projects going on and the last Friday in May wouldn't work too because of Memorial Day.

-The last Friday in June might work out.

-Kim and Kristin can contact people about how to setup.

-Spring Float is on Sunday April 29, 2012.

-We will be putting in at Clarion road, just West of Wilkesville, OH. People can park at the Clarion Road Bridge (just roadside parking). Meet at 10:00AM

We will be pulling off at Pon's Bridge. The distance is ~ 8 miles and it will take ~ 4 hours to float. Will all depend on the weather.

- We can always make signs for the Spring Float to put at Clarion Road.
- When we advertise, we should include that the float is about 4 hours long and about 8 miles so the public knows what they are getting into.
- We have 3 extra boats but can only fit 12 boats on the trailer.
- When we advertise, use Molly as a contact to reserve a canoe. Use paddlemerlot@yahoo.com. Canoes are available on a first come first serve basis.
- Molly wants to rent some shuttles and an OU van. She can only rent the OU van if she has a student come to the float. Karla said that she is a student and plans on coming so Molly can rent the OU van. Also advertise to the Athens Tourism Expo along with Vinton County.
- Invite the Commoner Journal to the Spring Float.
- Can also use GPS to find the site.
- Glenn, Rocky, Charles and Molly are going on the Pre Float.
- Pre Float will be on Saturday April 21, 2012 at 10:00AM
- Molly is going to try and get Jean to come since her schedule in April is open.
- Glenn is going to be working between Zaleski and Hope school. He might need someone to help keep a lookout for heron nests.
- Ohio Clean Sweep is on Saturday June 16, 2012.
- Kim and Kristin needed some sites and suggestions and wanted to know if anyone wanted to volunteer.
- Charles suggested a trash clean up below Pon's Bridge to 160 in Vinton and Gallia County. Will be about 5 miles. (Start in Vinton end in Gallia).
- Contact Wilkesville Trustees about a cleanup (usually good about cleanups)
- Kim and Kristin think to only do one site instead of two.
- Molly, Rocky, Glenn, Charles and Randall will help with Ohio Clean Sweep.
- Just do an estimate on how many people will be there.
- Glen suggested attending Leading Creek's trash sweep cleanup on April 14th. If people want to go Glenn can bring the canoes down.
- Can post things for community service opportunities for college students to get involved
- Vinton Bean Dinner: First Saturday in August. Decide when the date gets closer.
- Pawpaw festival will be September 14th through September 16th
- Will be raffling off a kayak.
- RCP is having a work day at Waterloo after the first spring day camp. Possibly digging a ditch from the building to the creek to improve drainage.
- Possibly doing some roof scraping as well.
- Amber Brookins has a Jon boat and wants to get rid of it. Not sure how big it is but will take a look at it before taking it.

4) Water Trail Map Content

- Molly talked to Douglas Leed about the water trail state designation and he told her in order to be a state water trail we would need to have a sponsor with \$ 50,000. We would also need to have 2,000 maps and \$25,000 to pay for the maps. Molly asked him if this is listed on the instructions and he said it is not.
- Molly isn't sure if we can get State designation due to the more extensive requirements.

-The ACA will have someone be a water trail if you sign up.

-RCWTA would be better off to do it themselves. Can also make our own signs for every site.

-what size desired for Raccoon Creek map? What are our funding limits? (Karla will hear back about a quote on printing costs soon)

-Some size options discussed: 22"x34" (larger), 11"x17" (smaller), 22"x25.5" (intermediate), also a series of 8.5"x11" pages will be made by Karla regardless of which map size is chosen (these pages can be made available for download on the RCP webpage)

5) Water trail application

-AmeriCorps still working on site evaluations, may be done before next monthly meeting

-Rocky suggested field trip to all of the sites, AmeriCorps will contact Karla to coordinate

-AmeriCorps will email Glen for photos and bridge numbers needed

6) New Business

-Molly mentioned Wetland Construction Workshop March 28-29

-Glen mentioned cleanup with American Rivers Organization on Raccoon Creek – would be good to establish a relationship with them

-Molly mentioned RCP's decision to remain neutral on the issue of fracking in the watershed. RCP needs to provide information to landowners and continue collection of data and monitoring of Raccoon Creek as fracking activity progresses

Next RCWTA meeting: March 8, 6:30pm, Room 214