Raccoon Creek Board Meeting

Wednesday, January 27th, 2021

Action items in red

Present: Nora Sullivan, Emily Keil-Loudner, Ashley Smith, Kelly Love, Molly Gurien, Amy Mackey, Chris Kimmel, Matt Davis, Sarah Maj

Minutes scribed by: Emily Keil-Loudner

Quorum established and meeting started at 6:49 PM.

* **Overview of action items**
  + Amy - mail water trail maps and membership brochures to Chris
  + Nora - do bank account stuff
  + Sarah Maj - taxes and charitable registration thing
  + AmeriCorps - submit Step Outside grant for spring day camp packets
  + All – spring newsletter articles
* **Board Position Elections**
  + Nora moves to keep board positions as they are currently.
    - Matt seconds
    - All approves
  + Nora Sullivan - Board Chair
  + Matt Davis – Vice Chair
  + Emily Keil-Loudner - Secretary
  + Sarah Maj - Treasurer
* **Treasurer’s Report**
  + Made membership free this year.
    - Resulted in even more generous donations (close to $2000 from fall newsletter and holiday mailing).
* **Review and Approve prior board meeting minutes**
  + Chris moves to approve
  + Nora seconds
  + All approve
* **Watershed Coordinator Update** 
  + Scenic Rivers adventure
    - No scenic river program in southeast Ohio.
      * A manager and program in every other part of Ohio.
    - Bob Gable said there’s no interest.
    - Amy, Nora, AmeriCorps and numerous others rallied together to get letters of support to ODNR to say they want a scenic river program.
    - Bob Gable was very impressed by the support.
    - Had meeting last week with Bob Gable and other ODNR and OEPA folks of what to do next.
    - If we can get the entire mainstem of Raccoon Creek designated, it would be the longest Scenic River in Ohio.
    - It would be really good for Ohio to get Raccoon Creek designated as scenic river with its recovery story.
    - Will need help from RCP for letters of support and being on committees.
  + OSM WCAP Grant for maintenance of steel slag leech beds in East Branch.
    - This grant is run through RCP and will require some reporting from RCP
  + Vinton low head dam not really moving very much.
    - Kelly Capuzzi will go with Amy to try and get discussion with landowner going.
  + AML Moonville Pilot Project
    - Bridge building phase is currently under construction.
    - Abandon mine restoration (closing mine openings) will happen next year.
  + Landowner looking buying large section of land in Jackson county.
    - Several abandon mine features.
      * Big open mines and subsidence holes.
      * Acid mine drainage.
    - Funds available for the open mines and subsidence holes.
      * Falls under health and safety.
      * Can put in bat gates and other projects.
    - Potential landowner open to getting abandon mine features addressed.
    - Hopefully, it will be a project site down the road.
  + Start thinking about spring newsletter down the road.
    - If you know anyone or want to write an article for the newsletter, do it!
  + Amy doing biological sampling in Monday Creek, Rush Creek, and Big Sandy Run in 2021
* **AmeriCorps Education Update**
  + Owl Prowl 2021
    - Owl prowl kits are being sent out tomorrow to all the distribution locations.
    - All were claimed within two days.
    - Sending out 140 kits.
    - After about a week, they will send a follow up email to see how they liked the kits and if they took any pictures.
  + Raccoon Creek Explorers
    - 1-3 educational activities people can do at home.
    - They are posted the first Monday of every month.
    - Maybe work on getting word out.
  + Spring Day Camp will not be in person again in 2021.
    - But maybe do another kit, sort of like owl prowl but less intensive
    - maybe do another packet, include ODNR field guides (amphibians and reptiles, or stream fish) and a dollar fish net.
      * Having distribution places works really well.
    - Could try a virtual thing.
      * Jen did virtual summer camp that went well.
  + If anyone has ideas for activities (such as outside activities), please let AmeriCorps members know!
    - Maybe have a scavenger hunt with points of interest that people can take pictures next to.
      * That would be great with the story map!
    - Magnifier dishes/boxes would be good to send in packets.
  + AmeriCorps - submit Step Outside grant for spring day camp packets.
    - Things to buy could include small fish nets, magnifying viewers, laminating sheets for guides.
* **Water Trails**
  + Not sure if we can do any floats this year.
  + Probably not worth raffling a boat, since most tickets are sold at Paw Paw.
    - Could raffle off something smaller as a fundraiser.
  + Molly could write article for newsletter about how paddling is in top ten best social distancing activities outside.
  + Matt can ask Raccoon Creek Outfitters for article.
  + Can make a Scenic Rivers committee for those who are interested.
  + May be able to do a small canoe instructors certification course.
    - Shifted attention to USCA instead of American Canoe Association because ACA was bogged down by a bunch of things.
    - Issue with certification course because need to have somewhere to go, Lake Hope can’t approve to have us have the course there.
    - Molly’s pond is big enough.
    - Would be kept within our group and not a public event.
    - Could do a skills class (which Molly would want to do anyways) and would get ~assistant instructor.
* **Bank Account and Charitable Registration Compliance Update**
  + Remove Sarah Cornwell from bank account.
  + Remove Jess Makosky from bank account.
  + Add Sarah Maj to bank account.
  + Make sure note associated with account that Amy Mackey can make deposits.
* **New Business/Announcements/Next Meeting**
  + Do we need to have new board members sign the by-laws?
    - Not official in the by-laws, just added signature line.
  + AmeriCorps recruitment is starting very soon.
    - Voinovich school agreed to fund the same amount next term.
    - This term, RCP didn’t need to pay a couple thousand that we thought. because of some covid relief fund.
  + Next meeting: Wednesday, February 24th at 6:30 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm