Raccoon Creek November Meeting

Wednesday, January 27th, 2022 at 6:15 pm

Present: Kelsey Daniels, Ashley Grace, Nora Sullivan, Amy Mackey, Chris Kimmel, Emily Keil-Loudner, Kate Blyth, Kelly Love, Molly Gurien

Minutes scribed by: Emily Keil-Loudner

* **Action Items**
  + Nora
    - Plan Fundraising Committee meeting with Chris and Kate
  + Board
    - Sign bylaws
    - Send articles for newsletter for AmeriCorps
  + AmeriCorps
    - Talk to Elkin about getting calendar on website
  + Chris
    - Email names of people who are [large agricultural] landowners next to Raccoon Creek to Amy
* **Nora Update**
  + Never did a roll out for an EPA upgrade and should do that because of Scenic River stuff
  + It would be really good to get the word out about the watershed before the Scenic Rivers stuff resumes
  + Needs to be a board thing
    - Amy can provide any information we need
  + We need to figure out how to get the word out about Raccoon Creek being “Exceptional Warm Water” habitat
    - Need to invite political figures
  + Will be in fresh everyone’s mind when we start talking about Raccoon Creek becoming a Scenic River
  + Need a place to put our ideas:
    - Testing out Miro White Board
      * Had a few hiccups
      * Maybe next time we are all in person, Chris can show us
      * Maybe we will just stick with Google Docs
    - Molly thinks we need press releases
      * Problem with Covid is we can’t do in person events right now
      * Virtual stuff doesn’t reach a lot of people
      * Places like Columbus Dispatch
    - Maybe plan an outdoor event maybe in the spring
      * especially during an election year, political leaders are more likely to come out
      * Need to make sure to invite landowners who have been a part of this too
    - Kate is making a Google Doc for us to put ideas
* **Secretary’s Report**
  + Nora moves to accept November minutes as is
    - Kate seconds
    - All approve
* **Treasurer Report**

**Table

Description automatically generated**

A new account was created for the $1,400 from Quidel for AR sandbox

Amy spent down all of the OSM funds, Go Amy!

Quidel Cares funds used to print new Water Trail signs

Graphical user interface, application, table

Description automatically generated

11/28: Invoice 11/23/21- Total invoice was $77.94 from Tractor Supply as Amy spent down OSM funds. The $4.06 was left over and taken from General

12/03: USPS PO - $58.00- Stamps for holiday letters

12/17: Division of MRM - $93,000- check for EBRC Steel Slag project

1/11: Deposit- $450 from Apple trees

$76.33 from Kroger

$56.00 from Blackbaud

$582.33 Total

1/12: Voinovich School- $69 - Website updates

1/13: Blackbaud canceled the check ($56.00)!

1/18: Quidel - $1400- AR Sandbox

1/18: $1,673 - Memberships and random donations

1/19: J-Fab- $88 - Water trail signs

1/20: Rural Action- $4,274- Americorps match Q1

1/21: Move AR sandbox money to its own account

1/21: Take funds from Quidel Cares account to pay for Watertrail signs

1/24: Amazon- $85.78- Owl Prowl pellets

1/25: Walmart- $32.41- Additional Owl Prowl supplies

* Asked Jen about AmeriCorps funds and she doesn’t see it being an issue in the next few years for Voinovich paying the AmeriCorps match
* Chris moves to accept report
  + Molly seconds
  + All approve
* **Watershed Coordinator Update**
  + East Branch Steel Slag Leech Bed maintenance project
    - Amy and AmeriCorps and ODNR went out to check on it
    - Going out to do sampling once the creeks thaw
    - The Steel Slag Leech Beds are discharging alkaline water
  + Scenic River project was put on hold
    - Apparently over the Paint Creek thing now
    - Some Scenic River guys went out to Raccoon Creek 1/26/22 to check it out
    - The director wants to designate a creek and thought Raccoon Creek would be a good fit
    - Program will no longer need counties or townships need letter supports
      * Trying to make it less political
    - Matthew wants us to come up with a list of landowners (preferably large agricultural landowners)
      * Amy is going to talk to Soil and Water groups
      * Landowners have to be along the creek
      * Chris already knows a couple
        + Chris, email names of people to Amy
  + New reclamation project
    - No longer funded by H2Ohio funds
    - Still happening, just not by those funds and happening in 2023
  + Infrastructure Funding
    - Ben McCamet said Ohio is getting $40 million/year for the next 15 years
      * Not clear what these funds are for
      * Goal is to reduce public health and safety projects related to abandoned mines
        + i.e. high walls
        + possibly allowed for reclamation projects
      * More funds going to Voinovich to allow Amy and Nora to do more acid mine drainage projects
  + Working on 9 element plan for the subwatershed around the Vinton Low Head Dam
    - Finally approved!
    - If we ever get landowner approval, we have a plan in place
  + Meeting with Levi Arnold next Friday and show him the projects
    - New ODA watershed manager for Southeast Ohio
  + Analyzing biological data
* **AmeriCorps Update/Upcoming Events**
  + Owl Prowl
    - February 3rd!
    - Working on take home kits (120!)
      * 4 libraries had people sign up
    - Have all supplies
    - May not need any volunteers
  + Grants
    - Step Outside
      * Looking to use to fund for Family Outdoor Day
      * Possibly new archery materials
      * food
    - Aquatic Education Grant
      * summer camp
        + backpacks and notebooks
        + hoping to do macro day, canoeing day, archery day
  + Duck Dash
    - Contacted about borrowing ducks
      * We can borrow them but they are going to need them back before there Duck Dash, which is in June
      * Thinking April or May
      * Going to go to Moonville to scout out good place for Duck Dash
  + Water Trail Signs
    - Got ahold of Eric Davis in department of transportation
      * Sent him GPS locations and PDF of sign
      * He is looking into it for us
  + T-shirts
    - Talking to Zonez for shirts
      * 20 shirts $24.95 each
      * 50 shirts $16.95 each
    - Ashley will look into cheaper options
    - Queensboro out of North Carolina generally has good prices (Chris uses them for his store)
  + Spring Newsletter
    - If have an idea for article, send to AmeriCorps!
  + Spring Camp
    - Day thing looking at aquatic insects, amphibians, etc.
  + Still doing Raccoon Creek Explorers
  + Going to schools on Thursdays
  + Ideas for Family Outdoor Day
    - Need to decide if we are going to have food
    - We have done Kaisers in the past
      * Emily looked into them for annual meeting and felt it was more expensive
    - If we decided to do food, Amy will need to check to make sure we can still do food
  + Appalachian Expo
    - AmeriCorps are signed up to go to that
    - Saturday March 19
  + AmeriCorps, maybe try to put calendar on website with upcoming events?
    - Talk to Elkin about calendar
* **New Business**
  + Future Meetings: 4th Thursday of each month for meeting
  + Try to sell new t-shirts on website
  + Need to work on marketing RCP better
  + Could use drone to fly over sites and use in marketing
  + Once weather gets nicer, have meetings at places other than OU
  + Talking with Assistant Professor of Biology & Wildlife Conservation at Rio Grande
    - Would like to have for talks or programs
  + Meeting adjourned at 7:44 pm