**Raccoon & Leading Creek Technical Advisory Committee Meeting**

**December 4th, 2018 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.**

**Zaleski ODNR Complex**

In Attendance: Amy Mackey, Nora Sullivan, Jim Freeman, Jeff Calhoun, Kaabe Shaw, Ben McCament, Kate Blythe, Rachel Taulbee, Cathy Hoobler

1. Introduced all in attendance
2. General Coordinator Updates
   1. Raccoon Creek – Amy Mackey
      1. Caught up on chemical monitoring (Jennie sampling WB LTM w/ AmeriCorps today
      2. No low flow, too much rain! Some bio sampling not completed due to rain.
      3. All chem data that is back from lab has been entered and 2nd person verified
      4. As soon as rest of data is back from lab it will be entered and verified – should all be done by January 15th deadline
      5. We weren’t able to sample mouth of Flint Run due to high water, MRM will attempt to sample on December 10th.
      6. Started on MAIS ID
      7. Huff Run fish analysis complete, haven’t started Raccoon Creek fish analysis yet but will complete by March 8th.
      8. Greer doser delivery scheduled for today. Still having issues with deliveries.
         1. MRM is working on a contract with Greer since we spend more than $50,000/yr through them. This will streamline payment.
         2. Continue to order when needed
   2. Leading Creek – Jim Freeman
      1. Flow was conducive for dosing but not necessarily for sampling
3. EPA Updates – Rachel Taulbee
   1. EPA required by law to conduct stakeholder notifications for survey areas.
      1. Stakeholders can provide comments
      2. EPA not required to respond to all comments
      3. Rachel sent webpage where notices are available <https://www.epa.state.oh.us/dsw/wq>
      4. See document at end of meeting minutes
      5. RC needs to email Rachel list of who to contact for Raccoon Creek notice
   2. Little new survey work in 2019 or planned for 2019 in order to give staff time to complete pending TSD and TMDL documents
      1. If we have sampling needs that OEPA may be able to help with send them to Rachel
   3. LEAN event (management efficiency) coming up for Division of Surface Water. Kelly Capuzzi is the representative. This meeting will determine future work plan for OEPA.
   4. New Coldwater Habitat criteria in process
      1. Currently the criteria is just “waterbody capable of supporting coldwater taxa” with no specific biological criteria for attainment.
      2. There has been pushback to refine the definition to add specific criteria
   5. Revamping Primary Headwater Habitat.
      1. Changing name to “Primary Headwater”
      2. New manual coming soon
   6. Certified Water Quality Professional Program
      1. Similar to Credible Data Collector Program but for permitting
      2. Rachel will send info
      3. There will be training and testing requirements for certification
   7. John Matthews took Russ Gibson’s place. John is from ODNR and will be over 319 grants and stormwater.
   8. Raccoon Creek Survey Update
      1. Currently drafting TSD – Jordan Jenkins is the primary TSD editor. Kelly and Randy helped with modelling. Should be out in March 2019.
      2. Downstream of Vinton LH dam to mouth of Raccoon (40 miles), recommended Exceptional Warm Water. With removal of dam at Vinton next 40 miles up could most likely attain EWH.
      3. RC recommended WWH, improved from LRW
      4. Most dst 4.3 miles of Hewett Fork recommended WWH
      5. Loading analysis plan – summer 2019
4. Watershed Funding Updates – Ben McCament
   1. Watershed Support FY 2019 contract finally signed. Had to revise the original contract to include Rural Action watersheds on OU contract.  Contract ends June 30, 2019.
   2. Ben is meeting soon with Jen Bowman and Debbie Phillips to discuss future contracts and funding.  Transitioning to new ODNR administration, requires explanations of current programs and budgets.
   3. Ben/MRM working on subcontracts for Ilesboro 319 with Ohio U. and OSM grant with RCP.
   4. NAAMLP in Pittsburgh in September 2019.  Will be discussing AML reauthorization (2021).  NAAMLP and organizations in PA already promoting reauthorization, which expires is 2021.  Pushing to get on congress agenda soon. National and state mining associations, including Ohio, are predominantly against reauth due to decrease in coal production.  Might help to pull together watershed success stories.  Ben will let us know if/when he needs them.
   5. AMD Maintenance fund creation is still a top priority and will be working with new administration on it.  Right now ~$10 million in the unofficial maintenance fund.  Need to create a separate fund that can be invested to generate interest.  Goal is to get fund to $15 million, then use the generated interest to fund maintenance on priority projects annually.
   6. Need support from local and state officials for the maintenance fund.  Topic for AOWC meeting discussion.
5. AMD Project Updates – Kaabe Shaw
   1. Ilesboro – 30 acre reclaim in Hocking County. Done except for resoil. Only about 5 acres resoiled. Borrow will be seeded and mulched for winter. 17 inches of rain ABOVE AVERAGE for 2018 has delayed projects. Extending project to June 1st, 2019.
   2. Daniels – 10 acre reclaim in Jackson County. Complete. Some erosion, will apply more fertilizer and seed. Post construction monitoring will start in 2019. Seeded with The Wilds seed mix (mostly native). Slow initial growth but filling in nicely. MRM will order trees this winter for spring planting. RCP and AmeriCorps will plant trees. Main channel will be extended up the hill further to catch more run-off and prevent erosion. Steep slope may need more seed.
   3. No project money next 2 years.
   4. East Branch maintenance still a priority but no timeframe of completion. Slag needs replaced, producing very low alkalinity (evident at mouth). Will write am OSM grant for maintenance/rehab.
      1. Need to discuss this project with Wayne National (Jason Reed) as the sites are on WNF property. Any funding to contribute?
   5. Lapp Reclaim – 30 acres in Hocking County. Will be designed and shelved. No funding currently. Need to look at West Branch data to determine if project will result in improvement.
6. Other Project Updates
   1. Sandy Run – Raccoon Creek Headwaters, Low-head dam removal. 319 grant funding. Removal will be done by ODNR Division of Forestry. Rain has delayed removal. Was planned for fall 2018, now moved to 2019. 319 grant funds MUST be used by Dec 2019, no extensions.
7. Maintenance Needs / Updates
   1. Raccoon Creek
      1. Carbondale
         1. Channel and wheel cleaned on 11/16/18. Thanks to those who helped.
         2. New paint and rubber put back on hatch.
         3. Load scheduled for delivery today.
         4. Still having to run doser around 3 seconds to get pH of 9.5 at road.
         5. Need insulation. Winter condensation issue from warm ground water and cold outside temp. Everything in doser house gets really wet and door freezes shut. MRM will get insulation. MRM and RCP will install.
         6. Need to get shelves/cabinet in doser house for supplies
      2. Pierce Run – flushing valve this week, will check on beaver dam.
   2. Leading Creek/Thomas Fork
      1. Kaabe and Jim will put together list of doser components needed and order them (specifically sprockets and chains).
8. Study Plan and Monitoring
   1. We will table the majority of the monitoring discussion until the monitoring meeting (date TBA).
      1. Rachel would like to attend monitoring meeting
   2. Reviewed Leading and Raccoon Creek 2018 monitoring. Should be on track with all chem monitoring after next week.
   3. During the monitoring meeting we will discuss the 2019-2020 monitoring and how to improve sampling / maintenance efficiency among the watershed groups, OU, and MRM (based on things we learned from 2017-2018).
9. Student Work in Raccoon Creek
   1. Jennie Brancho – thesis in Hewett Fork. Jennie planned on attending this meeting to update on her work but is sampling in West Branch. Her field work is done, had to modify research based on excessive rainfall this year. Amy will make sure to inform MRM of Jennie’s thesis defense date.
10. AmeriCorps/Education Update – AmeriCorps are sampling with Jennie and not in attendance.
    1. Owl Prowl – February 7th at Lake Hope Lodge
    2. Summer Camp – July 15th – 19th location TBD
11. New Business/Announcements
    1. RCP is moving out of the Waterloo Aquatic Education Center
       1. RCP has leased the building from Division of Wildlife since 2007 but lease ends Dec 31, 2007.
       2. Storing equipment at several secure locations
       3. Not sure where we will hold education events in the future

Next meeting date – Tentatively March 21st 9:00 a.m. at the Ridges in Athens





