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