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**

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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



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