Raccoon Creek November Meeting

Wednesday, January 2023 at 6:30 pm

Present: Kelsey Daniels, Ashley Grace, Nora Sullivan, Amy Mackey, Chris Kimmel, Emily Keil-Loudner, Kelly Love, Sarah Maj, Kate Blyth, Nichole Mazzone

Minutes scribed by: Nichole Mazzone

* **Danger! No peeling citrus fruits near Kate!!**
* **Action Items- Completed** 
  + Display board in progress
  + Map for display board in progress
  + Received the Aquatic Education Grant funds
  + Raccoon Creek Water Trail website updated to merge with RCP
  + Initial meeting with Pat Quackenbush’s class
* **New Action Items** 
  + Owl Prowl set up on Feb 9th @ 5pm – Anyone who can help
  + Send out social media announcements about owl pellet kits @ local libraries- AmeriCorps
  + Ask Pat Q. at Owl Prowl to bring birds to Summer Camp 2023- AmeriCorps
  + Ask Molly for her insight for Spring Newsletter- AmeriCorps
  + Ask Molly to hangout for a casual farewell party- Amy
  + Send out a list of articles to potentially write about for Spring Newsletter- AmeriCorps
  + Send recruitment prospects for new AmeriCorps to Amy & Nora- Everyone (Ashley will mention to classmates). Amy will send recruitment materials when she gets them from Rural Action.
  + Send RCP structure/fundraising history and agenda to Pat Q. for his students to work on fundraising project- Nora
  + Talk to Vinton Town Mayor to see what community needs/wants are for the new park; potential for T-Mobile Hometown Grant- Chris
  + Conversation with the Conservation Club (meet every 2nd Wed. @7pm)- Amy & friends. Scheduled for March 8th.
* **Treasurer's report** 
  + Annual dinner monies deposited
  + Membership donations deposited
  + Used $150 of Ouidel grant for canoe trailer supplies (in Oct 2022)
  + Aquatic Education Grant 2022 is completely spent (funds were deposited in general checking because they have already been spent)
  + Rickly Hydrological assist net (no receipt; from AEG)
  + ~$2K transferred from PayPal account
* **Watershed Coordinator Update**
  + Scenic Rivers Designation meeting **1/26/23-** Amy
    - Amy is now a board member on Ohio Scenic Rivers Association - meeting on **1/29/23-** Amy
  + Biological data (2021 and 2022) to be submitted to OEPA
* Submitting annual IACU report (allows us to conduct fish sampling)
  + Proposal to restart 2 USGS gage stations in Raccoon Creek
  + ODNR Mineral Resources willing to continue to provide funding for watershed support
* **AmeriCorps Update**
  + OWL PROWL- **February 9th** @ Lake Hope (downstairs) from 6-8pm
    - Set-up by 5pm (4pm to eat)
    - AmeriCorps will send out social media announcements about owl pellet kits that can be picked up from the library(es)
    - Pat Q. and Kaylin will be bringing owls and friends
  + Summer Camp **July 17th- 21st** @ RC outfitters
    - Sign up March 13th for members and 15th for non-members
    - Will submit another Aquatic Education Grant for 2023
      * $80 Registration fee (scholarship likely available for anyone needed)
      * Will have a boomerang person
      * ODNR DOW wildlife officer Chris Gilkey and canine officer Mattis
      * ODNR DOW Fish shocking demo
      * Tracking/Survivalist – Meghan Ellis
      * Asking Pat at Owl Prowl to bring birds
  + Spring Newsletter
    - Will contact Molly for her insight and final goodbye- AmeriCorps
    - Kelsey will send out a list of articles to potentially write about if anyone is interested
    - Will ask Molly to hangout for a casual farewell party- Amy
  + Apple tree grafting- root stocks ordered will be sent to Ridges ~**March 15th** (Voinovich people watch out for delivery- will need to be refrigerated ASAP)
    - Event will be **April 16th** – limited to 50 people
    - Knives will be ordered
    - Need to find a location
  + Will phase out Water Trail Association from website since group has disbanded (still part of non-profit)
  + Sandbox at test run stage- Kelly working on that
  + Ashley and Kelsey will be leaving us in August (BOOOOOO ☹) but need to think about recruitment- Send to Amy & Nora
* **Fundraising** 
  + Met with Pat Q.’s capstone class to help RCP plan and implement fundraising events/techniques
    - Nora will send RCP structural plan/financial history to Pat
    - Agendas for Pat’s students

1. Fundraising plan
2. Outreach (outside of Athens)
3. Marking efforts
4. Event planning

* **New Business**
  + T-Mobile hometown grant
    - Project funding for revitalizing or creation of community space to promote togetherness- up to 50K
      * 3-5 grant proposal
      * Budget breakdown
      * Up to 5 letters of support
      * Application open each “season”
    - Idea: Vinton - (where dam is) has a park- are there improvements we could make to the park with this grant?
      * Chris will talk to Vinton Mayor to see what community needs/wants are for the park
  + Conservation Club wants Amy to come talk to them – every 2nd Wed @7pm
  + Next Meeting: Thursday, February 23rd at 6:30 PM