

Minutes from the Indiana Water Monitoring Council Board of Directors meeting (7/08/2010)

Next scheduled meeting: September 9, 2010

Action Items:

- Set-up a meeting of the Conference Planning Committee for week of July 12 (Jody Arthur).
- Call Tracy Jones at the Indiana Government Center conference facilities to find available dates in the fall, prior to November if possible (Jody Arthur).
- Contact potential replacements for the Communications Committee chair (Shawn Naylor and Jody Arthur).
- Forward Rachele Baker any materials related to water monitoring collaborations from the recent National Water Quality Monitoring Council (NWQMC) meeting (Jody Arthur).
- Find technical resources that support the fall conference theme, some of which may be available from the NWQMC (Rachele Baker).
- Contact Tom Simon regarding habitat evaluation and biotic integrity indices that are specific to Indiana and can be referenced as technical resources on the Council's Web site (Rachele Baker).

Attendees (4 total):

Jody Arthur, Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM)
Rachele Baker, KCI Technologies

Via conference call

Shawn Naylor, Indiana Geological Survey (IGS)
Cindy Muffett, Clinton County Soil and Water Conservation District

Jody Arthur: calls the meeting to order at 10:05 am

Projects in Committee

Conference Planning Committee

Shawn Naylor discussed results from the fall conference theme survey sent to the General Membership. General Members (21) responded to the survey and ranked 10 potential conference themes as most important, important, or somewhat important. "Addressing issues related to Indiana's water resources through water monitoring collaborations" received the largest number of votes for being the most important topic, followed by "comprehensive study design for water monitoring projects". Those in attendance briefly discussed the idea of combining these topics by including a break-out, brainstorming session for study design with the goal of developing a council white paper using the results. But, it was decided that this may be too broad a topic and that developing a white paper may be too ambitious as a result.

For the collaboration theme, it was suggested that project collaborators could use a tag-team approach for the talks as a presentation format. Board Members also discussed how to organize the conference for context; levels of collaboration (e.g. agency level and local level; WS groups, etc.) and spatial levels (e.g. local versus national). The following topics/collaborations were mentioned as potential presentation ideas:

- Cindy Muffett mentioned the Mississippi River Basin Initiative as an example of monitoring data that is used at the local and national levels (Contact: Doug Smith)
- Shawn mentioned the USDA's Conservation Effects Assessment Program that is currently sponsoring intensive monitoring in the Cedar Creek watershed in northeastern, Indiana. (Contacts: Doug Smith and Bob Gillespie).
- Shawn also mentioned Hoosier Riverwatch as a potential presentation (Contact: Lisa Ritter-McMahon). With regard to the conference context, Jody mentioned that Lisa might be able to give an overview of her program (educational in nature) and then discuss how it is being increasingly used by watershed coordinators for watershed management planning purposes.
- General approaches to collaboration in general addressing questions such as "Where do I begin?" and where resources reside to find collaborators. (Indiana Water Monitoring Inventory is a good place to start, but there's other ways and resources out there). Maybe a brief survey of tools that facilitate collaboration (e.g. wikis, online survey tools, etc.)

Communications Committee

Finding a replacement for Scott Morlock was briefly discussed and it was mentioned that the new chair should be new to the committee in order to bring a fresh outlook on Council outreach and potentially garner additional student participation.

Technical Resources Compilation Committee

Rachele Baker announced that the committee has not met since the last Board meeting. She did mention that she may try to find additional resources to put online which support the fall conference theme that we've selected. Jody Arthur mentioned that there may be relevant materials from the recent National Water Quality Monitoring Council (NWQMC) meeting and agreed to forward Rachele any resources relating to collaboration.

Shawn suggested that Rachele might want to contact Tom Simon (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) to follow up on concerns that he expressed awhile back about some of the Council's habitat evaluation and biotic integrity references and provided Rachele with Tom's contact information.

Organizational Structure Committee

No Report. Jody Arthur mentioned that additional progress should be made toward applying for non-profit status and filing articles of incorporation by the next Board meeting.

Research, Education, and Outreach Compilation Committee

No Report.

New Business

Upcoming InWMC Field Day

Jody Arthur described what she knew concerning the upcoming field day and indicated that more details would be available for dissemination to the General Membership following an upcoming planning meeting. The preliminary plan is to have Tim Lathrop (USGS) give an overview of flow measurement while IDEM personnel concurrently demonstrate water chemistry monitoring at one field site sometime in August or September. Jody mentioned that the most important actions at this point are to get the date nailed down (if it isn't already) and to identify participants so we can get a save-the-date notice out.

Wrap-up / Next Steps

Next scheduled meeting: September 9, 2010

Meeting adjourned at 10:55 am