

Minutes from the Indiana Water Monitoring Council Board of Directors Meeting (12/14/2011)

Action Items

- Find a replacement for Audrey Wendling's position on Board under the local agency category (**Jeff Frey**).
- Distribute the Integrated Water Monitoring Network Optimization Taskforce survey to the following organizations identified in these minutes for broader distribution to their members/contacts (**Jeff Frey**).
 - Indiana Association for Floodplain and Stormwater Management – Lori Gates
 - Indiana Water Resources Association – Jeff Martin
 - Upper White River Watershed Initiative – Jill Hoffman
 - Watershed Leadership Academy – Jane Frankenberger
 - Purdue Water Community – Ron Turco
 - Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts – Jennifer Boyle
 - IDEM's Watershed Listserv – Jody Arthur
- Send the email with the list of potential Task Force Participants to the board again with a request for additional suggestions (**Jeff Frey**).
- Coordinate a meeting with the newly merged resource compilation committee before next Board meeting (**Bob Gillespie**).
- Discuss coordination of InWMC Field Day with USGS staff, Megan Shoda and Aubrey Bunch, and request that Jill Hoffman be invited to first coordination meeting (**Jeff Frey**).
- Prepare a short Twitter tutorial for the board at its next meeting (**Melody Bernot**).
- Coordinate a meeting with the Communications Committee before next Board meeting (**Jody Arthur**).
- Conduct a test mailing to the colleges and universities email list to test its utility in reaching college students via their faculty (**Jody Arthur**).
- Set up an account with a free cloud service (e.g. Drop Box, Evernote, etc.) to facilitate collaborative work (**Jody Arthur**).
- Forward Purdue's Nonpoint Source Indicators Manual to the InWMC board for review and comment by mid-January (**Jeff Frey**).

Attendees (12 total)

Jeff Frey, U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)

Jody Arthur, Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM)

Chris Ritz, National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Doug Smith, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture (USDA)

Daragh Deegan, City of Elkhart

Greg Bright, Commonwealth Biomonitoring

Melody Bernot, Ball State University

Via conference call:

Jill Hoffman, Upper White River Watershed Alliance
Siavash Beik, Christopher Burke Engineering, Ltd.
Bob Gillespie, St. Joseph River Watershed Alliance
Sandy Clark-Kolaks, Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR)
Sara Peel, Indiana Lakes Management Society (ILMS)

Jeff Frey calls the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m.

Old Business

Replacements for Board resignations

Greg Bright agreed to serve on the board, replacing the consultant/industry position vacated by Gwen White. Audrey Wendling's position (local agency) still needs to be filled. Jeff has obtained a good list of candidates from Jennifer Boyle of the Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts. There was some discussion regarding the approach to filling this position, whether the candidate must be vetted through the board first or whether the president can make the decision.

Motion made by Siavash Beik: *I move that we give the President authority to contact potential board members and choose the replacement.*

Motion seconded by: *Jody Arthur seconds.*

Vote: *All in attendance voted in favor.*

Projects in Committee

Coordination and Collaboration Committee

Jeff Frey and Shawn Naylor have published the Water Monitoring Network Optimization Task Force survey reviewed by the board at its October 26, 2011 meeting on Survey Monkey. As of this meeting, they have gotten only a couple of responses. Siavash Beik suggested breaking the survey up into two, one for those who collect data and another for those who only use data.

Siavash Beik asked if the survey has been distributed yet to the wider intended audience. Jeff Frey indicated that it has only been sent to the participants originally identified for the Optimization Task Force. Siavash notes that major users of water quality data and those who participate in water quality monitoring will wonder where they can find the survey data. Jeff Frey suggested that we could post it on the website or distribute it through email.

Jody Arthur asked who the audience is, whether we are looking for people who do monitoring in general or are looking specifically for people to participate on the task force. Jeff Frey responded that he'd like to get as many responses as possible, but will have to cull the group down for the purposes of identifying who will participate on the task force. Siavash Beik commented that the questions are more like a poll, not a commitment to participate and that if the objective is to get as much input as possible, we should send it out through as many channels as possible. Siavash

asked if we have the ability to separate out agency responses from other responses. Jeff said that there should be a way to do this through the Survey Monkey tool.

Jeff Frey will forward the survey to the following organizations for broader distribution:

- Indiana Association for Floodplain and Stormwater Management (INAFSM) – Lori Gates
- Indiana Water Resources Association (IWRA) – Jeff Martin
- Upper White River Watershed Initiative – Jill Hoffman
- Watershed Leadership Academy – Jane Frankenberger
- Purdue Water Community – Ron Turco
- Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (IASWCD) -- Jennifer Boyle
- IDEM's Watershed Listserv – Jody Arthur

Jeff Frey will also send out the email with the list of potential Task Force Participants to the Board again asking for any additional suggestions. Doug Smith suggested that we wait until after the first of the year given the holidays. Jody Arthur and Chris Ritz recommended a couple of rounds of mailings, one with the initial timeline and another reminder, in order to get the responses needed within a timeframe that will allow us to move forward with the first meeting. Jeff Frey anticipates that the first meeting will be held sometime in February or early March. At this meeting, Jeff would like to present these surveys, responses, and set up perhaps a monthly meeting schedule for the task force.

Technical Resources and Research, Education, and Outreach Compilation Committee

The Board discussed the idea of merging these two committees into one. Bob Gillespie, Chair of the Research, Education, and Outreach Compilation Committee and Daragh Deegan, the only active member of the Technical Resources Compilation Committee, discussed this and agreed that a merger of these two committees makes sense. Bob Gillespie asked if anyone on the board has any issues or concerns about such a merger. There were no concerns expressed by the board members present.

Motion made by Bob Gillespie: *I move that we merge the Research, Education, and Outreach Compilation Committee with the Technical Resources Compilation Committee.*

Motion seconded by: *Jody Arthur seconds.*

Vote: *All in attendance voted in favor.*

Bob Gillespie added that he has proposed some questions to the current committee members to get started and has asked them to review the materials we have to date. He hopes to pull together a meeting of the newly merged committee in early January.

Nominations Committee

The only Executive board position to be filled at this point is the President-Elect. The Nominations committee had nominated Chris Ritz (NRCS) for this position but he had to decline. Doug Smith (USDA) was suggested. Doug said he will consider the appointment and get back with us.

Organizational Structure Committee

No progress to report.

Communications Committee

At Lisa Holscher's suggestion, Shawn Naylor and Sally Letsinger have gotten us up to speed with social networking. The InWMC is now tweeting. The Twitter link is at the bottom of the page. People with their own Twitter accounts can now follow the InWMC. And, if they want to tweet within the council, they can preface their tweets with "@InWMC". It was decided that the InWMC needs to now send an email to let the membership know that they can follow the InWMC on Twitter now.

Jeff Frey asked if we can take a few minutes at our next meeting to do a tutorial on tweeting at our next meeting. Melody Bernot agreed to will help the Board with this.

Melody Bernot has gotten a positive response from the flyer she developed to solicit greater student involvement in the InWMC. The Board spent some time discussing how to more broadly distribute the flyer to college students throughout Indiana. Jody Arthur mentioned that she put together an email list of contacts in all Indiana colleges and universities with any program that might reasonably be expected to do some water quality monitoring. However, this list was used most recently a few years ago and may not be very current. Jeff suggested doing a test mailing to cull the bounce-backs from the list.

Jody Arthur will try to pull together a meeting of the Communications Committee in January.

New Business

Field Day Planning for Next Year

Sugar Creek has agreed to host the field day. It was determined that the Watershed Leadership Academy (WLA) may not work in terms of building the field day into its curriculum well based on the WLA's timeline. However, Jeff Frey noted that the USGS has a couple of junior staff, Megan Shoda and Aubrey Bunch, who will go to the WLA. He will assign them the coordination of a Field Day as a project, and volunteered them to take the lead on the planning effort.

Sugar Creek is located in the East Fork White River watershed. Jeff Frey asked Jill Hoffman if she wanted to use the opportunity to highlight Upper White River Watershed Initiative work. She said that the Initiative recently finalized a really big regional report where they took 20 years of IDEM fixed station data as well as social and community data. She said that she would be interested in attending when Angie and Aubrey meet. Chris Ritz suggested Bob Barr as another potential speaker/contributor for the Field Day. The board further discussed content and format but no decisions were made.

Purdue Nonpoint Source Indicators Manual

Jeff Frey said that Laura Esman (Purdue University) had contacted him regarding the Purdue Nonpoint Source Indicators Manual. The manual is a compilation of field methods for use in nonpoint source monitoring. It also contains many of the outcomes from the expert panel discussions held a few years, which a number of people who are now InWMC members participated in. Purdue is seeking feedback on the manual by mid-January and has requested that Jeff send it to the InWMC board for review and comment if they wish to provide it. Jeff agreed to Laura's request and will forward the Indicators Manual to the board.

Wrap-up / Next Steps

It was decided that the next Board meeting should be held around mid-February. Shawn Naylor agreed to set up a Doodle poll to identify an optimal date and time.

It was noted that the WebEx worked well for this meeting, allowing those participating via phone to see necessary links and materials. Jeff Frey indicated that we can continue to use this in the future.

Jeff Frey reminded the Board to get any additional notices for activities relevant to the water resources community (meetings, workshops, etc.), to Shawn Naylor for posting on the InWMC web site.

Chris Ritz suggested that we add a link to our new Twitter account to the survey that we distribute for the Water Monitoring Network Optimization Task Force.

Jody Arthur will try to set up an Evernote or Drop Box account for the InWMC to do shared work.

Doug Smith motions to adjourn. Melody Bernot seconds the motion. All vote in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.