

Minutes from the Indiana Water Monitoring Council Board of Directors meeting (3/1/2011)

Next scheduled meeting: April 14, 2011

Action Items:

- Note when minutes are sent out that Board meeting attendance has been an issue (Shawn Naylor)
- Incorporate due schedule into Bylaws and have Board vote on whether or not to submit revised Bylaws to General Membership for vote (Jody Arthur)
- Contact Rachelle Baker, Chairperson of the Technical Resources Compilation Committee, and determine how to avoid overlap with the Research, Education, and Outreach Compilation Committee (Lenore Tedesco)
- Compile InWMC fall symposium evaluations (Sara Peel)
- Send Jody Arthur and Jeff Frey General Membership list with member affiliations as well as past GM meeting attendee lists so they can these names for the Nominations and Elections Committee (Shawn Naylor)
- Send Board members e-mail asking if they would like to continue serving another term or step down (Jody Arthur)

Attendees (10 total*):

Jody Arthur, Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM)
Sara Christensen, Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA)
Shawn Naylor, Indiana Geological Survey (IGS)
Jeff Frey, U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)
Siavash Beik, Christopher Burke Engineering, Ltd.
Sara Peel, Indiana Lakes Management Society (ILMS)

Via conference call

Bill Jones, Indiana Univ. School of Public and Environmental Affairs (SPEA)
Stu Shipman, Indiana Dept. of Natural Resources (IDNR)
Lenore Tedesco, Upper White River Watershed Alliance)
Leighanne Hahn, Office of Indiana State Chemist (OISC)*

*10th member joined meeting late so official business was not conducted

Jody Arthur calls the meeting to order at 10:08 am and announces that a quorum is not in attendance so no official voting will be conducted.

Projects in committee

Organizational Structure Committee

Jody Arthur mentioned that the latest draft of the Bylaws sent out in December will have revisions suggested by Board members incorporated prior to being sent back to the Board who will then need to approve the final revisions before the Bylaws are submitted to the General Membership (GM) for a vote at the May meeting. Sara Peel requested additional clarification regarding why it was recommended that the quorum be changed to 6 Board members and voiced concern that such a change might indicate to the GM that the Board is reducing its standards of conduct for meetings. Siavash Beik noted the problems that the Board has had in reaching a quorum and suggested that reducing the quorum was necessary in order to vote on measures and expedite progress on various projects. At the end of this discussion, several in attendance agreed that the quorum should be kept at 10 members, but existing Board members should be notified that attendance should be taken more seriously. It was also suggested that one of the goals in establishing nominees for the upcoming election should be to increase participation by Board members.

Stu Shipman reported that although a draft 2011-2012 budget has not yet been completed, a reasonable starting amount for membership dues would be \$10 for the GM, which is consistent with other non-profit organizations that he has worked with. Several members agreed that this is an appropriate amount and it was suggested that, considering there are currently 91 individuals registered for the GM, this would provide a sufficient amount of funds to cover the Web site maintenance costs (\$25/mo.) and help support planning for an annual symposium. Jody Arthur noted that she will incorporate a due paying schedule into the bylaws that includes \$10/year for the GM. Stu Shipman asked if there would be an option for institutional members, which would provide benefits for certain organizations that might want to sponsor Council events. Several noted that this is an additional option that can be added in the future after a simple due-paying schedule has been established and implemented for the GM.

Jody Arthur noted that tax-exempt status has not yet been obtained, and she is currently waiting for an online form to become available to apply for Federal status as this would allow the Council to bypass the current \$250 filing fee.

Research, Education, and Outreach Compilation Committee

Lenore Tedesco was re-introduced as the new chairperson of the committee and was asked if she had any questions regarding the committee work plan that was given for guidance. She inquired as to whether the intended target audience for the committee's compilation efforts should include "professionals in the water resources community" as the work plan suggests or if the committee should focus on material aimed at the lay audience or general public. Lenore suggested that a possible template could be the "whiteriverwatershed.org" Web site, which uses a tiered approach with K-12 students, adults, and regulators/regulated entities as separate categories with different levels of educational materials. Jody Arthur mentioned that having the Technical Resources Compilation Committee focus on a more advanced audience and the Research, Education, and

Outreach Committee focus on lay audiences was an approach that had been previously suggested. Lenore said that she will contact Rachelle Baker (Technical Resources Compilation Committee Chair) and ensure that there will not be an overlap. She also noted that she will explore using the whiteriverwatershed.org template to organize material that her graduate students have already compiled for the committee.

Conference Planning Committee

Jody Arthur noted that she has not had time to compile the evaluations and break-out session notes from the InWMC Fall Symposium. Sara Peel volunteered to compile these materials before the next Board meeting.

New Business

Election and Nominations Committee

Jeff Frey noted that he has not yet found a chairperson for the committee but will be willing to serve as chair himself. However, Siavesh Beik suggested that there may be issues since Jeff will be on the ballot as President-elect. With these considerations, Jody Arthur announced that she will serve as official chairperson and will work with Jeff to establish a list of nominees. It was recommended that a starting point should be to contact each existing Board member and ask if they would like to continue serving on the Board. Jeff and Jody asked if Executive Secretary Shawn Naylor could provide a complete GM list with professional affiliations so they can use this as a source of names to contact potential nominees. Shawn agreed to provide this list as well as attendee rosters from past GM meetings.

Upcoming Spring IWRA meeting

All in attendance were in agreement that holding a GM meeting in conjunction with the upcoming spring IWRA meeting would be a good idea. Jeff Frey noted that he has already contacted current IWRA President, Mark Pyron, and that he is OK with the Council meeting prior to the start of the IWRA conference on Wednesday, June 1st. Possible agenda items were also discussed with the following items being suggested for inclusion: voting on Bylaw revisions, Board elections, a discussion of new Council projects based on fall symposium evaluations and NWQMC notes, an update from the Technical Resources Compilation and Research, Education, and Outreach Committee Chairs, and an update on the Mississippi River Basin Initiative (MRBI) by Shannon Zezula.

Wrap-up / Next Steps

It was suggested that the previously scheduled May 12th meeting will not give the Board enough time to prepare for the June 1st GM meeting. Hence, those in attendance reviewed their calendars and set **April 14th at 10am as the next Board meeting date and time.**

Meeting adjourned at 11:20 am