

Minutes from the Indiana Water Monitoring Council General Membership business meeting (6/1/2011)

President Jody Arthur (IDEM) calls the meeting to order at 9:05 am and gives an overview of the meeting agenda

Welcome

President-elect, Jeff Frey (USGS), gives a brief history of the InWMC beginning with the 2007 Turkey Run retreat and also revisits the Council's mission statement in order to give those in attendance background information regarding the organization's evolution and purpose. He then went on to summarize some of the highlights for the Council during the previous year since the general membership last met in May of 2010. These highlights included a summary of the InWMC field day held last September and the meeting that was coordinated to provide technical feedback to NRCS personnel regarding the Mississippi River Basin Initiative.

Presentation of InWMC Strategic Plan

Jeff Frey discussed his rationale for developing a strategic plan that will focus InWMC efforts toward particular water resource issues in Indiana. Twenty three projects were chosen based on discussions with other Indiana water resource professionals as well projects that other state councils have undertaken (based on notes taken by Jody Arthur at the 2010 National Water Monitoring Council conference). Proposed projects include 1) an analysis of existing monitoring networks in hopes of combining/maximizing resources to meet objectives, 2) communication aimed at improved data sharing, 3) guidance regarding the interpretation of sample results, and 4) an analysis of the state's streamflow network in order to maximize efficiency and prioritize gauging stations.

A discussion ensued regarding these potential components of the strategic planned and it was mentioned that item #'s 1 and 4 above should be combined. Several in attendance also noted that it is important to identify the objectives of these monitoring networks and the agencies that manage them in order to find common needs (e.g., "how can we meet both water quality and hazard assessment needs?"). It was also suggested that someone should be selected to act as a project manager for this effort (i.e., identifying monitoring objectives and optimizing the state's monitoring networks). In response to this inquiry, Jeff Frey stated that he would like to lead this effort and also noted that it will be his main priority when he assumes his role as InWMC President.

Update on the Indiana Water Monitoring Inventory and Catalog of Monitoring Protocols

Jane Frankenburger (Purdue Univ.) gave a brief overview of the Indiana Water Monitoring Inventory and its usage. She also provided details regarding the newly developed “water monitoring protocols” page aimed at assisting those who are coordinating monitoring activities. The page is located at <http://monitoring.pbworks.com> and includes a catalog of monitoring protocols used by various agencies in Indiana. Those who access the site can search protocols based on agency/program or parameter.

Business Meeting

Discussion of and voting on revised bylaws

Jody Arthur went over changes to the bylaws, which were distributed to the General Membership prior to the meeting. In particular, she described the addition of an “articles of dissolution” section in order to satisfy requirements associated with filing for incorporation and nonprofit status. She also summarized changes to the Board of Directors structure, including removing “legislative” positions and adding them to the “member at large” category (in hopes of filling these positions and increasing participation on the Board). Prior to voting on these amendments, the floor was opened to those in attendance for discussion.

Motion: Jeff Frey motioned that we move the “legislative” Board positions under the “member at large” category in order to increase membership on the Board of Directors.

Second: Shawn Naylor (IGS)

Discussion: None

Vote: 20 in favor, 0 against (motion passes)

Siavash Beik (Christopher Burke Engineering) mentioned that achieving a quorum for Board meetings had been very difficult during the previous year. In order to address this issue he suggested that the quorum be reduced for Board meetings.

Motion: Siavash Beik motioned that the quorum for Board meetings be changed from 10 to 6.

Second: Jeff Frey

Discussion: Some in attendance expressed concern that reducing the quorum for Board meetings sets a low standard for attendance at these meetings.

Vote: 12 in favor, 4 against (motion does not pass)

As alternative to changing the quorum to 6, Sandy Clark-Kolaks suggested that the quorum be changed to a proportion of Board positions that are currently filled.

Motion: Sandy Clark-Kolaks (IDNR) motioned that the quorum for Board meetings be changed to 50% of Board positions that are currently filled.

Second: Siavash Beik

Discussion: Several in agreement that this is a viable solution.

Vote: 15 in favor, 3 against (motion passes)

In order to clarify the Article IV of the Bylaws, which relates to voting at meetings of the General Membership, Rachele Baker (KCI Technologies) suggested that we specify that a measure can pass with a 2/3 majority vote by those present.

Motion: Rachele Baker moved that we specify under the “quorum and voting” section of Article IV, that a vote shall pass if supported by 2/3 majority of those present at a meeting of the General Membership.

Second: Joe Schmees

Discussion: Several in agreement.

Vote: 20 in favor, 0 against (motion passes)

Motion: President Jody Arthur moves that the bylaw amendments, including changes addressed during the meeting to this point, be approved by the General Membership.

Second: Jeff Frey

Vote: 20 in favor, 0 against (motion passes)

Discussion of and voting on adoption of annual dues

Jody Arthur discussed the Council’s current operating expenses such as maintaining the Web site, fees associated with filing for non-profit status, and costs associated with holding meetings, conferences, and field days. In order to cover these costs, she recommended that the Council incorporate a due-paying schedule of \$10/year for General Members into the Bylaws.

Motion: Siavash Beik moved that the Council include \$10/year membership dues be incorporated into the Bylaws under Article VII.

Second: Jeff Frey

Discussion: None

Vote: 20 in favor, 0 against (motion passes)

Presentation of draft ballot for upcoming Board elections and call for additional candidates

Jody Arthur discussed the current ballot for upcoming Board of Directors elections. Jane Frankenburger requested that the ballot be sent electronically to the entire General Membership prior to voting in order to garner additional nominations. Sandy Clark-Kolaks asked if a nominee from one category could be moved to another category in order to ensure that all categories are filled on the ballot. Jody noted that she would like to continue contacting potential nominees and fill all categories in lieu of this approach. She also noted that the ballot should be finalized sometime within the next couple weeks.

Motion: Sandy Clark-Kolaks motioned that the meeting be adjourned.

Second: Rachele Baker

Discussion: None

Vote: 20 in favor, 0 against (motion passes)

Meeting adjourned at 10:50am