

Minutes from the Indiana Water Monitoring Council Board of Directors meeting (9/09/2010)

Next scheduled meeting: October 19, 2010

Action Items:

- Send Jody suggestions for alternative locations for future InWMC field days (everyone).
- Send Jody panel discussion questions (entire Board)
- Send Jeff Frey current Communications Committee outreach materials (Shawn Naylor)
- Contact Research, Education, and Outreach Compilation Committee chairperson about possibly stepping-down (Jody Arthur)
- Come up with list of questions that can be addressed relative to monitoring guidelines requested under the Mississippi River Basin Initiative. These will be addressed at a meeting organized by the Coordination and Collaboration Committee (Shannon Zezula)
- Organize meeting mentioned in previous item (Scott Morlock)
- Send out notice that next Board meeting will be on October 19th (Shawn Naylor)

Attendees (8 total):

Jody Arthur, Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM)

Shannon Zezula, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

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

Sara Christensen, Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA)

Sara Peel, Indiana Lakes Management Society (ILMS)

Shawn Naylor, Indiana Geological Survey (IGS)

Via conference call

Siavash Beik, Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Ltd.

Cindy Muffett, Clinton County Soil and Water Conservation District

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

Old / recent business

InWMC Field Day

Jody Arthur gave an overview of the first InWMC field day held on Thursday, September 8th at McCloud Nature Park in Hendricks County, which featured three stations: water chemistry, flow measurement, and loading calculations. The event was well attended with twenty to twenty-five individuals attending each session (AM and PM) with a good number of storm water and watershed coordinators present. Attendees came from all over the state (e.g., Elkhart, Allen, and Knox counties) so the location did not seem to inhibit folks from certain regions from attending.

However, Jody noted that the Council is open to suggestions for alternative locations for future field days provided the sites meet some general requirements (e.g., wadeable stream, shelter, restrooms).

Projects in committee

Conference Planning Committee

A draft agenda was distributed and Jody Arthur requested feedback on the current items included. In particular, one of the currently slated presentations is titled “Collaboration 101” and ideas for possible presenters were solicited. Sara Christensen noted that Jill Hoffman and Lyn Crighton recently gave a joint presentation at an algae conference that was well done and suggested that they should be contacted. Jody asked if the list of speakers and panel discussion details should be finalized prior to sending out a save the date notice and it was recommended that the save the date notice go out immediately with the symposium date (October 23) approaching quickly.

Regarding the panel discussion, Shannon Zezula noted that his organization is typically asking the question “what needs to be fixed?” in terms of water quality issues. He also noted that urban and rural communities are often confronting contrasting water quality issues, which may be an interesting topic to explore during a panel discussion. Jody requested that everyone on the Board of Directors send her some potential panel discussion questions for consideration.

Communications Committee

After discussing potential candidates that might fill the Communications Chairperson position, Jeff Frey agreed to take on the role. Shawn and Jody brought Jeff up to speed on the committee’s activities to date and Jeff mentioned that he would organize a committee meeting soon after becoming more familiar with the Web site and other communication materials developed to date.

Organizational Structure Committee

Jody Arthur noted that she has started filling out forms as part of the filing for incorporation for the Council and mentioned that there is a thirty-five dollar fee that is associated with the process. It was discussed that, once the Council establishes a tax identification number, we can begin collection dues at that point which can be used to pay for such operating expenses when they arise.

At the mention of operating expenses, Scott Morlock noted that the USGS has renewed the Council’s Wild Apricot subscription for one additional year. This means the Council will be able to maintain the services offered by the Web site host (e.g., membership tracking, event registrations, Web site development) for that period until dues collection can commence.

Research, Education, and Outreach Compilation Committee

It was mentioned that the committee has remained inactive since its inception over a year ago, and that the best option may be to find a new chairperson at this point. Jody Arthur agrees to contact the current chairperson and see if they are OK with stepping-down from the position.

New Business

NRCS – Mississippi River Basin Initiative

Shannon Zezula noted that the NRCS has been tasked with coming up with standards for measuring the impacts of conservation efforts as part of the Mississippi River Basin Initiative. They will be contacting government agencies and other parties involved with water monitoring to see if there are guidelines for assessing conservation practices with limited resources.

Jeff Frey noted that this might be a good topic for the InWMC Fall Symposium panel discussion or possibly a break-out session. However, Shannon noted that he would like to begin this process sooner than the end of October. Scott Morlock suggested that a meeting could be organized by the Coordination and Collaboration Committee since it fits with the committee's purview. A preliminary list of individuals with relevant expertise was compiled for Scott and/or Jody to contact with an invitation. Shannon agreed to come up with a list of pointed questions that can be used to provide direction for the meeting, and also agreed to act as a facilitator to discuss results from the meeting during a break-out session as part of the Fall InWMC Symposium.

Wrap-up / Next Steps

It was decided that the Board should meet prior to the Fall Symposium in finalize any remaining issues leading up to the conference. Hence an October 19th meeting was slated in lieu of the previously scheduled November meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 11:45 am