

Minutes from the Indiana Water Monitoring Council Board of Directors Meeting (6/28/2012)

Action Items

- Schedule a meeting of the symposium planning committee in order to establish a theme for the InWMC Fall Symposium (Jeff Frey)
- Schedule a meeting of the Water Quality Taskforce near the end of July with the week starting July 16 as the first target (Jeff Frey)
- Prior to first Water Quality Taskforce meeting, come up with a list of data sets that should be included in the Taskforce's ArcGIS.com mapping application (Jeff Frey)
- Compile notes from the National Water Quality Monitoring Council Meeting and post them to the InWMC Sharepoint site (Jody Arthur and Sara Peel)
- Re-group the current list of resources in order to facilitate a 2-tiered organization system on the InWMC Web site (Resources Compilation Committee)
- Board members should ask the heads of their respective organizations if they would be willing to make one-time donations to the Council in order to cover 501 C3 filing fees (all Board members)
- Complete Articles of Association that will need to be ran by legal counsel (Jody Arthur)
- Change some of the text on the main page to give site a more active rather than passive feel (Jody Arthur)
- Move *Water in the News* to main page with *News* blog kept as archive (Shawn Naylor)
- Send out solicitation for student membership flyer (Jody Arthur)
- Decide a on Chair for newly formed Groundwater Committee and ensure that all who are chosen to serve on committee have joined the Council via the Web site (Jeff Frey and Randy Bayless)

Attendees (10 total)

Douglas Smith, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture (USDA), Agricultural Research Service

Melody Bernot, Ball State University

Heather Buck, Christopher Burke Engineering, Ltd.,

Shawn Naylor, Indiana Geological Survey (IGS)

Chris Ritz, National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Bryan Wallace, Oak Park Conservancy District (OPCD)

Jody Arthur, Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM)

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

Via conference call:

Sara Peel, Indiana Lakes Management Society (ILMS)

Daragh Deagan, City of Elkhart Health Department

Jeff Frey calls the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m.

Old Business

- Jeff asked for motion to make Jody Arthur InWMC Treasurer with Jared Chew leaving the position.
 - Motion by Melody Bernot
 - Seconded by Doug Smith
 - All in favor
- Jeff noted that since a General Membership (GM) meeting was not held during the recent Indiana Water Resources Association (IWRA) conference in June, we will need to hold Fall Symposium to satisfy the Bylaw requirement that we hold an annual GM meeting. Several ideas for symposium themes were discussed:
 - Water Monitoring Taskforce meeting aimed at sharing information for the effort which seeks to develop a network of “optimized” monitoring sites
 - Data swap meeting

In order to begin planning the symposium, an Ad hoc sub-committee was formed that includes Jeff Frey, Jody Arthur, and Greg Bright.

National Water Quality Monitoring Council Meeting recap

- Jeff Frey gave an update on the National Water-Quality Assessment Program’s (NAQWA) proposed Integrated Watershed study. Two large river basins are in the running to receive funding for the project with one of the rivers being the White River. Several folks from White River water resources community were in attendance (Lenore Tedesco, Jill Hoffman, and Jeff Frey) and were able to provide rationale supporting the White River to those decision-makers who were also in attendance.
- Jody Arthur saw good presentations on data quality assessment and is willing to share her notes.
- Jeff Frey asked for Jody Arthur and Sara Peel to share meeting notes on InWMC Sharepoint site and they agreed to do so.

Projects in Committee

Coordination and Collaboration Committee

Water Monitoring Taskforce

- Jeff noted that IDEM’s fixed station monitoring program sites will provide a basis for building the data set that will be used to consider locations for optimized water-quality monitoring sites.
- The committee intends to hold its first meeting sometime during mid- or late-July (week of 7/16 will be initial target). Mary Lou Renshaw (IDEM), Doug Smith (USDA), Jeff Frey (USGS), Jody Arthur (IDEM), and Shawn Naylor (IGS) will be invited to attend.

The initial goal will be to find reference sites to include and determine what sites have data from multiple agencies.

- Shawn Naylor gave a demonstration of the ArcGIS.com mapping application that he developed for the taskforce in order to share data and facilitate simple spatial analyses. Jeff Frey noted that it would be good to have data sets ready to post for first taskforce meeting so the mapping application can be used during initial discussions.
- Jeff described details of a joint effort between the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the USGS NAQWA Cycle 3 project that he is now heading.
 - EPA Midwest Synoptic (Temperate Plains)
 - Pesticides, nutrients, sediment
 - Select random sites in ecoregion (60)
 - Look at several big indicators/species
 - USGS will look at 40 sites with stratified arrangement – look at gradients of Water Quality parameters (row-crop pesticides) and land use
 - Total of 100 sites – samples collected weekly within 8-state region

Resources Compilation Committee

- Daragh Deagan goes over a new committee description and all agree that it's ready to post on the InWMC Web site.
- There was a discussion regarding the current resources posted to the Council Web site and how they need to be re-arranged such that long lists are avoided.
- It was recommended that the Committee break the resources into two groups (“technical” and “educational” for instance) since the current Website can facilitate a 2-tiered organization system.
- Jeff Frey noted that we should roll-out a revised resources lists at the InWMC Fall Symposium so that members of the GM and Indiana water resources community know about the compilations.

Organization Structure

- Jody Arthur explained that Articles of Association will need to be drafted and filed in order for the Council to be eligible for 501 C3 status. She noted that we should be able to use existing articles of incorporation draft to build upon. Jody also reminded the Board that we need to raise \$400 to cover the filing fees and also noted that we established a due amount at the last GM meeting and these dues could be used for the fee.
- A checking account can now be opened with the President's signature.
- Jeff Frey noted that each of the Board members should bring this up with heads of organizations to see about getting one-time donation to cover 501 C3 filing fees.
- Jody noted that she will complete Articles of Association that will then need to be ran by legal counsel before moving forward.

Communications Committee

- a. Jody Arthur would like to change some text on the main page to give site a more active rather than passive feel
- b. Shawn Naylor and Bryan Wallace demonstrated a new ‘*Water in the News*’ component for the Council Web site that includes a link to a water-related news article. The content will be moved to main page from the current ‘news blog’ with the blog kept as an archive space.
- c. Jody Arthur mentioned that the one-page student membership solicitation will soon be sent out to a list of academics that teach in water-resource disciplines.

New Business

- Jeff Frey announced that the next InWMC field day will be scheduled for late September.
- Bryan Wallace recapped a meeting that he, Sara Peel, and Laura Esman participated in regarding the proposed Data Swap. The following topics and issues were discussed:
 - Need to have more than just data swap – methods might be good as well
 - Laura Esman is trying to figure out how her methods work could be presented
 - Bryan Wallace noted that all-day event not good so a half-day event is current plan
 - October is earliest proposed meeting date since watershed and stormwater (MS4) folks are now busy with summer sampling
 - Jeff Frey noted that we should be ready to highlight this at the Fall Symposium
- Groundwater Committee was proposed by Randy Bayless (USGS) in order to address groundwater issues in Indiana and provide a forum for those undertaking monitoring efforts.
 - All Board members in attendance agreed that this makes sense
 - Motion made by Jody Arthur to create a Groundwater Committee
 - Chris Ritz seconds
 - All voted in favor
 - Randy Bayless agreed to speak with Jerry Unterreiner (Indiana Dept. of Natural Resources, IDNR) about potential members of the committee. Board members in attendance suggested that Bayless, Unterreiner, Mark Basch (IDNR), Jim Sullivan (IDEM), and Tracy Branam (IGS) would be a good group to start with.

Next Meeting

- It was decided that a Doodle Poll should be created to schedule the next Board meeting between August 13th and the end of month.

Meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.