

Minutes of the InWMC Board Meeting

Held on March 18, 2015 at USGS Offices in Indianapolis, Indiana

Attendees:

Shawn Naylor
Jody Arthur
Jeff Frey
Mike Griffin
Ashlee Haviland
Greg Bright
Joe Foy
Allen Henderson
Chi-Hua Huang
Gretchen Quirk
Sara Peel
Chris Ritz
Jill Hoffman
Mark Howell (Guest): Xenon Geosciences, Inc.

Action Items:

- Talk with Jill Reinhart (NRCS) about formation of a technical advisory group to assist NRCS/Farm Bureau group **(Shawn Naylor)**
- Send updated version of the strategic plan to board members **(Shawn Naylor)**
- Talk to Klaus about joint IWRA/InWMC conference at Ball State on June 22nd **(Shawn Naylor)**
- Provide feedback on the strategic plan on additional things the board can do to meet the council's objectives and goals **(All board members)**
- Send Committee Work Plans to Shawn when complete **(Jeff Frey & Gretchen Quirk, Randy Braun & Jim Sullivan, Jody Arthur)**
- Contact Matt Worland, USGS, about serving on the Communications Committee **(Jeff Frey)**
- Send email on Jane Frankenberger regarding the Mounds Reservoir White Paper proposal **(Jeff Frey)**
- Send to-do list to Jody **(Jeff Frey)**
- Send out General Membership email about committee work, be specific about skill needed **(Jody Arthur)**
- Send Ashlee information about newsletter open rates and new members **(Jody Arthur)**
- Newsletter deadline March 24th
 - Send School Branch copy to Ashlee **(Jeff Frey)**
 - Send copy for Initiative to Ashlee **(Jill Hoffman)**
- Meet with Jill about watershed/regional water quality monitoring for Mayors group **(Jill Hoffman & Jeff Frey)**
- Mayors WQ White Paper due in a month **(Jill Hoffman)**
- Get specifics about Central Indiana about potential funding opportunities **(Jill Hoffman)**
- Chris Ritz to send NRCS soil moisture data to Randy Bayless and Shawn Naylor **(Chris Ritz)**
- Look for additional board candidates and forward any confirmed to Jody by April 30 **(All board members)**

- Jody to send symposium evaluations to Sara Peel to compile and review for possible Fall Symposia topics (**Sara Peel & Jody Arthur**)
- Send out a Save-the-Date notice in April w/proposed topics (**Jody Arthur**)
- Put together a checklist to use when soliciting sponsors for field trips (**Jody Arthur**)
- Contact people for potential Field days
 - School Branch- Bob Barr (**Shawn Naylor**)
 - Purdue TPAC in August (**Sara Peel**)
 - Southern site – Bryan Wallace (**Shawn Naylor**)
 - Shatto Ditch/Oak Farms- Jen Tank/Dan Perkins (**Jeff Frey**)
 - Urban hydrology – Natalie Johnson at Purdue-Calumet (**Sara Peel**)
 - Cedar Creek ARS (**Chi-Hua Huang**)

Shawn Naylor called the meeting to order at 12:38 p.m.

Board members introduced themselves to mark Howell, who attended as a potential candidate for the board.

Shawn asked Jen Tank at Notre Dame if she would be interested in serving on the board, He said that she asked if we would incorporate video in our conference calls. We think this is something we can do. Jeff said we can probably also add a camera in the physical meeting so that conference call attendees can also see us in the future, too.

Old Business

Shawn approved the meeting minutes from the January 21, 2015 meeting by executive order. He asked for future meeting minutes to be cut down on the level of detail and to include a list of action items at the top. The board agreed that all we need to do is hit the high points. Jeff Frey will record any tasks that have been assigned.

Shawn provided an update on the concerns communicated at the last meeting regarding potential overlap between the Indiana Water Monitoring Council and the Indiana Water Resources Association. As decided at the last meeting, Shawn coordinated a phone call between the leadership of our respective organizations to discuss the matter. It was determined that our organizations are pretty complementary right now and the consensus of those participating on the call was that there is no overlap to be concerned with. The original concerns were brought forth by Jane Frankenberger. So, Shawn sent her an email to explain these findings and which she can forward to anyone else who may share those concerns.

Symposium Recap

Shawn provided an update on our progress toward forming a committee/taskforce or leveraging an existing group of water-monitoring professionals and agriculture representatives. This was a recommendation that came out of the symposium and was discussed at the last board meeting.

Jeff said one of the tasks was to talk to Jill Reinhart because she is overseeing the board that's with the Farm Bureau and NRCS. They really don't want an overlap there but they thought a technical group could be real helpful with what they are doing.

Shawn said he spoke with Tony Bailey after the soil moisture meeting and he recommended a call to Jill. Shawn plans to do this but hasn't had the time yet. He asked Chris Ritz for guidance on how the objectives of our group could be aligned with those of the Farm Bureau/NRCS

groups such that we don't create overlap. Chris said that some of the organizations that Tony had emailed Shawn about (Indiana Corn & Soybean Alliance and Indiana Pork) are also part of the group that Jill is overseeing. He said that it would probably be good to reach out through Tony or to involve him in conversations on this subject.

Shawn said he's spoken with Ben Wicker of the Indiana Pork Assn who seemed very interested in participating. So, there's one person from the ag community that we have on board. Jeff said based on the input from the symposium, we definitely want to get involvement from producers. Shawn added that at the soil moisture meeting, there was at least one individual from the irrigation sector that was interested in attending from the water quantity side of things. And, we know there are a lot of issues in terms of water quality that could be addressed. We have people to sit on a committee, but it's important to figure out what the objectives would be.

Shawn's next step will be to get with Tony and Jill to figure out objectives before we begin inviting people to this effort.

Shawn said he did a bit of research on the KY group. It seems like its focus is strongly on nutrients. He said that ours would have to include that but there should also be an emphasis on data sharing, including soil moisture and climate data.

Soil Moisture Monitoring Meeting

Shawn told the board about the recent soil moisture meeting that was recently held at USGS in Indianapolis. This group's focus is on the development of a real time soil moisture monitoring network in Indiana.

He said it was well attended and produced good discussion. A couple folks from the agricultural irrigation sector were there as well as Logan Garner and Jordan Seger from ISDA. Jeff Frey and Dave Lampe from USGS were also in attendance. Shawn said he went over the six main sites in the IGS network. Dev Nyogi (Purdue) spoke about the evapotranspiration sites he's monitoring right now. Shawn said Dev is excited about developing a fact sheet on the importance of soil moisture. At the next soil moisture meeting, this idea will be refined with the eventual goal of having a fact sheet on soil moisture that we can post on the InWMC website.

Shawn said the fact sheet will also be useful in helping to lay the groundwork for getting funding for a broader soil moisture monitoring network.

Jeff added that Dev has some funding and some equipment that can be used. He said a fair amount of the discussion was focused on consistency of equipment. Jeff added that the legislature is interested in hearing a bill about a volunteer groundwater monitoring network. So, there is some discussion about trying to incorporate some of these existing wells, especially in areas where we don't have good information on soil moisture.

Shawn will provide an update on this effort at next meeting.

Jill Hoffman thanked Shawn for his efforts on the ag-related meetings. Shawn said he's still farming with his dad, so it's a pretty good fit for him.

Strategic Plan Progress

Shawn said he used the outline that Jill sent him and put it into the current format. Shawn said the groundwater focus committee has seen it but he wasn't sure if he'd sent the most recent version of the plan to the board. He will send it out to the entire board so everyone can review it

on their own time. Shawn wants the board to think of things they need to add to it.

Jill said we need to stay focused on the items that we as a board can accomplish and should be accomplishing for the organization. She said that from a productivity standpoint, updates can probably be handled by email, leaving the board meeting agendas more open for things we can and need to accomplish as a group.

Shawn said Randy Bayless and Jim Sullivan are working on a work plan for the groundwater committee.

Jeff said Gretchen Quirk has taken the lead on developing the work plan for the optimization committee and that they are real close to having it complete.

The communications committee work plan is already in place.

Committee Updates

Communications Committee

Jody Arthur said the Communications Committee wasn't able to hold the meeting planned for earlier in March. She said that Melody Bernot has stepped down from the committee chair. She said that before long, the committee will be down to two, she and Ashlee, as a result of other planned departures. Logan is moving and Greg is not planning on serving another term on the board. Jody said the committee needs more help to complete the tasks in its work plan. She asked the board to think about who they might know that could serve. She said that we really need folks that enjoy doing web work. She said that at the next committee meeting, they are going to divvy up the tasks on the work plan, and a lot of it involves this kind of work.

Jeff said that Matt Worlen has expressed information and has some web skills. He will put Matt in touch with us. Jody said even affiliate members can serve. Jody said we just need points of contact. Jody said that the work could be pretty well accomplished with 4-5 people.

Greg Bright said that we should also look to our members for help because anyone who is a member can serve on a committee.

Jody said Ashlee has a pretty good system for the newsletter and FB posts. She said that by the middle of the month before the newsletter goes out she plugs the material into a template and works on the layout to make it all fit. She said she usually tries to post once a week on Facebook and that Greg also tweets the same information. Jody said we could use a Twitter bug when Greg leaves.

She said that there would be a little more work in the short term for anyone jumping in because there are some updates we need to do on the website. But, on a day-to-day basis, the work should be minimal if we can find a few more people to help.

Chris suggested sending an invitation for participation to our membership. Jody asked if other committee would like to us to do the same.

Sara said that any invitation should be very specific as to expectations. The board agreed. She also suggested that we tweet these out as individual committee positions so people can more

easily share them with others who might be interested.

Jeff said that Pam Martin at IUPUI CEES said she has some students looking for specific projects to work on. One of the things that one of them will be doing will be working on low-head dams. This person will be helping IDEM and IDNR to put together an inventory of low-head dams. So, those kinds of specifics

Shawn said it makes sense to send out a message to the general membership to get more involvement but also to let them know what we're doing from a communications standpoint. Maybe list 2-3 tasks that we need help on. That would provide the detail that Sara suggested. He said the message should definitely be communications committee focused. Jody said she used a similar level of detail with her solicitation for board nominees.

She asked about the open rate on the newsletter and whether we've gotten any new members as a result of the newsletter. Jody said she would send this information to Ashlee and will report on it to the board at the next meeting.

Ashlee Haviland said she is pulling information together for newsletter. She needs articles by March 24. She said this issue will focus on upcoming events, no specific theme. She said she has found that theme-based newsletters are more difficult to put together. Jeff suggested a School Branch update and said he may be able to pull one together for her in the timeline needed. Ashlee said it could go out as late as April 6 but she would prefer to get it out sooner.

Network Optimization Committee

Jeff said Jeremy Webber has updated 23 maps for the paper. [name] working on getting lat/longs together for the colocation of sites with stream gages for stream stats. Ben Spurl is going to finish up this work. They have 40 hours of his time for this work.

Jill asked Jeff when the maps will be available. She'd like to have them for the mayors group and other town council meetings that she is going to be attending. She said the Mayor's group is working on some to-do sorts of things regionally and that they will also be pushing at the state level on gaps they think need to be filled there. She said that locally, everyone is monitoring their own way and that's not really wrapping into anything else. So, it would be nice to show a slide or two explain the InWMC's efforts to strategically fill in gaps and possibly show them that if they were to get more organized locally they might be able to participate in that. She added that the timing on the optimization committee's work is really good.

Jeff suggested that for regional monitoring, she could look at the maps for the Great Lakes. There are some new gages in Ft. Wayne, and there is a whole bunch of monitoring efforts on the Ohio side of the state really looking at the harmful algal bloom issues. That might be a good watershed to focus on for a regional scale.

Shawn asked Jill if there are any particular watersheds that the mayors would be specifically interested in the work that Jeff is doing. She said there is the Central Indiana Council of Elected Officials. She said they monitor for their utilities, drinking water, and other reasons. And there's this big push at the state level with Charbonneau's efforts to get volunteer wells stuff submitted somehow. She just met with Mark Basch to discuss, but they still aren't sure where all this is headed.

She said that the mayors' staff would be willing to provide information to a system if there was a system that was going somewhere. She said what they really want is policy guidance based on science. What they are seeing is science being done and data being collected intermittently but very little guidance coming out of that. Jill work with Jeff to provide the mayors' timeline on their whitepapers. They are still working on the maps for their effort but Jill expects it to be completed within the next month.

Groundwater Focus Committee

Randy Bayless stepped in to provide an update on the Groundwater Focus Committee. Randy said the committee work plan for 2015/2016 is done and that he will send it out.

He said they've been hammering away at some of the same things. Groundwater-surface water interaction is still a focus. He said they are trying to get some wells located up in the Kankakee basins where they have a super gage. Marty Risch needs to decide on locations. Then the wells will go in.

The committee is still working on arsenic paper. Randy said there have been some students that have expressed interest in writing it up, but this has been difficult for lack of funding. Nitrate is the next big water quality issue on the calendar. There is a lot of interest from ISDH and IDEM on this.

He said the committee is also very interested in a soil moisture monitoring network. He said there are some resources available but not enough to get a good spatial coverage across the state. He anticipates a slow build, a few sites a year.

Chris Ritz said NRCS has a few sites around the state, but his staff hasn't had the time to write it up to share it. The NRCS has data to share, he just need to know where to send it. Randy said he could send it to him. Randy said one of the first tasks is to pull all existing sites into one website. Shawn asked for Chris to CC him when he sends his data to Randy. He'd like to help.

Board Elections

Shawn said there has been quite a bit of progress getting nominations. We're coming up on two years since last elections in summer of 2013. He said Sara is leading the nominations committee.

He said that Jen Tank (Notre Dame) is very interested in participating and that she also recommended Dan Perkins (Jasper County SWCD). Shawn has contacted him but hasn't heard back yet. Jen Tank said she will lobby him to accept the nomination.

Jeff has spoken with Jade Young (ACOE). She coordinates ACOE water monitoring and could serve as a federal rep. she is real enthusiastic. He has also spoken with Jeremy Webber (at IUPUI CEES).

Jody sent an updated version of the nominee list just before the meeting. She puts people where they fit based on their affiliation but that we can move people around a bit if needed using the member-at-large positions because anyone can serve in these.

Ron Turco (Purdue) and Kathy Clark (Lake Maxinkuckee Environmental Council) are also now on the ballot. Chi-Hua and Allen Henderson are now confirmed.

Mark Howell was invited to add his name to the ballot. He agreed.

Regarding the timeline on elections, Jody said she'd like to wait until general membership meeting so that we can give the members a heads up on the elections.

Sara said that based on the low attendance at our last meeting, it probably doesn't matter if we wait until the meeting or not. Jody pointed out that we've had subsequent meetings with better attendance.

Shawn said more nominations would be good. He believes that a board needs turnover to stay healthy and active. He'd welcome the opportunity to get even a handful of additional people interested in serving on the board because he's ready to take on a more limited role. Jill Hoffman agreed saying that she would like to move into more committee work at this point. Jody echoed that.

Shawn asked the board to think of additional folks that might be interested in serving, to either reach out personally or send those names along to us. Sara said we still need to set a timeline for elections.

Shawn suggested that for 2013, we waited until after the general membership and to do a digital election. Sara said the elections should not be contingent on the timeline for the general membership meeting. The meeting needs to be held at a time when we can expect good attendance and the elections can be conducted digitally. Shawn agreed, saying it's not right now and that last time, elections were held a couple of months later. He still wants to stick with the general timeframe to hold elections between May and August. Sara agreed with that.

It was decided that the nomination period will end on April 30, and we'll hold our elections on May 4-15. Sara said she would check out whether we can set up voting with a form on Apricot.

General Membership Meeting

Ball State is a good location. Shawn will speak with Klaus (IWRA) in conjunction w/IWRA (June 22). Last year, the meeting was essentially a short business meeting followed by a discussion about fall symposium topics. Shawn plans on taking the same approach this meeting.

Shawn hasn't contacted Klaus about piggy-backing onto the IWRA meeting but doesn't anticipate an issue. Sara said the meeting is scheduled for June 22. Shawn said that we should hold the meeting from 10-11:00 AM to give people extra drive time and a couple of hours to grab lunch.

Jeff said Jane Frankenberger suggested a talk or theme focused on dealing with the proposed reservoir in Muncie (Mounds Reservoir). She wants to develop a whitepaper on reservoir water quality in ag reservoirs. Jill said this is a political hot potato and suggested that we let things evolve a bit. Jeff said that as a council, it might be easier to get involved in this in terms of providing data for existing reservoir but agreed that we should probably wait before taking on a role where Mounds is concerned.

Jody said that there's a difference between providing data and supporting a project. Sara added that we'd be talking about water quality in agricultural reservoirs, not that particular project. Jody

said we would need to make sure the white paper doesn't take a position on the Mounds project.

Jill said they have a lot of grand plans about how they are going to make sure this doesn't become another Geist or Morse. She said that even if we provided data, it probably wouldn't be useful. They'll have an answer for anything we might provide either way. It will not sway or engage the group leading the effort because they are absolutely convinced they have thought of everything. Jeff said he would send Jane's proposal to board to consider.

Shawn suggested that we try to work toward a constructive way to develop a proposed symposium theme. Maybe send out an email with ideas ahead of time? If we do get some recommendations, we might be able to ask the recommender to give a short presentation to help evaluate the idea.

Greg said to look at the symposium evaluations. Sara asked Jody to scan and send them to her. She will have someone synthesize them by April 1. Shawn said once he gets an answer from Klaus, we can send out a Save-the-Date notice. He said if we get any recommendations, we can include our ideas from the evaluations and ask for people to send additional ideas in advance. Board will discuss and then ask members to give short presentations.

Jody said she will send out a Save-the-Date notice in early April w/proposed topics.

Jeff suggested an idea from the Silver Jackets on removal of low head dams. He said there is a big synergistic movement to make low head dams a topic. We could also address it from different perspectives - hazards, erosion, water quality, fish habitat (movement and health). There is a lot of interest from a lot of agencies. Pam Martin from CEES suggested that universities could begin focusing on dam removal in their areas.

Shawn said those things might be wrapped together into a stream restoration theme. Jill said that you'd want to also look at how that effects utilities that rely on those water levels to meet their permit limits. Jeff said that with this historical stuff, power generation and historic dams, you can't get rid of those. Jerry Sweeten's work has shown that dam removal has resulted in improvements to biology. Jeff said one idea would be to look at where biologic impairments on the 303(d) list correspond to low head dams and prioritize their removal that way. Jody said that Angie Brown is working on inventorying low head dams.

Jeff said he'll talk with the Silver Jackets group to them know what we discussed.

Shawn said that if the general membership doesn't actively choose something else, we have something to run with.

Field Days

Shawn said that we haven't done one for a while and asked for ideas.

Chris Ritz suggested a field trip to School Branch.

Jody asked whether we are talking about a field trip or a field day, similar to the Big Walnut field day we did in 2008. Shawn said he can see how it could be a combination. Each of the groups involved in the project can talk about their roles and some details about the water monitoring that's taking place.

Jody said that this project is becoming well known. People would likely attend. Jeff said Mike Starkey does field days all the time. He has facilities to do them. Jeff said it might be better to wait until next spring when we have data to work with and fewer crops to navigate.

Shawn said that even with a little bit of preliminary data, you could still demonstrate some things. He suggested next fall could be doable. Shawn said he will talk to Bob Barr when they are out there together to install soil moisture monitors.

Sara said they [??] will likely be hosting something with Purdue at the Purdue Agricultural Center that will show some of the data they are collecting with the bioreactor and two-stage ditch and the fish farming they're doing there. They haven't scheduled it yet. Last year they did it in August. Sara suggested we could co-promote this.

Jeff said both of our field days have been east or west of Indy and suggested we may want to do something South or North. Maybe we could contact Brian Wallace. Sara said he's still interested in doing something and that she will speak to him.

Jeff said Jen Tank has a new WS study up north where they are doing a three-watershed study where they are going to be looking at two-stage ditches, BMPs and cover crops, one on Shatto Ditch up by Notre Dame and another with Dan Perkins and his work up by Fair Oaks.

Sara said if we want to go up farther north, we could consider Natalie Johnson's work. She is the Urban Waters Grant (professional and volunteer monitoring) at Purdue-Calumet. They have a grant to do volunteer and professional monitoring.

Jeff will talk to Jen. Sara will talk to Natalie.

Chi-Hua suggested looking at Cedar Creek in Auburn, IN. The ARS has been monitoring it since 2002.

Jody asked if we're looking at a field trip next fall. Sara said we could do them anytime during the year. There's no reason not to set it up. We could do as few or as many as we want to put together.

Shawn suggested that if we can get confirmation on these field trips ideas, we could send it out to the general membership to gauge interest. Sara suggested that people are going to attend either those that are closest to them or in which they have a particular interest. She said that there's no reason not to hold as many as we want if sponsors are willing and able to help us set it up. We would just need to know what resources they would need (funding, transportation, people, etc.).

Indiana Watershed Leadership Academy is having a face-to-face meeting next week and will be looking for project. Sara suggested that we could ask them to plan the field trip.

Shawn suggested a checklist for soliciting field trip sponsors. We need to make sure we ask all the right logistical questions when we're talking to our respective contacts. Jody will put this together and send it to Shawn.

Wrap-up

Jeff said the Wild Apricot bill has been paid. Jody thanked Mike Griffin for USGS support.

Treasurer's Report:

Balance as of September 23, 2014	\$1,146.26
Income (Dues)	\$20.00
Expenses (PayPal fees)	(\$1.18)
<hr/> Total	<hr/> \$1,165.08

Meetings are now held on third Wednesday of odd months. The next meeting will be on May 20, 12:30-2:30 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 2:33 PM.