

Minutes from the Indiana Water Monitoring Council General Membership meeting (6/19/2013)

President Jeff Frey calls the meeting to order at 10:05 am and gives an overview of the meeting agenda

Report of progress

Jeff Frey provided an overview of Council activities since the last General Membership meeting. This included an update on the efforts of the Integrated Water Monitoring Network Optimization Taskforce that is working to: 1) identify where surface water monitoring is being conducted in the state by various groups, 2) select potential locations where data collection can be better coordinated between agencies, and 3) consider where monitoring can be expanded to include additional measurements. Jeff also discussed the progress of the Groundwater Taskforce that formed last fall and is currently compiling information related to arsenic in Indiana groundwater. Broader efforts by the Council as a whole included the drought symposium in December, 2012, and a field day that took place along Sugar Creek in October, 2012.

Following the overview of the 2012 InWMC field day, a discussion ensued among members as to what might be a good plan for a 2013 field day. Melody Bernot (Ball State Univ.) recommended a canoe/float trip along the West Fork of the White River that would allow members to get a first-hand look at ecosystems along the trunk stream of the largest river system within Indiana. Melody agreed to lead the trip with the earliest possible date in the fall, 2013.

Next on the radar: Highlighting Indiana's most pressing water-resource issues

President-elect, Shawn Naylor, discussed an initiative that he plans to begin upon assuming the presidency following the upcoming Board elections. The project entails highlighting current water-resource issues facing the State in order to:

- use the InWMC website to bring attention water-related concerns facing our state;
- provide brief, simple educational material to inform the general public and legislators;
- bring attention to water-resource professionals who are addressing these topics;
- stress the importance of water monitoring to provide data that guide decision makers.

Shawn discussed some common questions from the general public that these web pages might seek to answer and also discussed some examples of how some other states are seeking to meet these goals through other methods. A conversation ensued among those General Members in attendance as to how these web pages would be distinguished from our existing technical/educational resources (that exist more as a clearinghouse), and how the text could be written to focus on the water-monitoring component of each issue. Naylor provided a proposed web-page template that included two paragraphs of text, a section with information on water-resource professionals conducting work related to the topic, and a short bibliography with publications, reports, or websites where readers can learn more.

The following topics were proposed by those in attendance as a starting point with topic “leaders” noted in parenthesis. The leaders will be responsible for working with other specialists to compile the web page material and keep it current if any updates are necessary down the road.

Topics

Nutrients in Indiana waters (Logan Garner, ISDA; and Jeff Frey, USGS)

Blue-green algae in Indiana waters (Cyndi Wagner, IDEM)

Animal impacts on water quality (Ashlee Haviland, IDNR)

Tile drains (Jane Frankenburger, Purdue; and Jeff Frey, USGS)

Arsenic in groundwater (Jerry Unterreiner, IDNR; and InWMC groundwater taskforce)

Flooding (Bryan Wallace, Oak Park C.D.)

Drought and water shortage (Shawn Naylor, IGS)

Indiana Water Monitoring Inventory update

Jane Frankenberger provided an update on current activities from the Data Clearinghouse Committee that she chairs. Jane noted that the Indiana Water Monitoring Inventory is still actively seeking folks to enter locations throughout the state where water monitoring is being conducted.

The inventory can be accessed via the following link:

<http://inwater.agriculture.purdue.edu/monitoring/>.

Business meeting

Non-profit applications status

Newly appointed InWMC Executive Secretary, Jody Arthur, has determined that the Council qualifies for Federal 501(c) 3 status without filing an IRS application. This is due to the fact that we have gross annual income less than \$5,000 and we operate for exempt purposes. Jody will be coordinating with those agencies/companies that donated funds for filing fees to return those contributions.

It is necessary for the InWMC to finalize our Articles of Association, though, because they contain the extra clauses that our bylaws don't that are needed to ensure we meet the letter of the federal code. We also need Articles of Association to file for tax-exempt status with the State of Indiana.

Payment options for annual dues

A bank account for the Council has been established and the Council is now prepared to begin collecting annual dues from the General Membership (\$10 per year). A Paypal account has also been established and the details are being worked out so the the Council can use the Wild Apricot service, which provides the framework for the InWMC website, and membership tracking system for dues payment and reminders. Jody plans to send out an email with a payment schedule and payment options in approximately one month.

Treasurer's report

Previous Balance = \$450

Expenditures = \$10 service charges

Current balance = \$440

Draft ballot for upcoming elections and call for additional candidates

Shawn Naylor went through each representation category for the Board of Directors nominees and asked for additional nominations from those in attendance. There were no additional nominations made and it was announced that an electronic voting process would commence within the next few weeks.

Meeting adjourned at 11:40 am