

Minutes from the Indiana Water Monitoring Council Board of Directors Meeting (4/17/2012)

Action Items

- Schedule a meeting of the Indiana Water Monitoring Taskforce (Jeff Frey)
- Provide a brief tutorial on using the ArcGIS.com map developed for the Water Monitoring Taskforce and distribute via email to other Board members (Shawn Naylor).
- Post a summary of the recent meeting hosted by the NRCS on identifying target basins for a BMP assessment study (Chris Ritz)
- Provide a revised description of the Research, Education, and Outreach Compilation Committee for Bryan Wallace and Shawn Naylor to post on the InWMC Web site (Bob Gillespie)
- Hold a meeting to discuss the proposed “data swap” that will be hosted by the Council (Byran Wallace, Sara Peel, Jody Arthur)
- Look into the logistics of holding the InWMC annual General Membership (GM) / business meeting in conjunction with the Indiana Water Resources Association (IWRA) meeting, June 12-14 (Jeff Frey).
- Get a 20 minute presentation on InWMC activities at the IWRA meeting (Jeff Frey)

Attendees (13 total)

Sara Peel, Indiana Lakes Management Society (ILMS)

Heather Buck, Christopher Burke Engineering, Ltd.,

Chris Ritz, National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

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

Tom Bruns, Aqua Indiana, Inc.

Via conference call:

Jill Hoffman, Upper White River Watershed Alliance

Lisa Holscher, West Central Indiana Watershed Alliance (WCIWA)

Melody Bernot, Ball State University

Sandy Clark-Kolaks, Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR)

Daragh Deegan, City of Elkhart Health Department

Shawn Naylor, Indiana Geological Survey (IGS)

Leighanne Hahn, Office of Indiana State Chemist (OISC)

Jody Arthur, Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM)

Jeff Frey calls the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

Opening

- Jeff notes that we will move the recent request by the NRCS to assist in identifying priority watersheds for investigation under the purview of the Coordination and Collaboration Committee.
- Jeff asks to approve minutes from previous meeting. Sara Peel moves to accept the minutes, Shawn Naylor seconds. All vote in favor.

Old Business

- Jeff Frey goes over the Sharepoint file-sharing tool and gives example of its usage and file organizational structure. He also asks anyone who is having trouble using the system to contact him.

Coordination and Collaboration Committee

Water Monitoring Task Force

- 54 responses have been received for the water monitoring survey including a diverse group of respondents representing a good mix of stakeholders.
- New water monitoring networks added based on responses
- Jeff Frey plans to hold a meeting as next step
- At the next meeting, Jeff noted that there is a need for someone with GIS expertise and Shawn Naylor agreed to have someone from the Center for Geospatial Data Analysis attend.
- There exists a need to assess the availability of existing spatial datasets including land use data and other data that can assist with contaminant transport modeling on the watershed scale.
- Shawn created an interactive map via ArcGIS.com and briefly went over its potential for sharing monitoring locations and data. He agreed to come up with a short tutorial that will be distributed via email to the other Board members.

NRCS effort to establish priority watersheds for best management practice (BMP) assessment (Chris Ritz)

- Following a recent meeting with participants from the Council, data from IDEM's 303(d) list will be used to identify target watersheds. Meeting participants included Mary Lou Renshaw (IDEM), Nancy Baker (USGS), and Doug Smith (USDA).
- The scope of this effort will be narrowed to 2 agricultural watersheds for funding opportunities to work to assess the impact of BMPs implemented.
- A synopsis of the meeting will be posted on the InWMC Sharepoint site.

USGS National Water Quality Assessment (NAWQA) Cycle 3 Network

1. One U.S. large river basin will be chosen for an Integrated Watershed study that will start in 2013 (the competition is between Iowa and Indiana, and the proposed watershed is the White River). There will be 8 wadeable streams within the selected basin that will be monitored as well (including two NAWQA trend sites that will be sampled yearly, Sugar

Creek and the White River at Hazleton). Also, 6 sub-watersheds will be sampled 20 times per year (~50-100 mi², larger than headwater basins) for 6 years starting in 2013. This studies objective include:

- a. Looking at fate and transport of agricultural contaminants
 - b. Surface water / groundwater modeling of contaminant transport
 - c. Identifying contaminant gradients
2. Another new regional study is the Midwest Upper Synoptic Study that involves USGS chemical monitoring paired with EPA bioindicator monitoring as part of the National Aquatic Resources Survey (formerly EMAP). The goal of this study is to assess multiple stressors (nutrients, sediment, pesticides, and streamflow alteration) to see which impacts biotic communities the most. This study includes 60 monitoring sites randomly selected following EMAP protocols and the USGS intensively sampling water chemistry, sediment chemistry and toxicology at an additional 40 sites. The study area encompasses parts of Indiana, Ohio, Illinois, Minnesota, Michigan, Iowa, and Wisconsin.

Research, Education, Outreach Compilation (Daragh Deegan)

- Bob Gillespie has updated the Committee description and will be providing this to Bryan Wallace and Shawn Naylor for posting on the InWMC Web site.
- Daragh Deegan has made progress in identifying resources that need to be updated.
- New monitoring efforts have been identified that can be described on the resources page.

Communications Committee

- Jody Arthur and Shawn Naylor gave a recount of a recent Committee meeting. The group revisited and outlined the roles of the Committee which include distributing information via the Web site but not writing the original text. They also discussed a need for providing students and young professionals with benefits through the Council that might increase participation (see below).
- Jody discussed social networking tools that have been created for the Council to increase visibility with links available on the Web site (e.g., Twitter and Facebook). She also mentioned that there is a need for someone to serve as “Twitterbug” and provide tweets on a regular basis. Lisa Holscher volunteered to serve this role.
- Options for drumming up support/membership from students were summarized including:
 - a. Internship and job postings on the InWMC Web site
 - b. A job shadowing program that could be sponsored by the Council

Structure Committee

- Jody Arthur noted that she believes the Council now has everything in-place to apply for 501 (C)3 status as a federal tax exempt non-profit organization.

- Jody mentioned that the Council may need to file Articles Association prior to filing for 501 (C)3 status, which is less formal than filing Articles of Incorporation.
- A Council checking account is close to be finalized.
- Jody proposed that the Board come up with timeline for collecting dues and notifying members at the next meeting.

New Business

- Jeff Frey noted that the originally proposed date sometime in June for the next InWMC Field Day is too early for several participants. He is currently looking at a date between July and September as a likely alternative.
- A meeting to discuss the proposed “data swap” is planned for next week (week of April 23rd) with Sara Peel, Bryan Wallace, and Jody Arthur.

Wrap-Up

- It was proposed that the Council plan on holding its annual General Membership (GM) / business meeting in conjunction with the Indiana Water Resources Association (IWRA) meeting, June 12-14. Jeff Frey mentioned that an approximately 10-15 minute presentation could be given to update the GM on Council progress since 2011 meeting as well as current activities. Jeff noted that he will look into these logistics.

Meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.