

Minutes from the Indiana Water Monitoring Council Board of Directors Meeting (02/16/2012)

Action Items

- Figure out how to identify respondents and get contact information for Water Monitoring Task Force survey (Shawn Naylor and Jeff Frey)
- Look into building a shared map service using ESRI ArcGIS Server technology that can be used for Task Force members to post locations and data (Shawn Naylor)
- Identify resources on the InWMC Web site that need to be updated and provided updated information to the Communications Committee to post to the Web site (Daragh Deegan)
- Look into using Google Metrics or a similar application to track usage on InWMC web pages (Bryan Wallace and Shawn Naylor).
- Look into adding a “water in the news” Web page to the Council’s Web site (Bryan Wallace and Shawn Naylor)
- Send out updated research, education, and outreach resources to Board for review as soon as they are compiled (Bob Gillespie)
- Work on identifying what resources currently on the InWMC Web site could be classified as education materials (Bob Gillespie and REOC Committee)
- Write a message for distribution to General Membership that announces the Council’s Twitter account and gives an overview of how to use Twitter (Melody Bernot)
- Work on building a Council Facebook page/profile (Shawn Naylor)
- Revise the InWMC membership solicitation that will be sent to students to include Twitter and Facebook links (Melody Bernot)
- Send out a message to the rest of Board so they can test whether or not there are access issues with Sharepoint (Jeff Frey)
- Organize a meeting with Sara Peel and Jody Arthur regarding planning a data swap for southern Indiana (Bryan Wallace)
- Draft a message that will be distributed to the General Membership describing a new initiative by the NRCS to establish water quality criteria for HUC 12-digit watersheds (Tony Bailey)
- Begin arranging a meeting to discuss the initiate noted above (Tony Bailey and the Coordination and Collaboration Committee)

Attendees (14 total)

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

Jody Arthur, Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM)

Greg Bright, Commonwealth Biomonitoring

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

Sara Peel, Indiana Lakes Management Society (ILMS)

Bryan Wallace, Oak Park Conservancy District (OPCD)

Shawn Naylor, Indiana Geological Survey (IGS)

Tony Bailey, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)

Via conference call:

Daragh Deegan, City of Elkhart Health Department

Melody Bernot, Ball State University

Bob Gillespie, St. Joseph River Watershed Alliance

Jerod Chew, Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA)

Melissa Clark, Indiana University School of Public and Environmental Affairs (IU SPEA)

Leighanne Hahn, Office of Indiana State Chemist (OISC)

Jeff Frey calls the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m.

Board Replacements

- Sara Peel recommended that Bryan Wallace, an MS4 manager with the Oak Park Conservancy District, be considered. Jeff Frey used his executive powers to appoint Bryan Wallace to fill the position vacated by Audrey Wendling.

Projects in Committee

Task Force Survey

- Jeff Frey announced that 35 surveys have been completed to date and there is a need to identify respondents through SurveyMonkey.
- Sara Peel noted that survey solicitation should be forwarded to Lisa Ritter (IDNR) for distribution to Hoosier River Watch.
- After sending survey to additional agencies/potential partners, Jeff Frey plans to wait 2-3 weeks before compiling final survey results.
- Jeff Frey announced that he would like to meet with an initial group of Task Force participants sometime during the next 2-3 weeks.
- Sandy Clark-Kolaks noted that there is an ESRI ArcGIS online service where individuals can post shapefiles of monitoring sites to a shared map. Jeff Frey noted that this would be helpful in preliminary Task Force work for understanding spatial distribution of monitoring networks. Shawn Naylor agreed to look into using www.arcgis.com to build a map viewer.

Research, Education, and Outreach Compilation (REOC) Committee

- Tony Bailey, Melody Bernot, Daragh Deegan, Doug Smith and Bob Gillespie met on Tuesday, February 14th to come up with a list of initial tasks for the committee.
- The committee decided that existing resources on the Web site, when combined with material provided by Lenore Tedesco, are already comprehensive.
- Daragh Deegan has worked to identify resources on the InWMC Web site that need to be updated. Bob Gillespie mentioned that once this task is complete, Daragh will provide updated information to the Communications Committee to post to the Web site.
- Bob Gillespie stated that he will send out updated research, education, and outreach resources to Board for review as soon as they are compiled by the REOC Committee.

- Bob Gillespie noted that he will work on deciphering between technical items and education items. He also noted that there is a need to track usage for the resources page in order to guide further compilation efforts.
- Bryan Wallace agreed to work with Shawn Naylor in restructuring the InWMC website to facilitate changes to the resources list and incorporating a tracking tool for Web site usage.
- Bob Gillespie suggested that a “water in the news” page with recent news links would be a nice addition to the Web site, and Shawn Naylor agreed to look into adding this feature provided the REOC Committee can provide updated news links.

Nominations Committee

- Sara Peel noted that Shawn Naylor has agreed to accept the nomination for President-elect.

Organizational Structure Committee

- Jody Arthur mentioned that she has decided to use IN Members Credit Union instead of Chase Bank to start a checking account for the InWMC.
- Jody Arthur has not heard back from her legal counsel at IDEM so no progress has been made on filing Articles of Incorporation.

Communications Committee

- Bryan Wallace agreed to serve on the committee and assist with Web site management.
- Jody Arthur noted that she plans to hold a meeting over the next couple of weeks with existing members: Jody Arthur, Sally Letsinger, Shawn Naylor, Bryan Wallace and Laura Esman.
- Melody Bernot summarized Twitter and its usage and potential importance for spreading the word on the Council. She also agreed to summarize this information in a message that will be sent out to the General Membership.
- Shawn Naylor agreed to build a Facebook profile for the Council in order to provide an additional social networking tool for the InWMC.
- Jody Arthur noted that she is waiting to hear back from USGS, USDA and IDNR members who currently can't get access to Dropbox.
- Jeff Frey described the Sharepoint tool that he and his colleagues at the USGS currently use. He noted that he will send out a message to the Board so they can test whether or not they have access to Sharepoint.

New Business

Field Day

- Jeff Frey noted that the current hope is for a field day in June and he plans to hold a planning meeting soon with Jill Hoffman and the Sugar Creek watershed coordinator.
- It was discussed that the upcoming field day or another event could be used to demonstrate the latest technology from vendors such as YSI. Sara Peel also noted that a demonstration could be held in northern Indiana.

Other new business

- Bryan Wallace talked about data swaps that have been very successful in Colorado. He noted that for individuals such as himself who monitor on a watershed scale, he was not sure what utility other watershed coordinators could have for his data. Hence, the objectives of the swaps would need to be identified and also on what scale the meetings would be held – regional or state-wide. Jody Arthur noted that someone needs to come up with a rough plan for an initial swap and come up with ideas for the scale and agenda items for an initial swap.
- Bryan noted that he will organize a meeting with Sara Peel and Jody Arthur regarding planning a data swap for southern Indiana prior to the next Board meeting.
- Tony Bailey described a new initiative by the NRCS to establish water quality criteria for HUC 12-digit watersheds in Indiana that will be used to identify target watersheds for conservation programs. Tony agreed to draft a message describing this initiative and soliciting feedback from the General Membership. He will also work with the Coordination and Collaboration Committee to plan a meeting to discuss the development of criteria for the program.

Wrap-up / Next Steps

- Shawn Naylor will use a Doodle poll to schedule the next Board meeting for mid-April.
- Jeff Frey provided two upcoming events that need to be listed on the InWMC Web site.

Meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.