



Upper White River Watershed Alliance (UWRWA)

General Membership Meeting

September 25, 2008

Veolia Water, Cafeteria Conference Rooms

2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

RECORD OF MEETING

- A. Introductions and Welcome. Organizations present included: IUPUI-CEES, Veolia Water, AMEC, Empower Results, Williams Creek Consulting, Madison County, DNR, Morse Waterways, DLZ, IDEM, Marion County SWCD, EMH&T, City of Westfield and White River Watchers

Lenore Tedesco initiated the meeting with round-the-room introductions.

- B. Recap & Approval of June Meeting Record - Jill Hoffmann provided a recap of the June Meeting Record and all members present voted to approve the Record as written.

- C. Lou Ann Baker, Treasurer, reviewed the current financial statements. Current balance as of September 22, 2008 stands at \$86,740.84. The majority of the balance (\$70,000) is the website grant. The group was reminded to please submit membership dues.

D. Grant Updates

i. Morse/Geist LARE grants and sampling update (Lenore Tedesco)

- Morse Waterways Association developing a watershed management plan for Cicero Creek watershed; reviewing responses to RFP and beginning contractor selection process.
- Geist Coalition undergoing a similar process as Morse Waterways, currently have 3 firms selected (short-listed) based on responses to RFP for waterway management plan. The Coalition will be holding interviews on October 22, 2008.
- Sampling Update – CIWRP: IUPUI/Veolia Water studying algal blooms, algal toxins at Geist, Eagle Creek and Morse reservoirs. Data/information available at www.algae.in.gov. Based on results of the sampling, there was a recreation advisory issued at Geist due to levels of algae. Veolia and IUPUI are conducting water quality education and outreach within the communities. This is a large-scale effort that ties in to the need for regional watershed planning.

ii. RiverWatch Grant (Jill Hoffmann) - pursuing a grant to upgrade the database system regarding sample point locations of volunteer data and to standardize the efforts; the funding request also includes:

- Data graphing component
- Five data interpretation workshops around the state
- 319 grant for \$69K

iii. Website Project, Laura Hare Charitable Trust Grant – request for \$70K for making substantial improvements to the web site:

- Web site development including member login and interactive tools
- BMP selection tool development and programming
- RFP being sent to web development consultants
- Process involves a subcommittee of the technical committee

- iv. Overall, since 2006, grants obtained for the UWRWA total over \$320K.
- E. Educational/Technical Program – Heather Williams, AMEC/City of Indianapolis: Introduction to the City of Indianapolis’ newly developing Green Infrastructure Facts Sheets for Stormwater
 - i. Heather presented information regarding the City of Indianapolis’ Green Infrastructure program
 - ii. Green Fact Sheets undergoing internal review – distributed 9/24/08
 - iii. The city is considering possible changes to stormwater infrastructure, including requiring O&M for all quantity and quality elements
 - iv. Considering how to simplify distributed detention systems – landscape requirements could be an opportunity to enhance stormwater requirements and encourage green infrastructure
 - v. Still sorting out design and cost issues
 - vi. Performing an ordinance and policy review to determine means of allowing and promoting green infrastructure/LID measures
- F. Meeting with NRCS (9/26/08) to Review Urban Standards (Tedesco)
 - i. A meeting of several groups occurred at NRCS to help work toward the development or adaptation of urban BMP standards in Indiana. This would provide IDEM an improved ability to cost-share on urban practices.
- G. Technical Committee & Projects Report (Lisa Bihl)
 - i. Stormwater BMP Resource Center – web projects and material being built – work ongoing
 - ii. Next Mtg: TBD – mid/late October
- H. MS4 Education/Involvement Program Update (Jill Hoffmann)
 - i. River Clean-up, September 13, 2008
 - Combined effort with MS4s in the watershed; about 30 groups and 2,000 volunteers
 - Very successful and strong media coverage
 - ii. Revised funding approach
 - Five population categories with staggered fee structure (0 to 5,000; 5,001 to 15,000; 15,001 to 50,000; 50,001 to 150,000; and 150,000+ [Indianapolis])
 - Working to pool resources with the MS4s in the watershed (50) with the Upper White River Watershed Alliance providing a regional education and outreach program
 - Approximately 20 of the 50 entities have expressed interest in the regional approach, ranging from casual interest to firm commitments
 - The process would require the MS4s to modify their IDEM permit (signatory page) indicating UWRWA providing/helping meet 2 of the minimum control measures (MCMs)
- I. Watershed Projects & Event Updates – Coordinators
 - i. CEES – Eagle Creek (Jill Hoffmann)
 - WQAD/Project Wet at the Earth Discovery Center/Eagle Creek Park, Friday, October 3
 - Cost-share projects on-going; visible demonstration site at Eagle Creek Park
 - Next 319 grant submitted for more implementation and education funds
 - ii. Marion County SWCD – Fall Creek (Ron Lauster)

- Distributed an update on the Lower Fall Creek Watershed management plan, goals, grant efforts, and committee meeting schedule.
 - A draft version of the Watershed Management Plan is up on the website
 - Group is seeking a new 319 grant for implementation. A recent Clean Water Indiana grant for staffing was turned down.
 - They need some technical assistance with landowner education, rain garden installation and other measures
 - A social indicator survey is ongoing as part of the project
- iii. Madison County SWCD Projects (Crist Blassaras)
 - They are developing a new tire pulling technique to aid their river clean up efforts
 - Planning additional clean up efforts over the next 2 to 3 months
 - White River Watchers – parking/public access at a new “conservation reserve” should open in about 4 to 6 weeks; no public meetings have been held yet
 - New staff at the SWCD – Dave Schmidts and Janda Hyatt, watershed coordinator
- iv. Randolph County – submitted new grant
- v. Delaware County – submitting another 319 in next round
- vi. Morgan County MS4, SWCD and additional interest at Heart Lake

J. Future Business (Tedesco)

- i. Executive Committee is revising by-laws
 - Expect them out by end of October
 - In response to change in Alliance participants/audience dues have been restructured
 - In December the Board will review other organizational structural changes

K. Other Technical presentation topics (Hoffmann)

- i. Future meeting topics were discussed/requested. Angela Sturdevant (DNR) suggested updates/discussion on the new Lakescaping Program for northern Indiana glacial lakes and smaller reservoir shorelines – possible curriculum for workshop and cost-share programs coming.

L. Next Meeting Date – tentative date: December 11, 2008, 2:30 – 4:30 p.m.

M. Adjourn – 4:40 p.m.