



Upper White River Watershed Alliance (UWRWA)

General Membership Meeting

December 11th, 2008

Veolia Water, Cafeteria Conference Rooms

2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

RECORD OF MEETING

- A. Lenore Tedesco initiated the meeting with round-the-room introduction. Round the room introductions. Organizations present included: IUPUI, Madison County, Hamilton County, Veolia Water, DNR, IDEM, RW Armstrong, Empower Results, Williams Creek Consulting, CILTI, JFNew, Morse Waterways, Hoosier Hartland RC&D, City of Indianapolis, and others.
- B. Jill Hoffmann provided a recap of the September Record of Meeting and all members present voted to approve the Record as written.
- C. Lenore Tedesco reviewed current financial statements – net income of \$ 68,875 and total assets of \$78,561. Most of the income is due to web-project grant from the Hare Trust.
- D. Grant Requests Update were given by Tedesco and Hoffmann –
- o Hoffmann gave an explanation of the details of the new website project for the organization. Jon Eynon of EcoLogik was selected as the contractor. The Tech Committee is working with Eynon on content and design of the site.
 - o V3 Consultants, Inc. out of Illinois has been selected by both the Geist Watershed Alliance and Morse Waterways Association as the consultant to do the Watershed Management Plans for their respective areas. Geist has a contract of \$60,000 and Morse a contract of \$53,000.
- E. Education Program
John Hazlett with the City of Indianapolis Office of Sustainability provided this meeting's education program. He provided the group with an introduction of the City's new Office of Sustainability and their activities, initiatives, and future projects/plans for the office. SustainIndy, the major's formal initiative/name for all related sustainability efforts, officially launched in October.
- F. MS4 Regional Public Education and Involvement Program
Hoffmann was proud to announce that the MS4 Regional Public Education and Involvement Program is now a go! The MS4s of Hamilton County are a big player in the program. Other MS4s involved include Ball State University and Zionsville with others in discussions currently. The program will kick off at the start of the new year with a regional survey being sent out to a participating areas within the watershed. The survey will strive to gain an understanding of how the public views water quality and water issues and how the UWRWA can engage them in activities and educational campaigns.
- G. Bylaws and Dues Structure Revisions
Tedesco and Hoffmann discussed the revisions to the bylaws and dues. The biggest revision to the dues structure is the removal of the two-tiered membership (Board level and general). This allows for all member entities to have an opportunity to serve on the Board with the exception of

an individual person. The Board will be restructured to have 13 members, defined by the following categories: municipalities, county, corporate, and other organizations (trades, non-profits, educational, etc.). Board members will also be elected and serve a three year staggered term. The position will be held by the member entity and not an individual person. The member entity will select their representative. The membership was very pleased with the approved changes and only suggested one modification. They suggested the Board consider adding a 'deadwood' clause to remove inactive Board members after a period of time.

H. Watershed Projects and Event Updates

- a. Madison County – White River Watchers, Crist Blassaras
 - o The White River Watchers annual Christmas party is coming up on December 16th at Mounds State Park – all are invited. They are also exploring the potential of a full time director.
 - o The Discovery Channel has been working on a one hour documentary about the restoration of the White River through Madison County and part of Hamilton County after the fish kill. The show is set to be released for the ten year anniversary of the event in 2009. If anyone has any water related website information that could be listed in the credits please get it to Crist.
 - o An 18 inch sauger was pulled out of the White River in October, showing that the river continues to improve.
 - o AON is studying northwest Madison County for sites that might be able to be used for wind generation.
 - o Madison County has a new surveyor that the UWRWA should work to engage.
- b. Marion County – Ron Lauster
 - o The Lower Fall Creek Watershed Project public meeting will be held on January 15th.
 - o The draft watershed management plan for the Lower Fall Creek Project is now available on the website.
 - o The rain barrel workshop was a success.
 - o Group is awaiting word about the next 319 grant.
- c. Eagle Creek – Lenore Tedesco
 - o The current grant cycle ends in March.
 - o Educational workshops featuring the ProjectWet and Waterbox are planned for January and are free to educators.
 - o Continued monitoring is planned for the watershed.
 - o The technical committee is working on several cost share projects including the demonstration project at the Earth Discovery Center, a cover crop project, and nutrient management at a horse farm.
 - o They are also working on an assessment grant provided by the USDA. The assessment work focused on landuse and stream impacts. A lot of research is going on in addition to the 319 grant.

I. The Technical Committee is working on a number of projects related to stormwater and BMPs. The group is working on a photo library showing BMP locations and photos that persons can go and visit if interested. They are also working on specialty plant lists and planting designs, as well as a stormwater BMP selection tool. Now that a contractor has been hired to work on the website, the group is anxious to get this information posted.

The next Technical Committee meeting is December 18th at 2:00pm at the Cumberland Town Hall.

J. Other

- The 2009 Central Indiana Stormwater Workshop is January 21st-22nd, 2009 at the Marriott East in Indianapolis.
- Pressure needs to be put on the ISDA to get more people working within the watersheds at the county level, especially CREP projects/funds. Creative solutions, besides adding staff, are needed.
- The USGS has recently released a national report on the White River.
- IDEM has published a new permitting handbook. Copies were made available.
- The next General Membership Meeting will be March 19th 2009, 2-4 pm, at Veolia.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00pm.