



Upper White River Watershed Alliance, Inc.
January 18, 2006

The meeting was called to order at 2:18 PM Wednesday January 18, 2006. Those present were as follows: Mr. Kenton Ward, Hamilton County Surveyor; Mr. Robert Thompson, Hamilton County Surveyor's Office; Mr. Walter Evans, Hamilton County Surveyor's Office; Mr. Larry Stout, Hamilton County ISSD; Mr. Bill Hahn, Hendricks County; and Carl Wodrich, IDEM.

Approval of Minutes of November 2, 2005:

There were no changes made; the minutes were approved.

UWRWA GIS Project Update:

Mr. Thompson stated that John Buechler emailed him a handout with comments. He asked if number 3 had to do with location of addresses as they discussed?

Mr. Stout stated that Thompson was correct.

Mr. Thompson stated that Polis is updating the site on request.

Mr. Ward stated that Buechler is going to make a presentation to the Guide meeting on February 1, 2006.

Mr. Wodrich stated that he has asked Buechler to do the presentation for them because a lot of the Council members have forgotten what this was supposed to look like and what was talked about over a year ago.

Mr. Thompson stated that under the Upper White River Board Members, they may want to update it with elections pending.

Mr. Ward stated that on number 5, the EPA Education Grant, is a Grant that he, John and the Upper White Alliance put together and submitted to EPA. This is an education grant for Hamilton, Marion, Morgan and Madison Counties. This is a river school, called River School on the Water Learning, which will pick one high school from each one of those counties involved and teach them how to do GPS and then enter the information into the GIS so that in the future whenever they go back to that site and do their water quality samples they can keep updating that site on the GIS so the samples will stay current. All the costs for the Alliance is in-kind and then they are asking for \$29,640.00 for the Grant itself with \$19,465.00 of in-kind services through our efforts with the kids. John will be going to each one of those schools when they do the GEO monitoring and help them put the GPS coordinates into it. John came up with this, called him and asked if the Upper White would be interested.

Mr. Thompson stated that he got emailed a copy of the application; did anybody notice that the check box for not for profit was mislabeled? It checked off that the Upper White was a for profit agency. He never got a response from the contact person at EPA that was listed, he sent a note saying that he believed that this may have been marked incorrectly and that the Upper White was a not for profit agency.

Mr. Ward stated that he got the letter from EPA saying that they received it and that it was under review; they award 10 to 15 projects in the Region 5 area and EPA received 125 applications for it from Illinois, Michigan, Indiana, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin.

Mr. Wodrich stated that he understands that everybody is satisfied with everything that has been done; he was holding on to the last invoice until he knew everything was satisfactory.

Mr. Ward stated that the Geo Coding was the last thing they had to deal with.

Mr. Stout stated that they are in a tuff spot because it is extremely consistent to use a single data source for Geo Coding. The problem is TIGER; there are known issues; it isn't that good and it is clearly not going to be as up to date as what we have for Hamilton County; Marion County has one that is in pretty good shape.

Mr. Ward stated that if there are any questions about the project he will pass them on to John.

Guide Lamp Trustee Projects Update:

Mr. Wodrich stated that the next meeting is February 1, 2006 at the Lawrence Branch of the Library at 4:00 p.m. John will be giving an overview of his presentation on the GIS project's functionality and usability for people. A lot of folks are interested in the Broad Ripple boat ramp because it hasn't been repaired yet; the Trustee's are going to give an update on this project. He believes that their engineering design was way over designed for their budget so they had to go back and re-design the ramp to fit the budget.

Mr. Ward asked if at one time the ramp was questioned about being handicapped accessible?

Mr. Wodrich stated that they had taken that out for the most part; they were going to put a lift of some kind in the parking lot and they decided not to do that; they realized that there is not a way to have accessibility to the boat ramp.

Mr. Thompson stated that he doesn't know the site, but he and Al Patterson walked the Strawtown Koteewi Boat Ramp. The Parks Department had a gradual incline that the wheel chair could go down, but the steps were such that they were accessible and a person could get off onto the steps and get themselves down and onto the boat without having to have a lift or the wheel chair right at the boat side. It was a very simple design.

Mr. Wodrich stated that he believes that their concern at Broad Ripple is that the launch ramp is pretty steep and they are fearful that it would be dangerous for somebody to be in the boat while backing down that ramp and it is not feasible cost wise to get an access ramp of some kind down to the waters edge. This evening the Friends of White River is having their annual meeting at 7:00 in Holiday Park; two of the three Trustees are going to give a 40 minute talk on what they spent the money on since they started this process and an overview of some of the projects.

Mr. Ward asked if all the money had been appropriated?

Mr. Wodrich stated that at this point he believes that there is \$80,000.00 that has not been appropriated to a specific project; the Trustees want to sit on that money right now and see where some of the pending projects end up; if they end up costing more than what is estimated or they may entertain maybe one more conservation easement.

2006 UWRWA Golf Outing – Committee:

Mr. Thompson stated that Josh Goode sent him an email saying that he couldn't be here today, however, he did indicate that he would be more than willing, as an individual, not as a representative of Christopher Burke, to continue supporting the Upper White even as a Board member.

Mr. Ward asked if Thompson got any support from people that are specifically on that Committee?

Thompson stated that he did not. He believes that until the Board gets leadership in place it probably won't go forward, but he has offered his services to help in this regard if needed. Bob Meyer emailed him to say that he would not be here today and that he will become less involved with the Upper White. Meyer said Dr. Tedesco would be a good person to lead the Upper White and he will talk to her.

Watershed 319 Grants:

Mr. Thompson stated that the Cool Creek 319 Watershed Management Plan has been accepted by IDEM. The office is just tying up the loose ends as far as invoicing. The final presentation was done at Cool Creek Park and the PDF Power Point Presentation is on the County Website if anyone is interested. There is also a hard copy of the report, which is the whole Cool Creek Watershed Report with an amended 319 portion to the watershed study. The Little Cicero Creek Stakeholder meeting is in the beginning of the second year of its two year cycle. The watershed stakeholder meeting will be February 9th here. They will be having a kick off stakeholder meeting for Stony Creek on February 23, 2006. That announcement has been made public. The Stony Creek Study is a one year watershed management plan to take the existing Stony Creek Study and make it compliant with the check list that IDEM has for watershed plans. There is a Big Cicero Creek Hydraulic study as well.

Mr. Ward stated that Tipton has a problem with flooding and when they did the Big Cicero Creek job two years ago they got Cicero Creek cleared out and then Tipton started clearing out all the tributaries; now it all hits at the same time and there is a lot of flooding that is going on, so they are looking at ways to reduce that flooding starting out with floodplain mapping because they don't have any associated BMPs attached to their maps right now. His idea has been to go into the areas west of Tipton, which are upstream, and buy the \$2,000.00 to \$3,000.00 farm ground and create some detention ponds, but that is just one of the things they will be looking at.

Mr. Thompson stated that on the Cool Creek Watershed Plan that was approved, they applied for a 319 Implementation Grant for a water quality treatment facility in cooperation with the Surveyor's Office and a developer to do water quality treatment in a wetland facility, but it was not approved.

Mr. Ward asked if anyone knew of any watershed master plans that are going on elsewhere? There is one in Delaware County and Madison County.

Mr. Hahn stated that there is Eagle Creek, but he is not sure how that fits in. They are getting ready to hire a coordinator. A very small portion of Hendricks County is involved. His office has met with Dr. Tedesco about three weeks ago along with some farmers in that area.

Mr. Thompson stated that one of the thoughts on the Little Cicero Creek Watershed project that stakeholders thought might be important for future implementation was to do a pilot project to determine human and non-human e-coli.

Mr. Stout asked if it was not human e-coli, does that give the County a pass with EPA?

Mr. Ward stated that he believes that there is another step; whether it's pigs and cattle versus wildlife.

Mr. Stout asked if they are talking regulations or health hazard?

Mr. Ward stated that Phase III would be both. You have to keep in mind also that the treatment plant in Sheridan is the headwater for Little Cicero Creek.

Other Business:

Mr. Evans stated that he saw Jim Gerard speak yesterday at ASCE about their septic tank elimination program. He is not sure whether this is something that this group would be part of or whether it will be part of Phase II; what are everybody's thoughts on that?

Mr. Ward stated that Noblesville is doing a little of that. They identified, with the Health Department, bad neighborhoods.

Mr. Stout stated that he gets requests from time to time for maps showing all the septic tanks in Hamilton County; he has had extended conversations with the Health Department and the answer was no he couldn't do that. The Health Department recommends getting maps of where all the sewers are and if there is not a sewer then they can assume that there is a septic tank.

Mr. Thompson stated that with Phase II you have priorities of illicit connections and illicit discharges; for Marion County their number one priority is CSO's and then they work their way down; in Hamilton County it's mostly illicit connections and failing septic.

Mr. Thompson stated that the Friends of White River Website recently added the County's Phase II Stormwater link to their website.

Next Meeting Date:

The next meeting was set for Wednesday April 19, 2006 at 2:00 p.m. in Noblesville. The following meetings were scheduled for Wednesday July 19, 2006 at 2:00 p.m. and October 18, 2006 at 2:00 p.m. in Noblesville.

Kenton C. Ward
Hamilton County Surveyor

Attest: _____
Executive Secretary