



Upper White River Watershed Alliance, Inc.
Technical Committee Meeting
February 15, 2004

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 PM Friday February 15th, 2004 in room 503 of the Anderson City Hall. Those present were as follows: Mr. Kenton Ward, Hamilton County Surveyor; Mr. Robert Thompson, Hamilton County Surveyor's Office; Mr. Bob Weaver, Upper White River Board of Directors; Mr. William Savage, City of Elwood; C.R. Brown, MCEMA; John Richardson, City of Anderson; Chad Pigg, City of Anderson; Angela Martin, RQAW; Rick Griner, City of Anderson EMA; Sarah Shaw, Williams Creek Consulting; Sarah Baxter, Williams Creek Consulting; Jhani Laopus, US Filter; Mr. Patrick Manship, Madison County Surveyor; Mr. Zach Bishton, Christopher Burke Engineering; Mr. Bob Meyer, Upper White River Board of Directors was on conference call for the duration of the meeting.

Review of Minutes of December 2, 2003 and January 22nd, 2004 Meetings:

There were no changes; the minutes were approved.

Polis Feasibility Study Update:

Zach Bishton, Christopher Burke Engineering briefly reviewed the scope of the UWRWA GIS Feasibility Study for the benefit of those new to the project.

Bob Meyer indicated that he had received a copy of the Final GIS Proposal from John Buechler of Polis (Feb 3rd or 10th). Bob had also stated that some of the Trustees were beginning to waiver in their support of the project. He suggested a letter writing campaign to the Trustees from the UWRWA Technical Committee and in particular letters from the various community leaders. The letters should go beyond support but state reasons why this project is important.

Bob Meyer said the Trustees still had concerns about the long term sustainability of the GIS project, potential duplication of information that this GIS project provides and other existing GIS projects as well as concerns about how this project addresses water pollution.

It was stated that the UWRWA Board is discussing ways to get more community decision makers involved with the Upper White in order to maximize funding opportunities. Getting financial commitments from Indianapolis, Hamilton County and Madison County will be critical in convincing the Trustees that long term maintenance concerns of the GIS project will be addressed.

Bob Meyer discussed an email he sent to John Buechler on February 12, concerning his discussion with Beth Admire about the GIS project. Beth mentioned some of her concerns, (as discussed above) but mentioned that GIS has proven helpful in other remediations around the state, and that she will seek input from Roger Kolpein and Irv Goldblatt when deciding on the fate of the Upper White's GIS project. It was based on this comment, that Bob Meyer asked John Buechler if he would be willing to discuss the project in more detail with Roger and Irv. Bob Weaver was to forward this email to Bob Thompson who will forward to the group.

Zach Bishton mentioned that he had a telephone conversation with Dave Coats of the Polis Center regarding Bob Meyer's email, and that Dave said the Polis Center would be glad to discuss the project

with Roger and Irv, but that Polis would like the Upper White to schedule and participate in the meeting. Zach said that he would be willing to help schedule and coordinate the meeting. Bob Weaver mentioned that the State GIS meeting will be held in a couple of weeks and that meeting could be held then.

Kent Ward asked Bob Meyer if he had heard back from Jim Gerard following Kent and Lori's meeting at the DPW on the 6th? Bob said he has not heard back from Jim. Bob asked if Hamilton County could commit to three years of funding for the project? Kent indicated that one year commitments were likely but not to expect three years.

Bob Weaver said members of the board and other individuals were looking into some sort of professional management of the UWRWA as well as funding and financial options.

Pat Manship wanted to know if they could be invoiced for three years? This would show the Trustees that they were committed. It was stated that the Upper White would except any commitment a community could make.

Mr. Brown of the Anderson EMS indicated that he did not believe that Homeland Security Funds could be used to fund the maintenance costs, but other funds might be available. Pat said he would try to get commitments from Madison County.

Mr. Brown wanted to know if the funding commitments were based upon population? It was discussed that initially Indianapolis, Hamilton County and Madison County would get the ball rolling as far as maintaining the GIS project (no maintenance funding would be needed until the second year, the initial startup costs would cover the first year). Mr. Brown stated that he understood, but that Council members will want some assurances that funding requests are made in an equitable manner.

Bob Weaver indicated that the Trustees have been under fire for not spending the settlement funds and that this project would help that perception. It was brought out that the project would help meet Phase II requirements for several communities. Mention was also made that the GIS project could be an avenue to map, keep track of and explain settlement fund projects.

There was further discussion about getting communities to send letters to the Trustees. Pat Manship said he would work on getting letters of support from Madison County and the Madison County Council of Governments and Kent Ward mentioned that he would see about getting letters from the Hamilton County Drainage Board and county municipalities. Bob Meyers said he would email Bob Thompson the contact information.

Bob Weaver mentioned a USGS project that could be added to the GIS project.

Guide Lamp Trustee Projects Update:

Bob Thompson handed out a list of Approved Projects as well as a list of Proposed Projects to the group. Bob Meyer reviewed the list of projects including the Hamilton Southeast floodplain project sponsored by the Central Indiana Land Trust, some riparian buffer projects, as well as some river clean up projects. Kent suggested that Bob continue to update the technical committee about the projects.

Goals for 2004:

1. Continue the GIS proposal
2. Educate Public Officials about the UWRWA by including them on the boards and committees, developing a speakers bureau to give presentations at city & town council meetings, county commissioner and drainage board meetings, present to the IACT Mayor's Roundtable, HHRC&D, etc.
3. Educate the general public and civic groups about the UWRWA by utilizing a speakers bureau, press releases, PSA's, etc.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday April 15th, 2004 at 10:30 AM at Lucille Sadler Conference Room, Morgan County Administration Building, 180 South Main Street Martinsville, IN.

The meeting was adjourned.

Kenton C. Ward
UWRWA Technical Committee Chairman