



Upper White River Watershed Alliance, Inc.
April 15, 2004

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 AM Thursday April 15, 2004. Those present were as follows: Mr. Kent Ward, Hamilton County Surveyor; Mr. Walter Evans, Hamilton County Surveyor's Office; Mr. Steve Hall, Christopher Burke & Assoc.; Mr. Bob Weaver, Upper White River Board of Directors; Mr. Terry Brock, Morgan County Surveyor; Mr. Dave Coats, Polis; Mr. Rick Ruble, Morgan County Plan Commission; Mr. Bret Robinson, U. S. Geological Service; and Mr. John Hannel, Woolpert

Approval of Minutes of February 13, 2004:

There were no changes made; the minutes were approved.

Infrared Aerial Drain Tile Mapping:

Mr. Weaver stated that the Johnson County Soil & Water Conservation District has contracted Infrared Aerial Photography for next month; they are trying to identify underground drain tiles; they are doing this at a 1 foot pixel size; they will fly within 72 hours of a heavy rain; Delaware County did this last year and had problems with the contractor; the tiles do show up; the cost for Johnson County is \$45,000.00; \$30,000.00 of that covered in grants; \$10,000 for their 319 IDEM grant and \$20,000.00 that's NASA money that has fallen through the institute for Application of Geospatial Technology. The other \$15,000.00 will come from charges to farmers and landowners that could use this data. USGS is doing a tile study with Hancock County; they are doing a very detailed study, which is somewhere in the middle of a two year period on water quality study on what is the makeup of what is exiting the farm fields through tiles. The focus is on nitrates primarily, but they are doing a pretty detailed study with that watershed in Hancock County; this is part of several projects spread over the United States. The main thing they want to use this for other than helping agriculture and landowners is they know they are in the beginning of the process of having to identify what water quality issues they have that have to do with the tile drains; secondly, in an area where they have a lot of urban development there is a lot of drains that have been cut and damaged; they hope that this method will help identify where there are tile drains; they hope to put a system in place to get a lot of feedback from landowners that will verify what shows up on aerial photography with what landowners actually know about tile systems on their land; they have the Commissioners, Plan Commissioners support on this and they have pushed behind this; the intention that anyone that comes in for a major plat or minor plat will require them to have a copy of this photography as a tool to help them identify whether there are any tiles or not.

Mr. Hall stated that Allen County that they have identified some soil issues that they have identified in the last couple of years; they have been using color photography during the spring seasons to identify absorption fields to find septic systems that are not on file. They are using this for enforcement efforts, but also to prioritize watersheds for additional studies.

Mr. Ward asked if Mr. Weaver could have some samples for them after this was done.

Mr. Weaver stated that he could; they will also have some samples on the Soil and Water Website for Johnson County.

USGS Bank Erosion Study – Bret Robinson:

This is a cooperative project with IDEM, DNR, US Geological Survey, and U S Fish and Wildlife looking at channel banks, ditches and the erosions of large rivers; this is for White River between Anderson and Indianapolis; they are looking at possible habitat protection and improvements along White River; they looked at bank erosion conditions for Madison Avenue in Anderson down to 16th Street Dam in Indianapolis; they continuously mapped bank conditions for both the left and right bank and they mapped in relation large debris; they developed a website to document the approach, methods and results of that project. They decided to map conditions that matched one of six descriptive categories; severe, moderate or slight erosion; some sites were seen as stable channel banks and some banks were protected by some human intervention. The mapping is located on their website so you can view points of bank conditions on the river from Anderson to Indianapolis.

Polis Feasibility Study Update:

Mr. Hall stated that there are several entities that did commit to supporting GIS in terms of maintenance; they received money from Hamilton County, Carmel, Indianapolis, Madison County; they didn't have as much as they wanted, but he understands that the Guide Trustees met and had a Citizens Advisory meeting to discuss the project; they were pretty much in agreement that they were going to approve it Friday.

Mr. Ward stated that it is not officially signed yet, but they will have the document signed at the next Trustees meeting.

Mr. Weaver stated that Hoosier Heartland RCP Council also had money approved by the Guide Settlement Committee for major planting of trees to create riparian buffers; around 60,000 trees; there is a matching IDEM grant in the works to match that so the total will be about twice that amount.

UWRWA Web Site Maintenance:

Mr. Ward stated that the monies they have gathered from Carmel, Noblesville, Hamilton County, Madison County and Indianapolis have all been put together and set aside for maintenance of this. They have ____ years of money now for maintenance; they will try and put it in the budget for next year. Indianapolis came back off of their 60% annually to \$5,000.00.

Mr. Weaver stated that they need to find the resources between them to put this story together and put it on their existing website; they really don't have anything on their existing website about this.

TMDL Studies Update:

Mr. Hall stated that he published a draft in December of the TMDL Study for White River from Muncie to the Marion County Line; the study summarizes different data collection efforts over the past several years; it discusses a source identification process thereby evaluating land uses and different water quality data collected by IDEM and other agencies; based on long term data they determined what they determined base line issues to be in terms of overall loadings for e-coli per day; they then came up with pollutant reduction goals for each of those monitoring sites; the four monitoring sites in terms of pollutant allocations include Memorial Drive in Muncie, Anderson City Park, Perkinsville and the Hamilton/Marion County Lines. At the site in Muncie they estimated a 91% reduction in e-coli; Anderson a 91% reduction; Perkinsville an 88% reduction;

and Hamilton/Marion County line a 98% reduction in mainstream e-coli concentrations. This report has resulted in two recommendations, but nothing has actually been incorporated into permits and there is no truly enforceable mechanism to try and achieve the reductions stipulated in that report, but some steps may include citizens outreach program to educate individuals about failing septic systems, what the symptoms may be in case they are not aware; public education and outreach; stormwater best management practices; these are suggestions and not requirements or mandates at this point. In the 303(d) list there is a schedule of when TMDL's must be completed; completed, however, when you read the fine print means the paperwork; it doesn't include implementation.

Lick Creek – Indianapolis Airport Update – Terry Brock:

(In-audible)

Next Meeting Date:

The meeting was set for Thursday June 24, 2004 at 2:00 p.m. in Noblesville.

Kenton C. Ward