



## Upper White River Watershed Alliance, Inc.

June 24, 2004

The meeting was called to order at 2:11 PM Thursday June 25, 2004. Those present were as follows: Mr. Kent Ward, Hamilton County Surveyor; Mr. Walter Evans, Hamilton County Surveyor's Office; Mr. Bob Thompson, Hamilton County Surveyor's Office; Mr. Val Swift, Hamilton County Surveyor's Office; Mr. Bob Weaver, Upper White River Board of Directors; Mr. Bill Holliday, Cicero Town Council; Mr. Carl Wodrich, IDEM; Mr. Bill Savage, City of Elwood; Ms. Laurie Olah, DLZ; Ms. Lori Gates, Christopher Burke; and Mr. Eric Hahn, Christopher Burke.

### **Approval of Minutes of April 15, 2004:**

There were no changes made; the minutes were approved.

### **UWRWA GIS Project Update:**

Mr. Swift stated that the Alliance received two proposals, one from Polis and the other from Plexus. There were only a handful of questions asked by one entity.

Mr. Ward asked if there were any suggestions on how to proceed from this point. Whether forming a committee and let them look at and get back at another meeting; get their input.

Ms. Gates asked if there was enough information with man hours related to specific tasks.

Mr. Ward stated that he did not see that in the proposals.

Mr. Savage asked if there were any dollar amounts in the Polis proposal.

Mr. Swift stated that the RFQ didn't really specify that descriptive. The RFQ said that it was going to take qualification based selection and the companies were to reference the original report from Polis, which had the amount in it. The only questions he received were from Plexus.

Mr. Ward asked who would like to serve on the Committee besides Mr. Swift.

Mr. Weaver stated that he believed that they need to have a face to face discussion with the Board. Plexus Group is providing an alternative approach in doing this; rather than linking to existing web services from each county or entity where it is available gather the data and meshing it together to host it on a website so it is physically posted in one place. It does say that Plexus would like to be the secondary vendor rather than the primary host.

The Committee members will be Val Swift and Bob Weaver as head of the Committee. Larry Stout with Hamilton County ISS, Carl Wodrick and possibly E. J. McNaughton with IDEM and a DLZ representative will be asked if they would like to serve on the Committee. Mr. Weaver will contact someone from Indianapolis. Mr. Swift and Mr. Wilson will organize the committee.

The contacts are to be coordinated through the Hamilton County Surveyor's Office.

They would like to meet towards the next Upper White Board meeting which is in September. If the Committee could be ready in August and they could have a special Board meeting. At the last Board meeting they asked the Technical Committee to give them a recommendation so this could move forward as quickly as possible. They would certainly have what they need in terms of a Board meeting to approve a contract.

Mr. Thompson stated that they will have their next Technical meeting in August; that timing would be right.

Mr. Swift stated that he was not a member of the Upper White River Watershed Technical Committee; he is doing work for Mr. Ward in assistance to this. He cannot make decisions and tell the people at Plexus and answers questions.

Mr. Weaver stated that he would rather they have two meetings back to back.

Mr. Thompson stated that it would be helpful to have the Committee members if they had a copy of the Upper White Technical Meeting minutes that have dealt with this in the past year in order to bring them up to speed on comments. Polis was there from day one hearing the comments and questioning and getting feedback; Plexus is in the dark as far as some of the comments that were made to Polis; there may be a discrepancy of information there.

Mr. Weaver stated that he would like to try to do something the week after July 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Centre Properties vs. DNR Lawsuit:**

Mr. Ward stated that DNR denied the permit and now Centre Properties is suing DNR for filling in the floodway for a project in Fishers at 96<sup>th</sup> Street on White River. The hearing was June 7<sup>th</sup> concluded very quickly because Centre Properties had already filed suit. Both the Hamilton County Drainage Board and Hamilton County Surveyor's Office sent letters to DNR in support of denial for the permit. There are problems on White River upstream now and this would exacerbate the problems.

Ms. Gates asked if this was something that the Upper White Board should also take a position on.

Mr. Ward stated that Hamilton County would like for the Board to take a position against the project.

**USGS Stream Gauges:**

Mr. Evans stated that the Surveyor's Office has identified the existing and abandoned gauges. There is a new gauges going in over Pleasant Road Bridge over Cicero Creek near Arcadia sometime this fall. He was charged with the task of prioritizing a list of proposed structures in their own watersheds in Hamilton County. He spoke with Christopher Burke, DLZ and Westfield, Fishers, Carmel, Cicero and Noblesville. There are approximately 14 new stations that are proposed. The key issue is funding; the cost he received from USGS is \$5,000.00 to install and \$10,000.00 per year to maintain. If you are going to upgrade the gauging stations it will cost another \$10,000.00 to maintain. The gauges would mostly used for flooding.

Mr. Weaver asked how much they believe the gauges in the tributaries will help the process.

Mr. Ward stated that they are finding that most of their flooding problems are in the tributaries. He stated that he has gone to Westfield and Carmel; Fishers has no desire to, but Noblesville does; this will help cover the costs. They are looking at putting gauges on regulated drains.

Mr. Weaver asked if the gauges on regulated drains will be handled by maintenance funds.

Mr. Ward stated that it will be handled through the maintenance funds.

**UWRWA – Marketing Strategy:**

Ms. Gates stated that the Upper White as an organization is at a very pivotal time in their growth and structure. They really need to take a hard look at how healthy is the organization as a whole. The Technical Committee is to be congratulated because they have been a really healthy branch of their organizational tree so now it's time to put some investment back into the tree itself. What she has done as part of the task that they had contracted with the Board to do is put together a marketing strategy for the rest of 2004. This strategy is to carry them through the rest of this year and get them in the position to where the recent changes to the bylaws and dues structure will kick in January of 2005. Part of the marketing strategy is to empower the organization as a whole to help her in getting information to people. There is also a handout that is a copy of the municipal entities that are located within the Upper White River and some ideas on how to get some corporate support, trade associations, non-profit, other governmental agencies, and universities, anybody they can think of there. They need to fill out this list; who is it they can go to for support in achieving their goals. As they agree to contact people let her know who those contacts are that way she can keep track. Another thing she would like them to do is drop Dr. Lenore Tedesko's name; she is a tremendous asset to the alliance; she has agreed to serve on the Board; they have three impartial non-member liaisons; one is Dr. Lenore Tedesko who has agreed to take the academic advisor position; they are also seeking liaisons from IDEM and IDNR with those changes. They have developed a recruiting brochure; general information about the alliance and why should they become a member. For the rest of 2004 there is limited income that the alliance has; they are looking for some short term corporate support; Veolia Water Company has agreed to donate between \$1,000.00 and \$2,000.00. John Wilkins with Eli Lilly is going to get a Lilly Trustee Grant; he is filling out an application and those grants will be decided on in October and is going to ask for \$5,000.00 for the Upper White. She would ask for the identification of any corporations that they can think of so they can add those to the list. The idea is that relatively soon they are getting draft template letter together. Another idea was to publish third and fourth quarter news letters for the Upper White, but that is operating at minimal levels; this hasn't been done so they are asking for a news letter person. Dean Farr, President of the Association of Soil and Water Conservations District Offices, has volunteered to help out with this service and get the SWCD to help with publishing the news letter. People donating their time services is an extension of getting people to really buy in and service the organization; when bringing new people on board they need to have them take part in the organization and really do something. Once you speak to somebody invite them personally to attend the upcoming meeting. For the rest of this month they need to get their perspective new members list together; the letters will go out soon to Veolia, IDEM and DNR; July through September they will continue with the personal contacts; the news letter will be put together and then get people to attend their September 21<sup>st</sup> meeting, which is the next meeting of the Alliance. In the October to December time period they are going ask for a committee to organize the December luncheon meeting. That committee will then turn that annual meeting into a premier watershed conference for central Indiana. It is very important to get cities and counties involved that are located in the watershed especially if they are subject to Rule 13, an MS4 Stormwater permit or it's a CSO community; they really need to sell the benefits of the organization from the perspective of 'this is a very proactive step' for those communities in helping with their with their permit compliance. They are also looking at a

membership marketing committee and then to do a fund raising event as well. She has contacted Tim George with RW Armstrong who is an avid runner; he will be looking into to what it would take to organize a 5K event and do it well. At the general membership meeting Janice Bacon asked for volunteers for some of these tasks; she got a few volunteers, but they have not completed the slot for some of these different positions.

**Guide Lamp Trustee Projects Update:**

Mr. Carl Wodrich stated that there was \$2.8 million left that has not been allocated. The next White River Citizens Advisory Council (WRCAC) meeting will be July 7<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. at the Nora Branch of the Indianapolis-Marion County Public Library. DNR has a proposal asking for \$500,000.00 for the state match for the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) and Doug Nusbaum will be coming to the July meeting to talk about permanent conservation easement options that will be added to CREP for the Upper White. The area will be limited to the area of impact and those tracts contributing to the mainstem that was impacted between Anderson and Indianapolis. The Central Indiana Land Trust (CILTI) may be coming to the July meeting to request funds to purchase property at 206<sup>th</sup> Street. CILTI is also interested in the Hamilton Southeastern School Districts floodway property at 116<sup>th</sup> Street and Eller Road. There are several proposed projects in the works and the Trustees are going to be working towards prioritizing these projects now that more than half of the funds have been spent and/or allocated.

**TMDL Study:**

Mr. Thompson stated that he received a call this week from Bill Saunders with Applied Technology and Management, a consultant for IDEM. Mr. Saunders let him know that they would be conducting a TMDL Study in Stony Creek, Duck Creek, Pipe Creek and Killbuck Creeks starting mid August. Mr. Thompson let Mr. Saunders know that Hamilton County had an ongoing Stony Creek Watershed Study. Mr. Saunders is interested in that. The County will be working with them. He asked if someone from IDEM would like to come to this meeting today, but it was too late of notice. For their next Upper White Technical Committee Meeting he would try to get someone to it to further explain, which would kind of bring them into that mid-August time frame.

**Stormwater Phase II:**

Mr. Thompson stated that the County will be having their first Public Education committee for their Part C requirements on July 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. There will be two other meetings in Carmel and Cicero. An article will be going out in the newspapers shortly about these meetings.

**GIS Project:**

Mr. Weaver stated that another part of the project was trying to ensure that they had maintenance funds. They have received a \$5,000.00 check from Indianapolis.

**Next Meeting Date:**

The meeting was set for Thursday August 26, 2004 at 2:00 p.m. in Noblesville.

---

Kenton C. Ward