



Upper White River Watershed Alliance, Inc.  
Technical Committee Minutes  
August 13, 2003

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 PM Thursday August 13, 2003. Those present were as follows: Mr. Robert Thompson, Hamilton County Surveyor's Office; Mr. Walter Evans, Hamilton County Surveyor's Office; Mr. Larry Stout, ISSD; Mr. Marcus Turner, American Consulting; Mr. Bob Meyer, Upper White River Board of Directors; Mr. Don Anthis, City of Noblesville; Mr. Patrick Manship, Madison County Surveyor; Mr. Nick Servies, Williams Creek Engineering; and Mr. Zach Bishton, Goode & Associates. Mr. John Buechler with Polis Center entered after the meeting was adjourned.

**Review of Minutes of July 10, 2003 Meeting:**

Mr. Bishton corrected the spelling of his name on the minutes. The minutes were approved as corrected.

**Polis Feasibility Study Update:**

Mr. Bishton stated that at the last meeting he did say that the contract between the Upper White and Polis Center was signed; somewhere between him and Josh they got that confused. On the 25<sup>th</sup> of July Bob Janus, John Buechler and Dave Coats with the Polis Center met and worked out the details of the contract and the contract did get signed. Since then John Buechler has sent him a list of a list of contacts, GIS contacts and the Counties in the Upper White as well as the cities and towns. They have had that in their office and passed that around and added some names and filled in some of those blanks. He stated that he sent that out and hoped everyone received that. He did not have the technical committee e-mail, but he just responded to Mr. Thompson's last one. This is not actually the complete list that was at the meeting; these are all the folks that have agreed that they can make the project initiation meeting. Those are the folks that are actually going to attend the meeting on August 19. He asked if Mr. Meyer had a chance to meet with the Guide Settlement folks and fill them in on the process.

Mr. Meyer stated that he believed that they were comfortable with what they are doing. One of the trustees themselves wanted to see Mike Martin come and called Carl Wodrich and he suspected they'll liaison and they will get the information back; at some point they need to have a trustee actually physically there in the process, but lacking that he believed that these two people will be fine.

Mr. Bishton stated that he and John talked about, after the first two workshops, having a meeting with the trustees.

Mr. Meyer stated that he believed that would be good.

Mr. Bishton stated that this way they can participate in the process before it's complete. There are still some folks that they would like to get on the list; they don't have anyone yet from Madison County, but has been in contact with the County Surveyor.

Mr. Meyer stated that Mr. Manship is a frequent attendee of the Trustee Citizen Advisory meetings; he has been to a number of them.

Mr. Stout asked Mr. Manship who his best contact for GIS.

Mr. Manship stated that it was Jerry Bridges for the County; for the City of Anderson it would be John Richardson.

Mr. Bishton stated that they are still trying to get GIS from Carmel; he has left several messages. It should be a good turn out for this meeting; it will be basically a chance to review the project, what will be involved with the project; Mr. Buechler wants to get a sense of how they should best go about collecting that data and then what the end product should look like; how they want that system to be able to function.

Mr. Meyer asked what happens following the meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Bishton stated that he would like to use the meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup> to actually schedule some of those workshops; that is a good time; everyone is going to be there; they would like to have at least four workshops; One in Madison County, Hamilton County, Marion County and Morgan County; at those they will basically have interviews where they will sit down with different folks from different departments or government, cities or towns and see what data is there and be a little more specific. At the 19<sup>th</sup> they will also have a generic questionnaire that is going to be a baseline of how he is going to go about collecting the data. That will give everyone a chance to comment on that as well.

Mr. Meyer stated that having a meeting at Morgan County they need to ask Carl's opinion about that because the instructions he has received, as much as he would like it to be otherwise, the monies are to be spent only in the kill zone. If they start soliciting data from well down stream of there he believes that the Trustees would say they are doing something that they did not intend for them to do. Karl could probably best speak to that.

Mr. Bishton stated that he has spoke with him a couple of times so he will call and ask him.

Mr. Manship asked where the meeting is going to be on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Bishton stated that it will be at the Polis Center. He sent an e-mail to folks that have agreed to come and as more and more do that he will continue to send that e-mail with the date, time and location of the meeting. The meeting will be at 9:00 a.m.

Mr. Manship asked where the meeting at 2:00 tomorrow was located.

Mr. Bishton stated that meeting has been canceled.

Mr. Meyer asked if he was referring to the Upper White Board of Directors meeting.

Mr. Bishton stated that he was correct.

Mr. Meyer stated that his understanding was that they decided to postpone till there is more to talk about.

### **USGS Gauging Station Data on the Upper White River**

Mr. Thompson stated that Mr. Ward had received a phone call about the flooding around 116<sup>th</sup> Street. The gentleman's concerns were about the flood in comparison to past floods. Mr. Thompson stated that he gathered some information and will let Mr. Evans review what they have.

Mr. Evans stated that he also distributed a couple of sheets. What they experienced in Noblesville, from what they understand from the USGS and from DNR, is that they had a 10-year storm event. It wasn't a 100-year storm event, however, if you look at floodway information and you compare the floodway maps and what the elevation would be in Noblesville you would think that was somewhat between a 10-year and a 50-year storm event. He went down to the DNR Office today to check in with them on how far they've gone with their raw data; they still have a little bit more processing to do on it. One of the things he didn't understand though is that the only gauge they have here in Hamilton County is on Logan Street. That is something that struck him as kind of odd because generally they have a lot more gauges but because of cuts and this kind of thing they are down to one.

Mr. Anthis stated that they used to have one on Cicero Creek and Stony Creek, which were helpful.

Mr. Evans stated that in the northern part of the County they would have found that they were probably greater than a 10-year event. One of the things that the elevations showed was that the elevations were actually 6 inches above what they would typically see in a 10-year storm event.

Mr. Thompson stated that one of the reasons this individual called was because this individual believed that somebody should find out the reason why there was a discrepancy between the 1991 flood and this flood; should the Surveyor's Office study and find out or should the Upper White River Committee study it. Is it worthy of study and who should study it?

Mr. Evans stated that in Indiana most of their storm water events are generally in the late spring or late winter; this was a very unusual flooding event because of the time of year it was. He believes that some of the reasoning for the water surface profile as being higher than a 10-year storm event is because of the intensity of the storms; whereas when you have a spring thaw, it's not so much the intensity, but that much volume of water that has to eventually go down stream. He would be interested in seeing maybe a little more study being done in the future, but when the analysis is all said and done he believes that they will come to the same conclusions.

Mr. Thompson stated that in Don's e-mail he finishes up with saying that 'he can't help but wonder if something was done between 1991 and now to constrict the channel somewhat downstream of the gauge. If there is other stream flow data that they would find helpful please don't hesitate to ask'. He asked if it would be USGS or DNR or the Surveyor's Office or the Upper White River group that would want to investigate or should it be investigated.

Mr. Anthis stated that they should make a request to the USGS and DNR; he did not know that they had the time or the capabilities to actually do this investigation. If they do find something they don't have the legal authority to have people remove things from the floodway and so forth; it should be a state agency along with a federal agency.

Mr. Evans stated that it was a 50/50 proposition between the state and the federal government as far as maintaining them and he believes that they have the resources; at least the FEMA organization has more resources maybe than perhaps DNR to research this.

Mr. Anthis stated that he believed that it should be a formal letter from the Board to one of these agencies or both of them requesting that they take a look at this; that they have had some concerns about it; they did have a major fish kill some time ago. He believes that it was a combination of the log jams and somebody's filled in the floodway down stream of them.

Mr. Thompson asked if Mr. Anthis was saying that the Drainage Board should send the letter as well as contacting the private citizen and forward that information onto Don Arvin.

Mr. Anthis stated that the Drainage Board and the Board for the Upper White. If they could get a couple of letters going it might help them.

Mr. Evans stated that it may help to contact the Army Corps of Engineers also.

Mr. Anthis stated that realistically they would like to get some of their funding back; maybe this is a way to get a little bit of that back.

Mr. Thompson stated that at this point he was not empowered to do anything like that; he did not believe that Mr. Ward was going to be there anytime soon. From the meeting minutes they could make a recommendation to the Board members about a letter and get with Mr. Ward as far as the Drainage Board.

Mr. Manship stated that what he was hearing from the Madison County area is that they are talking about reducing the funding for these gauging stations; they may lose theirs in Pike Creek. A letter to the State Senate and House of Representatives might be good, too.

Mr. Evans stated that they have already lost some gauges in Hamilton County.

Mr. Anthis stated that the last time he was working with Jim Stewart on the String Bridge Evaluation from USGS; they were talking about taking the one out at Logan Street. They said they don't need all of them on the White River; they could do with fewer.

Mr. Manship stated that the last meeting he attended after the July 4<sup>th</sup> Storm the DNR stated that Alexandria had 500-year storm. It flooded up there for days; he wondered if it was a restriction down stream here.

Mr. Anthis stated that you have to go back to what Mr. Evans stated earlier about the time of year; there are some significant log jams out there; the foliage is here this time of year, which they would contribute a minor portion to raising the elevation.

Mr. Thompson asked if they wanted to table this until they had more individuals at the table.

Mr. Anthis stated that they should send it on to the Board at their next meeting.

Mr. Thompson stated that they would tentatively meet to have Mr. Ward take a recommendation to the Board; that the Board write a letter to the USGS, DNR and whomever to study this phenomenon and find out what the cause may be as well as maybe getting a letter from the Drainage Board.

Mr. Anthis made the motion that it would be appropriate for the Technical Committee to request the Board of Directors to consider writing a letter to the DNR and USGS to have them take a look at the White River and the recent flooding and if at all possible give them back an opinion on why the discharge rate was less than the elevation.

Mr. Manship stated that Mr. Ward appeared in front of the Upper White River Shed Alliance Incorporated about funding for a watershed GIS; several members supported the issue, but there was not enough technical information as far as cost or who was going to do what; that was probably three meetings ago; nobody showed up two meetings ago; he asked what the status of that was.

Mr. Bishton stated that they received grant funds to do that; Polis Center is implementing that; that is the meeting he was referring to at the beginning of the meeting. They are going to have a project initiation meeting on August 19; they are going to try to get different GIS folks from cities and towns especially in the spill area, but also throughout the watershed; try to bring information about what GIS data is out there, how development of a web based system should work and how that system might function. They are going to see about seeing some ideas on how to go about collecting what special data is out there.

Mr. Manship stated that after the meeting several of the Board members stated that this was an excellent use of the money; right now they are having trouble coming up with things that meet the criteria to judge that for spending that \$6,000,000.00.

Mr. Turner asked how the integration of the data located outside the kill zone going to be implemented.

Mr. Bishton stated that what they were going to do is, as part of the land use, and maybe he should call Carl Woodrich to see how he feels about this, but have folks who are outside of that kill zone to come and see what they may want to see as data in that area.

Mr. Turner asked if the people outside the kill zone going to be involved in the interview process.

Mr. Bishton stated that they will probably be involved as long as they do get the final okay.

Mr. Anthis stated that they need to be careful with that involvement.

Mr. Bishton stated that he would call Carl and make sure he was okay with these folks coming to the table to talk about this. They could bring some good input to the table of how to go about this.

Mr. Anthis stated that he believed that they could participate as concerned stakeholders and leave it at that.

Mr. Manship stated that there are two attorneys and another individual that actually okays the money; Carl is the recommending individual to those three; the two attorneys after the last meeting, one of them did state that they don't have a problem allowing some of that money to be utilized for water quality issues in the entire watershed. Interpreting the judgment of the judge's decision on how to spend that money; he did not believe they had a problem.

Mr. Anthis asked if the Board was just an Advisory Board and IDEM has the final say on this.

Mr. Manship stated that there are two attorneys; one of them is IDEM attorney and then there is another new person. It is interesting when the meetings are over to talk to them to see their interpretation of this judgment or decree.

Mr. Thompson stated that Ms. Admire addressed the Technical Committee a few meetings ago and they talked in depth about what they can or cannot do and what is expected; he can e-mail him those minutes to bring him up to speed on that. They have the okay from the Board and are proceeding with the feasibility study and see where it goes.

Mr. Bishton stated that Carl is going to be at the next meeting, Mike Martin, GIS Coordinator for IDNR will be there as well. They are going to make sure that the process is very open to them.

Mr. Turner stated that there are a few people on the list that are outside of that area it may be good to let them know.

Mr. Bishton stated that he has made those calls and let them know that the feasibility study was limited to the fish kill area, but in the future this may be something that they would like to expand on.

Mr. Thompson asked what they would like to see in this if it were expanded and how it could benefit them.

Mr. Manship stated that this was where he was concerned; this group and this GIS feasibility study; he keeps hearing the fish kill area, but yet at the other meeting, the Upper White River Watershed they talk about the entire watershed basin on water quality issues; they have granted money way outside the easement; especially downstream.

Mr. Bishton asked what money he was talking about spending.

Mr. Manship stated that he was curious about this group versus the other group; this is the Technical Meeting.

Mr. Anthis stated that they are not in conflict; it was their desire to do the entire Upper White River Watershed, but when the grant got approved it was cut back to the fish kill area.

Mr. Manship stated that he did not know that.

Mr. Anthis stated that they were not butting heads; they are all on the same page.

Mr. Thompson stated that this (Technical Advisory group) was an arm of the UWRWA group..

Mr. Anthis stated that the grant came through the Upper White Alliance so they are the ones that are going to be administering the grant.

Mr. Bishton stated that the Technical Committee is going to oversee that process.

Mr. Anthis stated that they then contracted with an outside firm to facilitate that process and help them review that.

The meeting was adjourned.

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Kenton C. Ward  
UWRWA Technical Committee Chairman