



Upper White River Watershed Alliance, Inc.
August 26, 2004

The meeting was called to order at 2:11 PM Thursday August 26, 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. Bob Weaver, Upper White River Board of Directors; Mr. Carl Wodrich, IDEM; Mr. Bill Savage, City of Elwood; Ms. Staci Goodwin, IDEM; Mr. Timothy Kroeker, IDEM; Mr. Rob Shumowsky, McCog; Mr. Larry Stout, Hamilton County ISSD; Robert Meyer, Upper White River Board of Directors; Mr. Patrick Manship, Madison County Surveyor.

Approval of Minutes of June 24, 2004:

There were no changes made; the minutes were approved.

UWRWA GIS Project Update:

Mr. Weaver stated that a committee met to consider the two proposals submitted for the GIS Project; one from Polis Center and one from Plexus Group. The request for proposal was based on the feasibility study that the Committee had paid Polis Center to do. The presumption of the feasibility study was that the model for GIS Web Server would be based on live connection to map servers starting with Hamilton County, Marion County and Madison County due to the area limited area of the upper White River watershed that this was to be based on. The proposal from Polis Center pretty well mirrored the feasibility study in terms of concept, implementation and cost. The proposal from Plexus Group followed an alternative plan; an alternative way to bring about their project. That was to physically get the data from those three counties and future counties or municipalities; actually obtain the data and host the data on a web server and not rely on live connections to map servers in those communities. When Plexus was interviewed they did not have exact figures on what their cost would be; since then he did get some numbers from Plexus, but cost wise they would be just a little bit higher than Polis. The costs are semi-firm because they rely on what opportunities they have to cost share with counties or municipalities where they are already hosting data. It would take a lot of leg work and a lot of coordination work with them to make that concept work. They would potentially have some savings involved in doing that, but it would be offset by a lot of time and cost in coordinating that. The recommendation of the group was that the Polis Center was more in line with what the request was and they feel like it was a better fit for the Upper White and also for the fish kill fund that is providing the funds to pay for this. They discussed the upfront costs, the cost of the contract, the cost of maintenance and what things are included and when maintenance starts, but they are looking beyond the initial contract; they are looking at an annual maintenance cost of approximately \$20,000.00 per year. Half of that cost is the hosting fee; serving up the data on a web server. The other half is maintenance and coordination and leg work. They are looking at the second year of maintenance being approximately December of 2005 or January of 2006; included in the original proposal carries them to that point before they start maintenance. With the Plexus Group maintenance starts much earlier. They discussed the possibility of moving the hosting; if they have a partner, municipality or county that would want to do the web hosting; they talked about what it takes to provide the web hosting. The Polis proposal includes a cost of having IUPUI do the web hosting. They talked about the fact that they would be looking at a

Windows 2000 or 2003 server running the .net framework and also with the standard _____ web server software; there is a basic graphing function that may be needed, which is \$90.00. He since has had a phone conversation with Polis Center regarding potential payment schedule and they discussed 10% down with the signing of the contract and then payouts with the third one the final payout. They were trying to coordinate this with what was possible from the White River funds, whether that was a problem or not; what the preliminary indications are that this will work okay. Their original proposals had more payouts so he was trying to simplify that; that want as few payouts as possible. All the preliminary discussions were having a lump sum payout when it was completed; that was not realistic. An agreement with the Polis Center would spell out what deliverables were due for those payouts. It will take the Polis Center to crank out an agreement assuming that they want Polis to prepare an agreement for their review. They need to have official approval by the Board of Directors of the Upper White; they have a regular meeting scheduled meeting scheduled in September. In terms of time it would be better since they have to give Polis Center some lead time to try to have a Board meeting before that or as soon as possible and give them the authorization if they want to do this project with them and give them authorization to get a contract prepared.

Mr. Meyer stated that he felt comfortable with Polis since they have been working with them from the start.

Mr. Weaver asked Mr. Meyer if they should try to have a special Board meeting and move this as quickly as they can.

Mr. Meyer stated that Polis has been waiting a long time to get this started and he would hate to see it grow stale; another couple of weeks is not going to be significant when you consider how long it's already waited; if it is the general consensus of this Technical Committee and the Board is that there is agreement here they probably should probably have a special Board meeting to decide or call a regular meeting.

Mr. Weaver stated that the next Board meeting is approximately the middle of September. They are about three weeks out from their regular date; they are looking at three or four weeks for Polis to have a proposal together; the Board is still going to need to review that proposal along with the Technical Committee or find a way to review that rather than waiting on another regular Board meeting; they are going to need ratify that agreement or sign that agreement.

Mr. Meyer stated that maybe the Board should pin date down in mid-September and make sure that they get that to Polis and tell them that they need to get it to the Board on time so they are all synchronized.

Mr. Weaver stated that Polis has a lot of it; it is just standard boiler plate; this is not the contract to end all contracts and they, as an organization, are still going to have to find a way to coordinate things to work with Polis Center to work with Bob's committee to make sure everything happens to fulfill our obligation on this; they are going to have to find a way to help get that done even though the Polis Contract is pretty complete there is still a lot of coordination and they are going to be relying on a lot of the input from them and yes and no answers. They do have the benefit of their work on the Indiana Water Quality Atlas and what they have been doing with Mibor; so they are not completely inventing the wheel for this project; for them to have what they expect and what they need they are going to have to be part of the process.

Mr. Meyer stated that somebody has to take charge _____.

Mr. Weaver stated that one of the first things is establishing the channels and making it clear of the channels and the three counties; who for them to contact or who for us to announce that they are going to be contacting them; or to go with them or establish those channels. They are ready to hit the ground running.

Mr. Meyer asked if they should identify who the responsible party is before the contract is awarded.

Mr. Weaver stated that this question was discussed with them; they feel comfortable working in the context of the Technical Committee whether they narrow that down to a small steering group for this; part of this discussion probably needs to be with Christopher Burke, but the answer was that they felt comfortable working in the context of the Technical Committee. Initially they may have to meet every month for a couple of months to get everything set up or they may to have a small working group within the Committee that is kind of a coordination team for this. He asked them what they would like to see, what their recommendation was; they attended several Technical Committee meetings in the past and kind of know the makeup of this Committee and felt comfortable starting out at that point, but they are going to have Board member help in getting the right contacts in the counties and let them know that this project that they are obligating themselves to do on their behalf; more or less an announcement of the contract with the Polis Center and a fact sheet of who may be contacting them and why and what is needed and asking for their help; partnering with them to make this happen. One thing that the Committee should accomplish today is to make a formal recommendation to the Board whenever they meet; rather it's a regular September meeting or before that they have been through this process and what the outcome is and also that the would probably work with Lori at Christopher Burke and make sure that they get a letter to the Plexus Group; they would like to know where they stand on it and they need to get contact with Polis Center so they could proceed on an agreement.

Mr. Meyer made the motion to send this to the Board for approval, seconded by Mr. Ward and approved unanimously.

Mr. Ward asked Mr. Weaver to put something together for the next Board meeting.

Centre Properties vs. DNR Lawsuit:

Mr. Ward stated that at the last meeting the Committee recommended that the Board send a letter of support on the DNR decision not to allow the filling within the floodplain on White River at 96th Street on Centre Properties. The Hamilton County Drainage Board has also sent a letter to them supporting the decision from IDEM and a letter is also going to the Indiana Association of Stormwater and Floodplain Managers to ask their support on their Board for the same. Several environmental groups have filed their motions in court as friends of the court in that lawsuit supporting DNR.

Mr. Evans stated that Hoosier Environmental Council submitted a verified petition to intervene against Centre Properties. On August 19th the legal representative for HEC, Elizabeth Mahoney and Janice K. Frank, requested time with which to submit a reply to Centre Properties response and opposition to the verified petition to intervene; it states that 'Intervenors shall be granted, until August 30th, with which to file a reply'; right now there is currently some legal wrangling occurring within the issue between Hoosier Environmental Council and Centre Properties.

Guide Lamp Trustee Projects Update:

Mr. Wodrich stated that the August meeting was canceled; a couple of projects that are being proposed at this time were trying to answer some questions that they and the Trustees had; their next meeting is September 8th at 4:00 p.m. at the Lawrence Branch of the Indianapolis Library on the northeast side. Tomorrow he is meeting with the Trustees and a couple of their representatives from their agencies to start talking about prioritizing projects that have been proposed so far and are at various stages of trying to get things done so they can actually come to fruition. There are several property acquisitions that CILTE and conservation easements that separate counties have been working on and they are just taking time. They want to make sure that they have enough funds left because fund #1, the \$3,250,000.00 is completely gone; fund #2 is now down to \$2.3 million that has not been allocated. The list projects that he has noted have not necessarily been approved by the Trustees, but he has close to \$1.8 million and some of those are guesses on how much they will cost. One of the projects that were recently approved was the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program that DNR and also the IASAWCD organization; there was \$500,000.00 that went to DNR for that for the State match for that program; that will be used in those three counties; it will go into some of those tributaries as well. There is a permanent easement option that they asked DNR to add to that program, which is similar to what the Nature Conservancy asked that they do in the Tippecanoe River Basin because they gave matching funds for that watershed. At the September meeting CILTE will be coming back to them to propose purchasing three separate parcels of land at 206th Street and White River just west of S. R. 37. They had a site visit out there last week and there may be a public access component to the one at the northwestern parcel of that project; they are still in the process of working those details out. The City of Anderson also has come to them with a request for funds at Grandview Golf Course, which is all on White River; they have about 1,000 to 1,200 linear feet of stream bank that is severely eroded and they have asked them for funds to repair that and part of their deal is that they will donate 14 acre easement so they would be doing some restoration of the buffer as will to prevent that from happening at other places along their stream bank on White River. There is a page on IDEM's website with a list of all the projects that have been proposed and have been approved.

Mr. Meyer asked if there was an upcoming meeting in Perkinsville?

Mr. Wodrich stated that that next Tuesday DNR is working on a public access point in Perkinsville, which is across the street from Bonge's Tavern; the public meeting is at 6:30 August 31st at the local school's gymnasium.

Mr. Meyer asked if they expect any public controversy?

Mr. Wodrich stated that there is one property owner that he and DNR have spoken with whose house is right next to the proposed project. The way DNR has their plan set up they are addressing her concerns and will keep it as far away from her property as possible on the parcel that they are purchasing for this and will be planting trees as well to create a buffer between her property and the public access site; hopefully that will resolve her concerns.

TMDL Study:

Ms. Goodwin stated that they did have the first public meeting last night at the Anderson Public Library for this project. This project is being done by EPA and one of their contractors and they are reviewing all of their data and information. One of the other things that they have done for this project is making sure that they contact all of the local communities. Most of them were at the presentation she gave at the Stormwater group so they have an overall understanding of TMDLs; what they are doing is trying to identify sources of e-coli impairment in these streams so

they can meet water quality standard. The report that she has sent out is a draft; there are minor changes that they are doing; they are doing nothing of a technical aspect, just overall typos. When they first started out with the TMDL program they started out with contractors and spending quite a bit of money doing a large complicated model; they have now gone to a much simpler approach. E-coli comes from humans and animals; it is the mode of transportation that they are looking for. They have decided to go to a much simpler approach so they can focus on the implementation; they feel that key component of the implementation are stakeholder groups. They see their job at IDEM as being the one to go out and find the funds, support you in trying to get funds, and also bringing some innovative ideas to areas if they come across something in another state it may be useful in these areas.

Mr. Ward asked that once they get the information how do they utilize that information afterwards.

Ms. Goodwin stated that they are using the information for e-coli numbers that they have gotten from County Health Departments or watershed groups as well as land use, topography and things like that; they are doing the low duration curb; that identifies what your flow is when you are getting a sample so they can identify what types of flow are causing the impairment; you will have an e-coli violation over all flows; there is probably stuff there all the time and there is stuff there during rain events; they use that also to give them an idea of what types of Best Management Practices to input. There are some long term control plans and Stormwater that are going to be permeated that they will allow those to play themselves out with the TMDL; so those won't be addressed with the TMDL.

Mr. Ward asked if they would be doing any DNA tagging.

Ms. Goodwin stated that they will not; right now there are a lot of big problems; so if you do the DNA you're basically looking for a needle in a haystack because there are so many sources and so much stuff going on that they want to reduce those amount of sources and then possible go back and do DNA when it's a smaller group that they are looking at because that will be a much easier way to locate what they are doing.

Mr. Manship stated that when they have large farm operations, cattle farms and hog farms, they think because their grandfather allowed the animals wonder up and down their ditches, how do they educate those people or be diplomatic about this is not good for our grandchildren; he knows that is what the intent is, but they don't like government regulations or Farm Bureau Coop so how do they educate and encourage these farmers to change?

Ms. Goodwin stated that a lot of it is education; right now there is no regulatory authority to do anything like that so it is all voluntary; there are some areas, particularly in the Sand Creek watershed, that have had a lot of good response with having a retired farmer going out and speaking with these people about not only are they causing possible contamination to the water they are loosing ground; letting the cattle in the stream is causing erosion. There is a lot of programs that they can do cost shares with; or provide most of the money for fencing the cattle off and providing an alternative water source. There are some ways to go about it that are kind of the more friendly approach; they are going to try working with them as much as possible to try to get them educated. A lot of time you get them through their children too because when their kids come home and tell them it's bad it's a little different from the state telling them it's bad.

Mr. Manship asked if the funding would be a 319 Grant.

Ms. Goodwin stated that there is 319, Farm Bill money, some of the Lair Funds will available for this; one of the things that they will hit on at the final meeting is a lot of the grant funding; a lot of the grant money is earmarked for TMDL and TMDL implementation. That is why they want to get the TMDLs finished because once they are done then they can work with them on trying to get the money for the projects to do this stuff; there is also some EPA grants; Region V is doing some grants for TMDLs.

Mr. Weaver stated that the consistent thing is the USDA cost share, which is a substantial amount. The cost share percentage is very high.

Mr. Manship stated that some of the farmers that he has dealt with said that they would have to take water down to their cattle versus letting them roam this 1,000 linear feet of open ditch; could they possibly use the grant money for drilling a new well?

Mr. Weaver stated that there are several alternative water supply procedures that can be done. There is even instances where they all have a very small access to water in the stream, but that doesn't mean that they have access to the total length of the stream. A lot of the 319 Grants are through the Soil and Water District.

Mr. Manship asked if fencing or restricting the length that they are allowed to travel could fall under this 319 Grant.

Mr. Weaver stated that fencing would definitely fall under the grant; alternative water supplies, fencing, planting of trees to create a riparian buffer, a lot of things can go together. One project that they are doing in Johnson County is the planting of 5,400 trees and USDA is paying for fencing; they are fencing out about 1,500 feet of stream to eliminate sheep in that area of the stream.

Mr. Ward asked if they are fencing at the top of the bank or are they going out a distance.

Mr. Weaver stated that the maximum distance from the stream is approximately 185 feet from the stream for tree planting; you have some choices as to where you want to put the fence; that area is receiving a cash rental basis per year.

Ms. Goodwin stated that if you want to pursue something like this her section is also happy to send a letter of recommendation saying that this will help implement the TMDL because then they can use that to their report to EPA that this activity is happening and will be part of the implementation.

Mr. Thompson stated that on the Stony Creek Watershed Study that the County is applying for a 319 Grant to further enhance that to dynamic specs of watershed study; you see this TMDL being very timely in that effort and combined the two and the likelihood is that it has to get additional grant money to implement the BMPs.

Ms. Goodwin stated that having them come together and doing a lot of the information gathering then the implementation will be a lot easier and will be easier to get the funding because these things are both in place and they are planning on writing a letter of recommendation for their plan so they can get that money from 319. This has become a hot issue and so they are now weighing a lot of the grant funds on TMDL completion and impaired water bodies.

Mr. Manship asked if who was available to apply for the 319 Grant funds.

Ms. Goodwin stated that someone who was either a governmental agency or a not-for-profit.

Ms. Manship asked if there was a booklet that says what's available?

Ms. Goodwin stated that the website and the applications for the new grant are due October 1st; the folks in the 319 Grant will be more than happy if they have questions or if they need some assistance or if they would like them to review some applications; they would be more than happy to look at them before the October 1st date so they can make sure that they have the best application in.

Mr. Evans asked about the duck and geese population in the St. Joe River Watershed.

Ms. Goodwin stated that this was a Grant funding where they are researching some alternative land covers. This has not been completed yet; they are going to research some alternative land cover that is not as appealing to geese to see what types of cover they can put down to get rid of the large residential geese population they have. This is in the Cedar Creek Watershed.

Mr. Ward asked if this was for lawns?

Ms. Goodwin stated that they are basing this out of IUPFW; that is where they are doing some of the work. This will be interesting to a lot of people because the entire state has that problem.

Mr. Thompson stated that the draft document is in a Word format, which is huge, is it possible to get it in a PDF format at this point or is it too early.

Ms. Goodwin stated that she did not know; their website has changed from allowing them to do PDFs, which is what they originally had, to making them do them in Word. The contractor has done this in Word Perfect and in Word, but she can check with them and see if they have it in PDF or if they can convert to PDF for her.

Color Aerial Photography for State:

Mr. Weaver stated that there are plans almost finalized for color aerial photography statewide project for 2005. There are several information meetings coming up at the end of this month. The one he knows about is in Franklin and Johnson County on the 30th at 10:00 a.m. The Governor has not put his final signature of approval on this, but all the ground work has been done that they have been working on this year. It is a statewide project that is tied into Terrorism and Security Committee at the state level; individual communities are getting this done at no cost or a reduced cost through the Terrorism Committee at the State level.

Future Projects:

Mr. Ward asked if anyone had any suggestion for future projects? The Technical Groups had a couple of good ones in the past; they have done the BMP booklet that is out on the website, they are also working on the GIS project. He asked if anybody had any suggestions for other projects for the Technical Group and the Board.

Mr. Manship asked if they had anything ongoing on Stony Creek? Lapel is trying to get some work done because Madison County is sending a big chunk of their pollution to Hamilton County; according to the State Wide fishing guide they are not suppose to be eating fish in Hamilton County out of Stony Creek. Lapel is working on cleaning up their act and Madison

County would like to assist; if there is anything they can do to work together to make this a successful joint venture that is a high priority from his perspective.

Mr. Ward stated that right now Hamilton County is working on a study that Burke is doing for them; they are doing a study both hydraulically and some water quality issues for Stony Creek and the tributaries into it from the County line to White River. It would probably be nice if he could join them at their next get together for that on September 24th at 9:00 a.m. There is a monthly update meeting on this study with Burke. The City of Noblesville and Hamilton County is doing this jointly.

Mr. Manship stated that he just found recently that Lapel had a landfill on the east side of the County line; there are two large open ditches that go in by the race track. He does not know what got buried there, but it would be nice to find out.

Mr. Ward stated that this is something that Burke needs to know.

Mr. Ward asked if Mr. Meyer could find out when the next Board meeting was so Mr. Thompson can get it out to everybody?

Mr. Meyer stated that he would do that.

Mr. Ward stated that Mr. Weaver would be putting together something for the Board on the GIS; he asked Mr. Weaver if he would call Polis and let them know; they may want to go ahead and put that contract together so it's there in front of the Board; they may want to get the contract to them also before hand so they don't get hit cold at the Board meeting. He asked if they should wait until after the Board meeting to send a letter to Plexus.

Mr. Weaver stated that he has to at least verbally tell them something. The next Technical Committee meeting they need to make sure that they get Polis invited or put them as part of the agenda on the next Technical meeting to discuss the grant whether the contract is signed or not.

Next Meeting Date:

The meeting was set for Thursday October 21, 2004 at 2:00 p.m. in Noblesville.

Kenton C. Ward
Hamilton County Surveyor

Attest: _____
Executive Secretary