



Upper White River Watershed Alliance, Inc.
September 1, 2005

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 PM Thursday September 1, 2005. Those present were as follows: Mr. Kenton Ward, Hamilton County Surveyor; Mr. Robert Thompson, Hamilton County Surveyor's Office; Mr. Walter Evans, Hamilton County Surveyor's Office; Mr. Carl Wodrich, IDEM; Mr. Dave Coats, Polis; Mr. Larry Stout, Hamilton County ISSD; Mr. Bob Meyer, Upper White River Board of Trustees, Ms. Chris Meador, American Consulting; Mr. Rob Schumowsky, MCCOG; Ms. Summer O'Brien, Williams Creek Consulting; and Mr. Glenn Pratt, Concerned Citizen.

Approval of Minutes of July 7, 2005:

There were no changes made; the minutes were approved.

UWRWA GIS Project - Update:

Mr. Coats stated that the functionality is all there; all the data isn't and all the functionality isn't working exactly as it will at the end. The site has been forwarded to Rob to be tested. If the meeting ends today in time they can gather around the computer somewhere and play with it for a while. The main layers will be added over the next several days, particularly the utilities. The graphing capability is there and can be demonstrated, but it only includes the Marion County Health data right now. There is not complete standardization, the symbology yet, some of it is, but some of it hasn't been. Ultimately they will want to work with folks here to determine what they want those standards to be. They are particularly not able to control the symbology on the Madison County layers. That is a programming issue that they are sure will be overcome, but is not there yet. The Guide Projects and the Water Sampling sites are going to be added as soon as they are loaded on the Marion County site. ID is working, but not all layers are associated with it yet. The pan is functional, but it's working at the out of the box level right now. There is another step in the programming that has not been implemented on this site yet that allows you to grab with the hand and then move wherever you want to.

Mr. Thompson stated that there is a function for zooming to an address that doesn't appear to be working yet.

Mr. Coats stated that he got a note from Neal that he had implemented that, but maybe he hasn't.

Mr. Schakowsky stated that he tried that and at first just tried 621 N. Meridian and that didn't work, but then he did the full Meridian Street, Indianapolis zip code and it actually showed where the location was, but it didn't zoom into it. He put a little red dot on the map that says the address.

Mr. Coats stated that he didn't know the spec; was it supposed to zoom to that.

Mr. Thompson asked if rivers and streams will be labeled or will it be a function of identifying.

Mr. Coats stated that he was not sure; the roads will be and they are not all labeled yet.

Mr. Stout stated that yesterday for the first time they were generating orthophotography to the WMS Server.

Mr. Coats stated that one of the great things is that your orthophotography is now visible through this site.

Mr. Schumowsky asked what scale you have to be zoomed into for the photography to come up.

Mr. Coats stated that he did not know, but they can play with it to see.

Mr. Schumowsky stated that he noticed that you have to zoom in pretty closely.

Mr. Coats stated that Neal is grabbing data from multiple sources and I-465 is on the map twice; once from the local data coming from Marion County and once from Hamilton County, but also coming from the Geological Survey. There are two sets of the Interstate there and the Geological Survey map is not right on top of the roads although the local ones are.

Guide Lamp Trustee Projects - Update:

Mr. Wodrich stated that he dropped off a resolution at the bank for the second invoice from Polis that Jeff Quayle had sent to him. The Upper White should be getting that check. The Trustees are no longer accepting any more proposals at this time until some of the projects fall in or out of place. They essentially have all of their money allocated to projects at this point. Because of that their meetings are now going to be quarterly so their next meeting won't be until November 2nd at 4:00 p.m. at Holiday Park in Indianapolis.

Mr. Coats asked if all the money has already been allocated or just a portion that has been designated to be allocated by this time.

Mr. Wodrich stated that all the money has been allocated towards projects at this time; not all of them have been officially approved with signed resolutions, but the Trustees have several projects that they have wanted to see done, but organizations and municipalities are trying to tie up the loose ends. The IDEM Adopt a River Clean Up has that section in Hamilton County right around 206th Street that they have been cleaning up for the last year. They will do their fall clean up September 10th, which will be in conjunction with the River Clean Up Incorporated groups; the annual clean up that they do in Noblesville and Hamilton County.

Mr. Ward asked how much money is unspent.

Mr. Wodrich stated that what they have that is technically available that they don't have resolutions signed for is approximately \$1,000,000.00 and there is just about that much in potential projects that they are sitting on at this point.

Mr. Ward asked how long it took to spend it all.

Mr. Wodrich stated that they got the funding in the early part of 2001 when the settlement was actually occurred. The advisory council started shortly thereafter.

Mr. Meyer stated that Carl has some pretty nice databases that slices and dices it and shows how it went by geography and by interest group and other ways; it is a pretty good ability to see how the money got allocated to date. He asked if that was all on the website.

Mr. Wodrich stated that he has not put that on the website yet, but it has been pretty evenly spent in each of the three counties.

UWRWA Funding – Golf Outing:

Mr. Thompson stated that he has not heard from Christopher Burke; all he knows is that the flyer was mailed out a week or two ago.

Mr. Ward stated that the outing is October 5, 2005 at 8:00 a.m. at Coffin Golf Club.

Stormwater Best Management Practices Tool Box - Update:

Mr. Thompson stated that Angie at AIC asked him about the UWRWA setting up a workshop at their fall convention; he indicated to her that it was a good idea, but forwarded her onto Jeff. It has to do with interlocal cooperation. She was looking for other suggestions about topics that they could present and drainage came up in the discussion. Looking through the old Upper White Website this document may or may not be known by all. It looks to him like there are some areas that need to be updated; model ordinances maybe, new state rules that weren't in affect at the time and maybe some structural and non-structural BMPs that are newer than when this was put out. He asked John Buechler if he would like to take this document and go ahead and put it on the Upper White Website, but he has not seen it yet. Maybe this could be a project for next year to update this website with some new BMPs, new rules and regulations, model ordinances, etc.

Ms. Meador stated that when this was written Indianapolis didn't have any approved BMPs yet; probably no one in the State had anything that they were actually using on the ground. They were grasping at straws on what other people had done and kind of dumped it on paper. Within the State there is a lot of information now of what has actually been put into place.

Mr. Pratt stated that he believed that EPA has a new manual that just came out this week.

Mr. Thompson stated that EPA is very active in that area. They have been working hand in hand with the Center for Watershed Protection and they have a series of manuals. At the Region Five workshop that he attended last month in Indianapolis the attendees were supposed to get some of these books mailed to them. IDEM is working on a Stormwater Manual to go along with Rule 5 and Rule 13.

Mr. Pratt asked how much that will be impacted with Easterly's new push to get out permits and not worry about other issues.

Mr. Ward stated that this is the one that has been subcontracted to Purdue.

Mr. Thompson stated that he believes that this has been put back into IDEM's hands. It is supposed to be in final review and ready by November of 2005.

Mr. Ward asked if Mr. Thompson would call Randy and get an update of when this will be out.

Mr. Thompson stated that he would do that.

Mr. Ward asked if the Committee thought this to be a worthwhile project.

Mr. Meyer asked when they go through and update like that, they are taking such a national view of things, whether it is an opportunity to find other infant organizations, much the same as ourselves, outside the State from which they could learn something; they probably aren't the only watershed group trying to get started.

Mr. Ward stated that when they were doing this one, he got a lot of information from Maryland.

Mr. Meyer stated that it seems like an ongoing dialogue would be healthy input from outside; things that they are overlooking or ideas that have worked for them.

Mr. Ward stated that this was a good idea and would probably expand on what they did before.

Mr. Coats stated that the Hanover College received a \$11.4 million Lilly endorsement grant to set up a Rivers Institute. They are talking about doing a lot of things to coordinate watershed interest groups; Polis is talking about having them host one of the seminars down there and they want to focus on watersheds and those kinds of issues. That may be a real resource too; the contact that know down there is Molly Dodge; she is with the Rivers Institute at Hanover.

Mr. Pratt asked what type of expertise do they have or is this something that they are going to be building.

Mr. Coats stated that they just hired an executive director and he has a type of expertise, but he does not know exactly how it relates. They want to get into everything that has to do with rivers and the roles that rivers play; this will be world wide. They seek to become the center that has more information about rivers than anybody else. They even want to talk about the cultural impact of the river on a community.

Mr. Ward asked if Mr. Coats would get the information on how to contact Molly Dodge?

Mr. Pratt stated that Diane Hinshaw with I. U. in Bloomington has done a lot of work on that if anyone is interested.

Mr. Thompson stated that maybe for the AIC Fall Conference there could be a possibility of joint presentation from Hanover and then the Upper White River.

Other Business:

Mr. Pratt stated that one of the requirements in the Veolia Contract was to do public education for the three reservoirs on nutrient control from urban runoff. Veolia will be helping to coordinate the work there. He is trying to work with the local people on education; 90% of the soils in the area don't need phosphorous. In new developments where they scrape all the top soil off you still need phosphorous. In most established areas for most of the soils here there is no need.

Mr. Thompson stated that in the process of doing education on lawn treatment, this fits in with that. If the water company and the Public Education Committee can get together they could work on this issue.

Mr. Pratt stated that locally you need to set priorities on how much you need to do on CSO's, failing septic systems and urban runoff.

Mr. Ward asked if this was more of a policy issue.

Mr. Meyer stated that he believed this to be a policy issue. In order for the organization to put its support behind an effort he believes that it needs to come from the top leadership. Jeff Quayle needs to bring the officers together and decide whether this is something they will support.

Mr. Ward stated that Noblesville is the only community with CSO's in Hamilton County, but failing septic tanks are all over.

Mr. Pratt stated that the idea of spending 1.9 billion on CSO's and still having raw sewage in people's backyard doesn't make any sense.

Mr. Ward stated that Noblesville is active in locating those in Noblesville Township where they will be annexing into or around and trying to get everybody sewer.

Mr. Pratt stated that IDEM is about to the point where they would fund the first couple of years of a formation of a septic district. It can be run by private organization or the County, but there would be a yearly fee from the people which would educate and would include pumping the tank. Cutting down the failure rate of the septic systems that we do have which in the long run studies have shown is cheaper for the people rather than putting in a new finger system. Tim Method is now working for the Indianapolis Department of Public Works; he is a potential viaduct for getting Indianapolis re-involved in the Upper White.

Mr. Ward asked who Tim Method works for?

Mr. Pratt stated that Tim is a special assistant to Jim Gerard in DPW; there are some things that he can't do yet because of a conflict of interest with his prior job, but by November he will be free. The thought is that he could help get the City back involved. Some significant funding from Indianapolis would help and getting their involvement in it.

Mr. Ward asked if the Committee had heard anything from Jim.

Mr. Meyer stated that he has not. He stated that about one year ago they made an effort down there and Jim ever followed up or came to another meeting.

Mr. Pratt stated that Jim is overwhelmed. This is an area that Tim has worked in from having been at IDEM; Tim is supposed to be looking down the road at what is coming, where they are going, etc.

Mr. Ward asked if Mona was the lady that came to the last meeting at Jeff's office.

Mr. Meyer stated that she had been pretty active with the Trustees for a while, but her presence is an indication of Jim's support; is that the thought?

Mr. Ward stated that Mr. Meyer was correct.

Mr. Meyer stated that there is a desire to help, but there remains a concern that they don't really have the money to do something materially. He asked if Mr. Pratt suggests that the Committee extend the invitation to Tim as well.

Mr. Pratt stated that Mr. Meyer was correct.

Mr. Meyer asked Mr. Thompson if they could add Tim to the mailing list so he would at least get invited.

Mr. Pratt stated that the Federal Watershed Grant is still in process; the region is to send three recommendations to Washington; according to Lenore they send all the recommendations and the regions recommendations aren't necessarily followed. The Rule says that the region will send three recommendations. This should be answered sometime this fall. Carlton Curry and himself are saying to Veolia and others that even if the Federal Grant does not come through they need to take a couple of things that are in there and try to get the funding to move them ahead, like the Thermacline Study.

Mr. Ward asked if this was an EPA Grant.

Mr. Pratt stated that it was. If the Grant goes through there is money in there for Soil & Water to hire a farmer friendly for this area.

Mr. Ward asked Mr. Meyer is this was more policy, too?

Mr. Meyer stated that he believes that it was. One of the pressing things they do is have a meeting with Bill Branick and see whether his enthusiasm is there to dust off that Committee and get it going again.

Mr. Pratt stated that he supports these ideas.

Mr. Ward asked Mr. Meyer if Jeff could get a hold of Bill.

Mr. Meyer stated that he would. He stated that he is going to contact Jeff Quayle and suggest that he have a conversation with Bill Branick to see whether they can rejuvenate our Policy Committee.

Next Meeting Date:

The meeting was set for Thursday November 2, 2005 at 2:00 p.m. in Noblesville.

Kenton C. Ward
Hamilton County Surveyor

Attest: _____
Executive Secretary