



## Whitewater River Watershed Steering Committee Meeting

### Minutes of August 11th, 2014

**Attendees:** Chelsea Tooley, Heather Wirth, Mary Osika, John Kruse, Mike T. Schwab, Kathy Scott, Helen Kremer, Jon Seymour, Evan Divine, Tim Hesselbrock, Mike Kohlsdorf, Lynn White, Bruce Koehler, and Brian Bohl

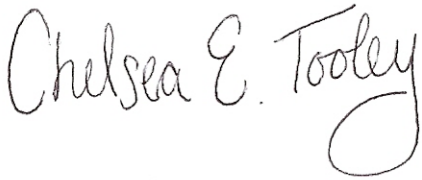
The meeting began at 6:00 pm at the Harrison Library in Harrison, OH. After Chelsea Tooley called the meeting to order, attendees were asked to review the previous meeting minutes. No additions or corrections were present so minutes were approved.

Under New Business, Heather Wirth, Technical Coordinator, provided an update on the water monitoring program. No new data from the labs was received since last meeting. IDEM is currently conducting the habitat, fish, and macro invertebrate evaluations on the Indiana side. Chelsea and Heather conducted the macro invertebrate testing for the 4 Ohio sites. Heather is working with Donna McCollum to complete the habitat evaluation on the Ohio sites. The project does not have funds to do the fish sampling on the Ohio sites. The monitoring will continue through the end of October for the project.

Heather also introduced the windshield survey information to the committee. A windshield survey worksheet was passed out to the Committee to review and discuss. Discussion included exceptional sites, documenting, septic issues, and a ranking system. Heather presented pictures and descriptions of the resource concerns listed on the worksheet so volunteers can be as consistent as possible. Heather will make changes to the worksheet and send it out to the volunteers who are planning on assisting with the survey, along with maps. Volunteers were asked to GPS or number sites on a map that corresponds with the site numbers on the worksheet.

Chelsea Tooley, Outreach Coordinator, asked the Committee members to review the latest draft of the watershed management plan including sections 4 through 14 of the Indiana Department of Environmental Management's Checklist. A demonstration of how to make comments and review the Watershed Management Plan using Google Documents was presented by Chelsea. Some changes to the steering committee contact table and the water testing parameter goals were made. All committee members were invited to send further questions, comments, or concerns about the draft to Chelsea.

Before the meeting was adjourned, a list of possible topics for future watershed project events was discussed. Events included a Fall Clean-up, Permitting Workshop, Forestry, Backyard Conservation, and a Soil Health Workshop. With no further business, discussion points, or concerns the meeting was adjourned. Members were invited to volunteer for an area to conduct the windshield survey and stay longer to review Sections 4-14 of the Watershed Management Plan. The next Steering Committee for the Whitewater River Watershed Project was set for September 29<sup>th</sup> provided meeting space availability.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Chelsea E. Tooley". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Chelsea E. Tooley, Outreach Coordinator