

# Whitewater River Watershed Steering Committee Meeting

Minutes of June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2014



Whitewater River Watershed

**Attendees:** Chelsea Tooley, Heather Wirth, John Kruse, Mike T. Schwab, Kathy Scott, Evan Divine, Chris Fox, Ben Braeutigam, Tim Hesselbrock, Mike Kohlsdorf, Jane Wittke, and Holly Utrata-Halcomb

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. With no immediate revisions, members of the committee were asked to see Chelsea or Heather if they had any additions or corrections.

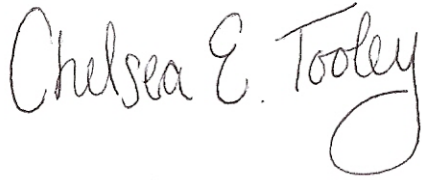
Under Old Business, committee members were asked to review the previous 2 finalist mission statements discussed at the last meeting. After receiving feedback from some members, the word preserve was added to the mission statement. The phrase “that implements a watershed management plan” was omitted. Leaving the final mission statements as “Our mission is: to provide opportunities for community education, awareness, and cooperation to protect, preserve, and enhance the Whitewater River Watershed.” A majority vote approved the new mission statement, and the mission statement will be added to the website and social media sites.

Under New Business, Chelsea Tooley, outreach coordinator, presented a brief presentation on what a management plan is. The latest draft submitted to IDEM containing section 1-3 along with Kathleen Hagan’s, watershed specialist, comments was reviewed by the committee. Many committee members asked about the intended audience of the plan. Because the plan is geared toward a technical audience, the committee suggested forming more user-friendly documents for educators and community leaders.

There were strong concerns about the future of the project. Committee members would like to continue to involve community members in the watershed project and form a volunteer group for future activities and water monitoring. Each member of the committee was asked to come up with two names and contact information that might be interested in the watershed project. A suggestion was made by Jane to include high school students that needed volunteer hours. Other organizations discussed to get involved were; Boy Scouts of America, Ducks Unlimited, companies with an economic interest in the watershed, and Canoeing Groups. Chelsea invited anyone with additional comments to email them to her.

Afterwards, Heather Wirth, technical coordinator, passed around a sheet detailing the latest watershed testing results from both IDEM and the project. Heather highlighted any parameters that exceeded limits. A brief discussion on dissolved oxygen took place. In some places, the water was oversaturated. A discussion of the consequences of oversaturation took place.

Before the meeting was adjourned, a list of upcoming events was discussed. With no further business, discussion points, or concerns the meeting was adjourned. The next Steering Committee for the Whitewater River Watershed Project was set for mid-August (August 11<sup>th</sup>) provided meeting space availability.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chelsea E. Tooley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped 'O' at the end.

Chelsea E. Tooley, Outreach Coordinator