



## Whitewater River Watershed Steering Committee Meeting

**Minutes of January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2015**

**Attendees:** Chelsea Tooley, Heather Wirth, John Williams, Chuck Goins, Ben Braeutigam, Becky Braeutigam, Helen Kremer, Tim Hesselbrock, Mike Kohlsdorf, Bruce Koehler, Jon Seymour, Kathleen Hagan, and Brian Bohl

The meeting began at 6:00 pm at the Harrison Library in Harrison, OH. After Chelsea Tooley, Outreach Coordinator, 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 watershed signs. Bob Lentz, Butler County Storm Water District Coordinator, said it would be no problem for the watershed to use the fish sign that is already used widely in SW Ohio. He will be sending over the artwork and Heather will get the signs ordered. Bob also committed the Storm Water District to provide and install the signs in Butler County for the watershed. Heather has been in contact with Franklin County's Surveyor and Dearborn County Highway and will be contacting Hamilton County for installation guidelines and regulations.

Chelsea Tooley provided an update on the storm drain marking program. She has contacted schools in the watershed to see if they would like to participate in the program. The goal is to implement the program this spring. The marker will have the watershed's logo on it. There will also be a newsletter sent out in about 2 weeks advertising some upcoming workshops as well as a student newsletter that will go out to schools in the area around Earth Day.

Heather Wirth updated the committee with the details of many upcoming workshops the watershed will be holding and partnering with:

**March 14<sup>th</sup> – Conservation Tillage Breakfast at Zimmer Tractor in Brookville, IN –**  
Breakfast will be served at 7:30 and the workshop program will immediately follow. Topics: Drill and Planter Setup, Cover Crop establishment, and cover crop benefits. Pesticide applicator recertification credits are applied for the following: CCH, PARP, and Ohio.

**March 31<sup>st</sup> - Backyard Conservation Workshop at Harrison Public Library at 6pm –**  
Topics: Rain gardens, rain barrels, native plants, composting, and recycling

**April 29<sup>th</sup> – Lawn and Garden Management: Trees, Nutrients, Pests, & More Workshop at Harrison Public Library starting at 6pm –**

Topics: Tree Planting & Care, Soil Testing, Fertilization, and Chemical Usage

**June 20<sup>th</sup> – River Sweep**

More information will be available as the date approaches. Heather will be talking with Green Acres Canoe and Kayak to see if they will be interested in partnering for the cleanup this year.

Kathleen Hagan invited any members who would like to attend IDEM's Water Monitoring Assessment Meeting that would go over all of the data that was collected on the Indiana's side of the watershed. The meeting will be held February 18<sup>th</sup> at IDEM's Shadeland Office in Indianapolis at 9:30am. If anyone is interested in attending please let Heather or Chelsea know. The committee was briefly shown the results of IDEM's monitoring summary sheet. Kathleen Hagan stressed that the sheet was still a draft and that just because a sight received a pass or fail didn't mean it was its final ruling. She stressed that local input and knowledge from community members and project staff would help determine some of the ratings.

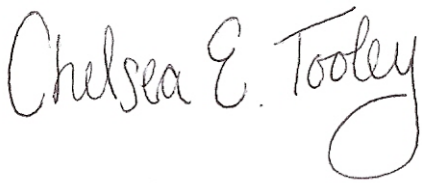
Heather Wirth passed out the windshield survey totals that were given to her to date. A couple members brought their information to the meeting to be added and there are still some areas that need to be completed yet. Chelsea will be completing the areas of the watershed that haven't been volunteered for this weekend. Once all of the data is gathered, Heather will compile it and create a master map with all sites identified. For those that had completed the survey, a short discussion about some of their findings was held. Some members noted excessive waste and dumping (tires) sites were seen.

Chelsea Tooley updated the committee about the progress of the Whitewater River Watershed Management Plan. The draft of sections 1-14 was submitted to IDEM at the end of August and comments were received. Chelsea led the discussion of the comments. Revisions to definitions, maps, stakeholder concern surveys were discussed and amended. The Committee stressed the importance other including data for the OH side along with Indiana to make sure that the entire watershed was well represented as a whole. There were also short discussion on bedrock type/age, wetlands and their use in the watershed, and whether or not to include mean average air temperature in the management plan draft. The committee decided to delete the average air temperature from the soil section as well as delete the average temperature graph from the watershed quality summary section, due to not having

meaningful enough differences or data implications. Chelsea quickly showed how to comment in the Google document so that steering committee members could give input. The next draft including sections 15-19 is due March 8<sup>th</sup>. The google document of the management plan can be accessed here:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1MbbImOYy0RtvWpBZM8s-5CLwG0RPQ1RVUmhJBYJytU/edit?usp=sharing>

The next Steering Committee for the Whitewater River Watershed Project was set for 6pm on February 18<sup>th</sup> at the Harrison Public Library.

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

Chelsea E. Tooley, Outreach Coordinator