

Whitewater River Watershed Steering Committee Meeting

Minutes of November 16th, 2015



Whitewater River Watershed

Attendees: Heather Wirth, Ben Braeutigam, Jon Seymour, Helen Kremer, Tim Hesselbrock, Chuck Goins, Brian Bohl, and Bruce Koehler

The meeting began at 6:00pm at the Harrison Library in Harrison, OH. After Heather Wirth, Technical Coordinator, 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 let Heather know if they had any additions or corrections that need to be made.

Under new business, Heather informed the committee members IDEM approved the extension request for the current grant and the new expiration date is January 31, 2017. Additional task items were added to the grant to be completed during the extension time (1 workshop/field day, 1 clean-up, and 4 newsletters/flyers/etc). Heather updated the committee on the status of the implementation grant application, which was submitted the end of August. IDEM sent a letter stating based on the application's high ranking, it was chosen to be recommended to EPA for funding and final approval.

Heather updated the committee on the planning of some upcoming events.

Conservation Tillage Breakfast – Saturday, March 12, 2016 at Zimmer Tractor in Brookville, IN

Partners: Franklin County SWCD and Purdue Extension – PARP credits will be available

Program will start at 8:45am and PARP from 9 am to Noon

Storm Drain Marking – Chelsea was in charge of developing the program but since she left, Heather will be taking over. Heather will work on obtaining permission from the City of Harrison and work with the high school over winter so the marking can take place this coming spring.

The final draft of the management plan is due December 8th to IDEM. The committee discussed information required in the last sections of the management plan. The committee brainstormed possible partners who could assist with the implementation of the plan and some that could help provide technical assistance. The committee also discussed different strategies that could be used to track goal indicators and the effectiveness of the implementation efforts which included water monitoring, surveys, load reductions, practices installed through other programs, surveillances (infrared, river, aerial, and windshield), and USGS discharge amounts. The future of the management plan and the project was also discussed. The committee decided the management plan would need to be re-evaluated after year 3 of implementation and the end of every major goal breakdown. The steering committee will be the body doing the re-evaluation using water monitoring data, goal progress, educational surveys, and possibly windshield surveys.

Under additional items, committee discussed methods to share the draft and make comments before submission. The use of Dropbox 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 February 2nd at 6:00pm in the Harrison Public Library Meeting Room.

Heather Wirth

Heather Wirth, Technical Coordinator