



# TTK Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2016

6:30 – 7:30 p.m. EST

Hoosier Energy Environmental Education Center

**Attendees:** Josh Brosmer, IDEM, Trey Clark, WLRM, Bruce Marheine, WLRM, Julia Kemnitz, USFWS, Max Harris, Island Levee Association, Joe Freeze, Stakeholder, Darin Cox, Stakeholder, Laura Demarest, WCIWA Watershed Coordinator

## Introduction

Refreshments were enjoyed prior to the meeting while brief status updates were given regarding the scope of the TTK 319 Grant project.

### • Updates/Announcements/NEWS

- **TTK WMP** – After two years of gathering information, data, and Advisory Committee input, the TTK Watershed Management Plan is officially APPROVED by both IDEM and EPA. An approved WMP opens the door for cost-share implementation, which could not be commenced until the WMP was completed and approved.
- **TTK Cost-Share Program**- TTK Cost-Share Guidelines were developed after the August 2015 Advisory Committee meeting, pending approval (after WMP approval). \*Note: The TTK Cost-Share Guidelines have now been APPROVED and can be found on the watershed-alliance.org website along with a cost-share brochure where available practices, cost-share amounts, and guidance can be reviewed by interested participants. At this time, a number of producers have submitted bills for fall cover crops (over 1,000 acres total) which are awaiting payment once the TTK Cost-Share Guidelines have been approved. Typical payment turn-around in the future will be quicker once the Guidelines have been approved. Approximately \$100,000 remains in cost-share funding to be utilized by January 2017.
- **New Grants/Applications –**
  - Remember: After the TTK 319 Planning/Implementation grant, there will be another round of funding coming from the TTK 319 Implementation grant, which was successfully funded. This grant will contain \$200,000 in cost-share and will conclude during 2019.
  - An application for Clean Water Indiana funding was submitted in partnership with Clay Co. SWCD. This application, for \$72,000 (split between counties for 3 years @ \$12,000/county/year) was FUNDED.
  - Additionally, an application for a DNR Lake and River Enhancement Watershed Land Treatment grant will be submitted by January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2016. Up to \$75,000 was requested for conservation practices in Turtle Creek, the non-critical portion of TTK. These additional sources of non-federal funding will be very useful when it comes to accruing match for the TTK grants.
- **Upcoming Events**
  - February 22<sup>nd</sup> – Sullivan SWCD Annual Meeting, Sullivan Civic Center
  - March 4<sup>th</sup> – Kinze Planter Clinic, Pigg Implement
  - March 12 – Sullivan Ag Day, Sullivan Fairgrounds

## 2016 Look Ahead

The “Planning” portion of the TTK 319 Planning and Implementation grant has now been completed, with the final approval of the Watershed Management Plan and the Cost-Share Guidelines. Much appreciation to the Advisory Committee members for over two years of attendance, input, and other forms of valuable assistance. There are a few ‘big ticket’ items remaining on the docket for the TTK 319 Planning and Implementation grant, which were discussed.

- Remaining cost-share: There is approximately \$100,000 remaining in the current grant and another \$200,000 associated with the upcoming TTK Implementation grant. A total of \$300,000 will need to be utilized in critical areas between now and 2019. Promotion will be necessary – please tell a friend!
- Match Goals: The current grant has a match goal of \$177,500. So far, we have tabulated over \$100,000 of match/in-kind! With producer cost inputs on conservation practices and additional match from field days, etc., we are on track to accomplish this goal.
- Host 1 more field day: The idea of a Wabash Float trip was revisited and it seems there are a number of options for canoe rental and the interest level seems high enough to make it a successful



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venture. Information will need to be gathered regarding insurance, etc. The watershed coordinator will ask Posey Co. SWCD about this, as they host a similar trip each year for the community.

- Demonstration to highlight a practice completed in the watershed: It is preferable if the demonstration showcases a new and innovative practice, however since cover crops are gaining in popularity and offer some of the best soil health and pollutant load reduction benefits, it was decided to focus on them. Joe Freeze mentioned a recent drive to northern Indiana where he saw a field along the highway with large signs, reading something like, "PLANT" "COVER" "CROPS" "FOR" "SOIL" "HEALTH" (or something of similar nature). Joe volunteered to plant a field he owns along Highway 41 near Farmersburg in cover crops this fall. Darin Cox offered to donate the seed for the plot. This will be a great opportunity for match/in-kind as well as lots of publicity!

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**Next Meeting Date**

Tuesday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016

**Meetings are held in the Hoosier Energy Environmental Education Center, south of the Turtle Creek Reservoir, west of Sullivan, IN.**

*Prepared and submitted by: L. Demarest*