



TTK Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 10th, 2015

6:30 – 8:15 p.m. EST

Hoosier Energy Environmental Education Center

Attendees: Josh Brosmer, IDEM, Jeff Mann, SWCD Board member and stakeholder, Trey Clark, WLRM, Paul Gettinger, stakeholder, John "Jack" Gettinger, stakeholder, and Laura Demarest, WCIWA Watershed Coordinator

Introduction

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

TTK Activities, Objectives, and Updates

Critical Area/EPA requirements Update

According to guidance from Josh Brosmer, IDEM, ***EPA is in the process of narrowing down their requirements when it comes to critical area determination.*** The Advisory Committee had selected a group of proposed critical areas at the previous meeting in November 2014. This proposal was submitted to EPA and is summarized as follows:

For Sediment:

1. Thunderbird Pond subwatershed
2. West Turman subwatershed
3. Little Turtle subwatershed

For Livestock

1. Dodd's Bridge subwatershed

Josh Brosmer, IDEM, informed the group that EPA has not given firm descriptions for what is expected when it comes to choosing critical areas. It is in the TTK group's best interest to continue working on the Watershed Management Plan and submit a draft to EPA for approval/correction.

LARE WLT grant update

An application was submitted to DNR for a LARE WLT (Watershed Land Treatment) grant for the Turtle Creek watershed (which includes the Turtle Creek, Little Turtle Creek, and Buzzard Pond subwatersheds). The amount applied for was \$60,000. If awarded, this grant would help fund practices that may fall outside of the TTK 319 critical areas and would allow for a more expansive cost-share implementation project. Updates will be given as they are known.

TNC assistance announcement

The Nature Conservancy has offered to assist the TTK project with GIS mapping, desktop modeling, and data compilation for the Watershed Management Plan. This offer is unforeseen and will count as an in-kind donation. It will be a great benefit to the project and is a nice surprise!

Indiana American Water grant idea

Indiana American Water has an Environmental Grant program where a group can apply for up to \$10,000 to fund a community-based project that will improve/restore/protect local watershed and water supplies. The Watershed Coordinator recently met with representatives of the Merom Town Council along with NRCS CIT/DC to discuss possible sites for a rain garden or swale. Various sites were evaluated however they did not seem to fit the ideal parameters for a rain garden. Further investigation is needed before a proposal can be made for the grant. Advisory Committee members



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suggested a site east of Merom that is on Hoosier Energy property. The BMP ideas suggested would exceed the \$10,000 IAW grant, but are great candidates for future TTK projects and will be investigated further. The Town of Merom representatives will be contacted soon in order to determine ideal sites or alternate strategies.

TTK Implementation Grant Application update

The TTK 319 application that was submitted in August 2014 for Implementation funding (2016-2018) has been scored by IDEM and is slated for funding (pending EPA final approval)! More news will follow.

TTK Watershed Management planning

The WMP is still being drafted at this time. Water monitoring data has almost been completely collected (ends March 2015) and cooperation with TNC will help expedite the process. Resource concerns have already been collected, but Advisory Committee members continue to contribute new concerns, such as pasture management/overgrazing, which was discussed at this meeting.

TTK Cost-Share Interest List sign up

As mentioned previously, the TTK grant will be dispatching cost-share funding in 2015 to producers in critical areas. Interested folks should speak with the watershed coordinator about their intended project(s) in order to be added to the Cost-Share Interest List. Projects requiring engineering (WASCOBs, etc.) need to be on the list early enough to allow time for planning. **Critical areas have not been finalized at this time, so there is no 100% guarantee that funding will occur for all producers who join the Interest List.**

TTK Field Day Planning

. TTK Field Day TBD: Spring 2015

The topic of Ag Technology has been discussed in the past year and continues to be of interest to local producers. A field day before planting that focuses on this topic would likely be popular and useful. It was decided that the dates should be either Wednesday, March 25th or Wednesday, April 1st, depending on speaker availability. It was suggested that the meeting should run from 10-2 with a lunch. If possible, reach out to local student groups (FFA, Jr. Leaders) to invite them to attend. Some discussion followed regarding how the 319 grant can/can't use funding (Ex. No food).

At this time, the Watershed Coordinator will reach out to some speakers to check availability. It was decided that the TTK Advisory Committee would meet again before the proposed field day to finalize date, place, food donor/fee charge, and structure of the field day.

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting will take place on **Tuesday, March 3rd, 2015 at 6:30pm**
Meetings are held in the Hoosier Energy Environmental Education Center, south of the Turtle Creek Reservoir, west of Sullivan, IN.