



TTK Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 12th, 2015

6:30 – 8:15 p.m. EST

Hoosier Energy Environmental Education Center

Attendees: Josh Brosmer, IDEM, Charles Haney, Hoosier Energy, Trey Clark, WLRM, John "Jack" Gettinger, stakeholder, Brad Smith, The Nature Conservancy, Joe Freeze, stakeholder, 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.

- **Good News: Indiana American Water Environmental Grant awarded for Merom Bluff Park Improvements. Grant total = \$1,130** and efforts will start immediately in order to have some items completed before the annual Merom Chautauqua Festival.

Review Data/Loads

To date, 12 months of data collection has been completed on 30 sites throughout the TTK watershed. The watershed coordinator compiled all data and completed load calculations for each site for the following pollutants: TSS (Total Suspended Solids), E.coli, Nitrates/Nitrites, and Total Phosphorus. Data was presented to the Advisory Committee with corresponding 'highlighted' maps showing areas of particularly high concentrations. A generous amount of time was spent evaluating the data and discussing collection methods, accuracy, etc.

Water Quality Targets were also determined beforehand for each of the main pollutants. These targets are based upon the recommendations of IDEM, EPA, and other water quality studies. Some targets are more stringent than 'drinking water requirements' for the purpose of striving to achieve excellent water quality not only for consumption, but for biotic integrity. The goals are as follows:

- **Total Suspended Solids Water Quality Target = 10mg/L**
- **Nitrates/Nitrites Water Quality Target = 1.0 mg/L**
- **Total Phosphorus Water Quality Target = 0.07 mg/L**
- **E.coli Water Quality Target = 235 cfu/100ml (cfu = colony forming unit)**

(All data will be uploaded to the website in the future and made public)

Critical Areas

Josh Brosmer, IDEM, explained how critical areas must be determined to satisfy the requirements of the TTK Watershed Management Plan (still being drafted at this time). Previously submitted draft critical areas were not deemed sufficient by EPA; it was recommended that monitoring data be complete and a ranking process occur in order to prioritize selected subwatersheds. It was also stated **that cost-share implementation for TTK can begin once the WMP receives approval from IDEM** (instead of needing to wait for EPA's final approval, which is likely to take more time).

After reviewing the data, it was apparent that the data supports many of **the originally favored draft critical areas (Thunderbird Pond, Dodd's Bridge, West Turman, and Little Turtle Creek)**. These areas were selected by Advisory Committee based on preliminary data, visual verification, and overall concerns based on land-use in certain regions.

However, it was agreed that **the number of critical areas proposed for cost-share should be narrowed down to only three at most**. It is greatly hoped that the DNR LARE (Lake and River Enhancement) grant application for a Watershed Land Treatment program will be funded, which would provide a wider array of cost-share options for landowners within the Turtle Creek watershed (Little Turtle Creek, Turtle Creek, and Buzzard Pond), which also exhibits many impairments (though



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perhaps not as severe in some cases). Having LARE funding alongside 319 funding would allow for a more comprehensive implementation program with the added benefit of two-way match!

It was decided that a system for **ranking** the watersheds should be developed. First, pollutants were ranked in order from most to least important in terms of 319 grant focus. **1. Sediment 2. Nutrients** (combining Nitrates/Nitrites with Total Phosphorus) **3. E.coli** (though many sites showed serious impairments, it is not within the scope of 319 to be able to directly target this pollutant).

Much discussion ensued regarding how to rank the data. Three different variations were considered: **1. Percent pollutant load reduction needed to reach water quality goals 2. Pollutant load by volume 3. Score based on number of monthly 'fails' for each watershed** ('fail' any time pollutant concentration exceeded target goals). The watershed coordinator will return to the office to complete the calculations and will then email the results to the Advisory Committee members for a vote.

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting will take place on **Tuesday, July 14th, 2015 at 6:30pm**
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