



# TTK Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016

6:30 – 7:45 p.m. EST

Hoosier Energy Environmental Education Center

**Attendees:** Josh Brosmer, IDEM, Bruce Marheine, WLRM, Trey Clark, WLRM, Brad Smith, The Nature Conservancy, Alli McKain, Sullivan SWCD Coordinator/Educator, Laura Demarest, WCIWA Watershed Coordinator

## Introduction

Refreshments were provided along with a brief summary of grant activities to date.

- **Status of Ongoing Projects**

- **TTK Cost-Share Program** – There is currently under \$50,000 in cost-share funding that needs to be allocated before January 2017 for the first round of TTK cost-share funding. Some construction projects are slated for this fall (post-harvest) and there is a promising amount of cover crop interest and precision agriculture interest. Additional advertising and promotion will continue.
- **Clean Water Indiana Grant** – a limited amount of funding is still available for practices outside of Turman; some funding has been allocated for fall cover crops.
- **LARE Grant application** – The grant has officially been funded for \$30,000 for the Turtle Creek watershed! It is likely that a significant portion of the funds will be spent this fall on cover crops. However, the grant stipulates that 50% of the funding must go towards permanent structural projects.

## Event Planning

For the remainder of the TTK 319 Planning and Implementation grant, two major tasks need to be completed: a regional water-quality field day and a public demonstration of a Best Management Practices. Ideas for both are in their early planning stages. Details are as follows:

- **TTK Wabash Canoe Float Field Day - RESCHEDULE**
  - New Date: Saturday, October 15<sup>th</sup>
  - Springer Insurance policy can be transferred to a new date
  - Need to call Conservation Officers, Merom Conference Center, previously scheduled guests, and interested participants to notify and resume planning/advertising.
  - Brad Smith, if available, offered to provide a presentation on the Wabash River during the picnic lunch afterwards.
- **TTK Fall Cover Crop Demo Plot:** A cover crop demo plot is planned for fall with seed donated by Byron Seeds dealer, Darin Cox. Joe Freeze volunteered his field near Farmersburg and Highway 41 for use. Large signs, reading something like, "PLANT" "COVER" "CROPS" "FOR" "SOIL" "HEALTH" will be installed. The cover crops cannot be planted, however, until after the corn is harvested, though it appears that corn in the region is quickly maturing and harvest will not be as late as previously anticipated. Will make contact with both Joe and Darin ASAP to determine feasibility of planting for this fall.
- **Ideas for Spring Field Day:**
  - Planter/Sprayer set-up with expert speaker
  - Alternative Crop Field Day (can use fairground for plot?) or visit farm with alternative crops
  - Pigg Implement Planter Clinic – propose an afternoon introductory session for farming partners, family, and other interested individuals who want to learn more about the technical aspect of agriculture.
  - Additionally, some discussion of a meeting change of venue occurred based on the recent participants. It was suggested that the USDA office may be a more convenient location for the next meeting.

## Next Meeting Date

TBA

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

*Prepared and submitted by: L. Demarest*