



# Plummer Creek Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Monday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2017  
7:00 – 8:30 p.m. EST

Greene County Soil and Water Conservation District

**Attendees:** Josh Brosmer - IDEM, Rita Sharr – Greene SWCD Board, Bridget Stancombe – DNR, Goose Pond, Laura Demarest – 319 Coordinator

## Introduction, Status Updates

Refreshments were provided (courtesy of Greene Co. SWCD) and introductions were made.

### Status Updates

- **Overview of Plummer Creek 319 Implementation Grant** –The history and current status of the Plummer Creek Watershed Project was briefly summarized for new attendees. To reiterate, the current Plummer Creek 319 grant amounts to \$279,979 with a match commitment of \$186,655 for a total project value of \$466,634. Funding specifically allocated for cost-share implementation equals \$140,000. This grant will be administrated from May 2016-April 2019 by the Greene County SWCD.
- **WAIT LIST status** - At this time, all \$140,000 in cost-share funding has been completely allocated and a Wait List has been enacted. The Wait List has approximately 10-12 producers on it and continues to grow. Interested participants are advised to apply for Wait List status ASAP.
- **Match Goals/IDEM Status Review** – A recent IDEM status review conducted by Josh Brosmer pointed out that expenditures on cost-share are coming close to outpacing match accrual. This implementation project has been a bit unusual in that cost-share interest was so very strong initially, so field days and other events (considered secondary priority tasks) have been left for the latter part of the grant project. However, based on estimations of future match (including field days, unfunded monitoring, sign installation, etc.) it seems certain that the match goal will be attainable.
- **Application for Additional 319 Funding Update** – At the end of August 2017, a grant application was submitted for additional 319 implementation funding in the Plummer Creek watershed. The application requested \$200,000 for cost-share funding in this area. No news of whether or not the application has been selected for funding has been received, though it is believed that there is a high likelihood that it will qualify. Information regarding funding selection is expected before the end of the calendar year.

## Upcoming Field Day(s)

The Plummer Creek 319 Implementation project requires a certain number of field days and outreach tasks to be completed.

### Under the Watershed Field Day

- **Details** - Wednesday, November 15<sup>th</sup> at the Richard Blenz Nature Preserve (private property). Cost will be free to participants. Partners include Bloomington Indiana Grotto, Indiana Karst Conservancy, Richard Blenz Nature Preserve. From 9:00 am – 12:30 there will be several presenters on topics including cave biology, karst hydrology, local geology, and water quality. The morning portion will feature a brief, guided hiking tour with lunch to follow. After lunch, an optional guided caving excursion will be offered into Buckner Cave (with prior RSVP so we can acquire enough equipment for each participant). This includes crawling, climbing, and stoop-walking and is considered strenuous for those with health conditions.
- **Additional Planning Aspects to Address** –
  - Lunch Sponsor – Rita suggested that Farm Bureau may be a good candidate to solicit, especially if pursuing insurance quotes through their agency. Bloombank has also been known to sponsor lunch for various events, though they are under new ownership and may not have the same policies as before.
  - Insurance quotes – Quotes are still being sought through Springer insurance (Watershed Coordinator has worked with them on past events in other areas with good results), though additional quotes can be pursued through other agencies.

**Upcoming Spring Field Day Ideas** - Another field day focusing on cover crops is slated for early spring (~March). The PCWP is seeking a volunteer landowner that could host an event on-site showcasing completed 319 projects, especially including cover crops. Also, Ms. Stancombe mentioned several water quality-related events conducted at Goose Pond that PCWP could potentially assist with as a partner. The new Goose Pond Visitor's Center may also be an applicable site for events, provided that the subject material aligns with DNR's existing focus and mission.

## Next Quarterly Meeting Date

TBD

Meetings are held at the Greene County Soil and Water Conservation District in Bloomfield, IN.

