



Plummer Creek Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, August 2nd, 2016
7:00 – 9:00 p.m. EST

Greene County Soil and Water Conservation District

Attendees: Josh Brosmer - IDEM, Charles Britton - Farmer, Rita Sharr - Farmer/Greene SWCD Board Chair, Martha Miller - Monroe SWCD, Casey Kennett – Greene SWCD, Adam Grossman – Vigo Co. Parks/Former PCWP Coordinator, Matt Crowe – Farmer, Cara Bergschneider – Monroe Co. NRCS, Tammy Swihart – Greene NRCS, Laura Demarest – PCWP Coordinator

Introduction

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

Brief Status Updates

- **Origin of Plummer Creek Watershed Project** – This meeting represented the 'kick-off' for Phase 2 of the Plummer Creek Watershed Project. A previous 319 Planning grant had been awarded from 2012-2015 for the purposes of forming an Advisory Committee, collecting water monitoring data, gathering stakeholder concerns, spreading awareness about impaired water quality, and promoting conservation practices designed to reduce pollutant loads throughout the watershed. The end result of the 319 Planning grant was a comprehensive Watershed Management Plan, outlining critical areas of the watershed as well as pollutant load reduction goals and a wealth of data and other important insights. After a brief 'layover', the Plummer Creek Watershed Project has resumed to carry out the Implementation phase, where the chief focus will be the promotion and installation of best management practices (BMPs) in critical areas of the watershed with the use of cost-share funding.
- **Overview of Plummer Creek 319 Implementation Grant** – Phase 2 of the Plummer Creek Watershed Project includes a 319 grant for \$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 with the help of a newly hired Watershed Coordinator. Various partner organizations and neighboring county SWCDs will assist with cost-share promotion, conservation planning, field day preparation, and other outreach efforts. The Plummer Creek watershed consists of 110,946 acres in total, with 97,475 acres in eastern Greene County, 13,038 acres spanning into Monroe County and 433 acres in southeastern Owen County. Land use is summarized as follows: Forest 72%, Hay/Pasture 12.6%, Herbaceous 7.67%, Cropland 3.25%, Developed/Open Space 2.94%.

PCWP Cost-Share Guidelines

Before funding can commence, a number of decisions were made by the Advisory Committee regarding specifics of the PCWP Cost-Share Program. The PCWP Cost-Share Guidelines will be submitted to IDEM for approval.

- **Review Eligibility Parameters:**
 - **Definition of Critical Areas:** According to the Plummer Creek Watershed Management Plan, there were a wide range of stakeholder concerns, though it was determined that cost-share funds would be best utilized for conservation practices on land with livestock present or cropland. This constitutes approximately 15% of the watershed, but will have a great impact when it comes to improving overall water quality.
 - **IDEM-Approved Best Management Practice List:** A list of eligible BMPs was provided; practices follow NRCS specifications and will be installed according to Field Office Technical Guide recommendations. The Advisory Committee used this list to determine which practices to offer for the PCWP Cost-Share Program.
 - **BMPs Suitable for Plummer Creek watershed:** In total, the Advisory Committee chose 42 individual conservation practices to offer for cost-share implementation. A complete list will be available to the public after IDEM has approved the Cost-Share Guidelines.
- **PCWP Cost-Share Guidelines - Stipulations:**
 - **Funding Cap/Customer:** A \$50,000 /customer cap will be instituted.
 - **Determine % Cost-Share rates for certain practices:** In general, 75% cost-share will be available for the majority of BMPs. Exceptions will be outlined in the Cost-Share Guidelines, pending IDEM approval.

Next Meeting Date

Tuesday, October 11th – 7:00 pm

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