Treaty Creek-Wabash River WMP Steering Committee Meeting

20 December 2017

Attendees: Adam Jones, MaryLou Musselman, Tashina Lahr-Manifold, Jen Rankin, Dick Beamer, Mike Beauchamp, Steve Johnson, Bob Brown, Curt

Concerns List:

Miami County is largely owned by Mary Hettmansberger and already in conservation programs

Redside dace (endangered species) occurs in Mill Creek – impacts of water quality on this species?

Impacts of agricultural land

Flooding impacts/topsoil loss

Fertilizers and pesticides flowing to the river

River is muddy

Industrial impacts to the Wabash including materials from manufacturing process and/or inputs from runoff

Landfill – is this impacting the Wabash

Indiana American Water drinking water supply – wellhead protection area

Parking lot runoff impacts

Potential for spills from railroads

Livestock access to Wabash River tributaries

Agricultural landowner participation in existing conservation programs

Streambank erosion

Stormwater runoff

Long-term effort to remove trash – are there still sources?

Project History: WRD started as a clean-up focused effort removing 124.5 tons of material since their inception. WRD shifted into water quality improvement focused efforts in 2015.

Project Overview: Peel provided an overview highlighting the three goals of the project: Watershed plan development, monitoring, outreach and education. See overview sheet for details.

Monitoring Update: Committee reviewed planned sample sites. Discussion of options for identifying human versus animal E. Coli were discussed. Volunteer drivers would like to reorder sample numbers to match the order of sample collection. Sites will be renumbered from 1-12 in the following order: W7, W8, W9, W11, W12, W10, W6, W5, W4, W1, W2, W3.

Outreach and Engagement:

* NRCS/SWCD may be able to produce a mailing list to which information could be mailed. Likely address list could not be provided.
* Host one launch meeting – likely in Wabash – REMC building is good option or Crystal Room at the Honeywell Center – late January/early February.
* Purdue extension has a newsletter going out soon. Farm classes may be an option for providing a handout or short presentation. Curt will provide option for future dates.
* Weatherspotting training on February 8th – option for speaking about the project.
* Engage during other events such as the SWCD annual meeting – short presentation on the project, potentially hand out an initial survey to anyone interested in the watershed, handout watershed information brochure.
  + Miami County SWCD annual meeting January 24th
  + Wabash County SWCD annual meeting March 2nd
* Steering committee members – who else should be invited: Mayor of Wabash, county surveyors
* Education committee – Rankin reviewed the future plans for creating an education committee. Members that should be included: FFA, classroom-based options for science and math teachers, Heartland Career Center ag course

Future meeting dates: look at 3rd Wednesday for even months – Peel will confirm with those that did not attend re: future participation then send meeting notice.