

## **Eagle Creek Watershed Alliance: Education Committee Meeting**

### **April 20, 2006 Meeting Minutes**

Meeting Location: Veolia Water, 1220 Waterway Blvd., Indianapolis

Scheduled Meeting Time: Thursday, April 20, 2006 9:00 – 11:00am

The meeting was called to order at 9:15am.

Education Committee members present included: Lenore Tedesco, John Ulmer, Angie Tilton, Maria Steiner, Kara Salazar, Lora Shrake, Glenn Pratt, Therese Burkhard, Karol Bartlett, Christine Curtis, Lynn Jenkins, and Karen LaMere.

Total man hours toward grant: 22 hours

The meeting started with introductions.

#### Update/Status of EPA 310 Grant Contract

Lora provided an update on the EPA 319 Grant contract. It was signed by the state on March 2, 2006 – this is the commencement date for the grant.

#### Technical Committee Positions

Lora announced Christine Curtis will chair the Education Committee. She will facilitate committee meetings and will work with Lora to establish meeting agendas. Lora will serve as the recorder.

A handout of the ECWA committee structure and potential partners was distributed. Lenore gave an overview of the structure and asked if anyone had suggestions on additional people/organizations we should invite to attend ECWA meetings. Christine suggested county solid waste district educators – she provided the name of Amy Sieferman for Hendricks County. John will investigate a contact for Boone County. Maria suggested Purdue extension educators. Nancy Scott is the extension educator for Marion County but leaves her position on May 12. The extension educator for Hendricks County is John Cain. Lora will search online to identify extension educators for Boone and Hamilton Counties. Lenore asked if DOW had educators. Karol said they have a community relations person but does not think there is an educator. Maria suggested inviting someone for Future Farmers of America (FFA). Angie said someone in her office is coordinating the FFA conference and she might be able to provide FFA contact information. The Nature Conservancy was also suggested.

Subcommittees were discussed. The Education committee will break out into subcommittees as needed. A MS4 subcommittee may be a good working group to have. Hamilton and Hendricks MS4 offices have worked together – it will be beneficial to bring Boone and Marion counties to the table also.

#### Review of Grant Timelines and Tasks

A timeline of contractual grant tasks was distributed to the committee and reviewed. Contractual requirements include: educational brochures, ECWA website, highway sign installation, educational displays and programs, and water quality awareness days. Of the educational brochures, three are required and should focus on: general watershed education,

NPS pollution, and septic systems. It is up to the Education Committee to determine the content of the brochures.

*Educational Brochures* – There are many examples of brochures we can use. It is likely that we will adopt and modify existing brochures so we are not “recreating the wheel”. John’s idea for a septic brochure is to educate homeowners on not only the maintenance of septic systems, but also the definition of a septic system and how it functions. It would be a good idea to establish a program that distributes this information to new home buyers. It was the consensus of the group that the first educational brochure that should be created is the General Watershed Education brochure. Kara asked if there are contractual requirements for materials we create. Lenore responded that the only requirement is that we must acknowledge any funding sources.

Lenore mentioned the Technical Committee wants educational materials for county boards, commissioners, etc. If we educate them on what we are doing, the counties will be more likely to work with us. Angie suggested a watershed tour. This worked for her when she was with Tippecanoe County. She coordinated a conservation/watershed tour with county officials that consisted of a bus tour (with demonstrations), lunch, education and conversation, and a boat tour. The first target audience of the Education Committee will be county officials. We will try to reach county officials through general education materials, attending their meetings, giving tours of the watershed, and adding officials to our newsletter distribution list.

*ECWA Website* – The ECWA website needs to be developed. Currently, it has general information on the ECWA and its goals – more resources are needed. Educational materials must be added to the website. The website is currently being housed on the CEES (IUPUI) server and is found through links on the CEES website ([www.cees.iupui.edu](http://www.cees.iupui.edu) → “Water Resources” link → “ECWA” link). John suggested it have a much easier and obvious domain name. The committee agreed. John will investigate available domain names. Kara will contact the individual who set up the university’s recycle website to get more information on university requirements for domain names and hosting websites on university servers.

*Water Quality Awareness Day* – This will be held in the fall (overlapping with World Water Monitoring Day events). This will be a top priority for the Education Committee if we are to establish our first Water Quality Awareness Day by September 2006. A subcommittee may need to be formed.

Maria mentioned that the Indiana Conservation Alliance (ICA) is having field days in September (weekends of Sept. 16 and 23). They want several events going on around the state during those weekends. This may be a good time for ECWA to hold tours of the watershed. John attends the ICA meetings and will represent ECWA at the next meeting (which will be held Friday, April 21). Project WET’s Make A Splash Program is having an event on September 22. The Indianapolis Clean Stream Team is hosting an event on May 9 at Riverside Park. ECWA could partner with Project WET and/or the Clean Stream Team. Based on the target audience for the Awareness Day, Lenore suggested we have a 2-day event on a Friday and Saturday to target both school groups and families. ECWA can work with parks for locations to hold the events. Lora will bring a map of parks in the watershed to the next meeting.

### Task Priorities

It was agreed that the highest priority tasks are the water quality awareness day, educational brochures, and the website – the prioritization is primarily based on the grant timeline.

### Other Business

Glenn mentioned Boone County would be interested in a septic demonstration model for education. Christine said Hendricks County would also be interested in this. Glenn responded that Minnesota has a good example of one.

Lora mentioned that ECWA has an opportunity to partner with Hoosier Heartland and Veolia to develop an educational watershed model. Christine explained that this will be a transportable model that will primarily be used for fairs and outreach events. This is not a contractually required 319 task but an option on how we can build our education program. The committee agreed we should partner with Hoosier Heartland on the development of the watershed model. Angie suggested creating a model based on the Healthy Water Healthy People activity called "There's No Points to this System", which is a watershed delineation activity.

### Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 23 at 3:30pm. The meeting will be held at the Indiana Wildlife Federation office (Zionsville).

The meeting adjourned at 11:00am.

### Action Items

- The committee will come back with ideas for education materials to be added to the ECWA website and the educational brochures.
- The committee will be prepared to discuss ideas for the first Water Quality Awareness Day – we may need members to form a subcommittee at the next meeting.
- John will investigate domain names for the ECWA website.
- Kara will look into university requirements for websites maintained on university servers.
- John will try to obtain contact information for the Boone County Solid Waste District educator (if the position exists).
- Lora will identify Purdue extension educators for Boone and Hamilton Counties.
- Angie will see if someone in her office has contact information for Future Farmers of America.
- Lora will bring a parks map to the next meeting to assist in identifying locations for the Water Quality Awareness Day.