

RE: Interim Planning Team Progress Report on the development of a Water Monitoring Council for Indiana

In November 2007, more than 50 representatives from diverse public and private entities actively engaged in water monitoring met to discuss the potential for a statewide water monitoring council in Indiana. This representative body achieved a consensus regarding the need for a water monitoring council in Indiana and established an interim planning team to develop an initial council structure from the input provided. This was done with the intent that the interim planning team would present the results of this work to the larger representative body at the Indiana Water Resource Association (IWRA) Spring Meeting on May 14th, 2008 for approval. (More detailed information on the initial process can be found online at the newly established council site at <http://www.inwmc.org>)

For the past 6 months, the interim planning team has worked to create a comprehensive yet straightforward framework that remains flexible to the influence of future leadership. This work has included research of existing state monitoring councils and development of a proposed council vision, mission, charter, and supporting bylaws (attached).

The next steps necessary for the formation of an Indiana Water Monitoring Council include soliciting active feedback from those throughout the state with an interest in water monitoring regarding the proposed framework and nominations for the development of an Executive Board (as outlined in the charter). To facilitate this process, the interim planning team is releasing the draft content for review and comment prior to the May IWRA meeting with an outline of seats requiring nominations for representative board membership. All comments and nominations should be directed via email to the interim planning team chair, Bill Guertal (wguertal@usgs.gov).

A final written draft will be presented for approval by the larger representative body prior to the IWRA Spring Meeting, on Wednesday, May 14th from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at the Bloomington Radisson. The Executive Board membership will also be determined at that time. Please consider contributing time to review the attached content, reply with your comments, and plan to attend the May meeting. Registration for IWRA meeting is NOT required if you plan to attend the Water Monitoring Council meeting only.

Schedule for Input on the Proposed Framework

April 18th – Draft Released for Comment and Call for Nominations
April 30th – Comments Due for Inclusion in Final Draft
May 1st – Second Draft Released with Board Nominations Received
May 9th – Final Comments and Nominations Due
May 14th – Final Draft Presented for Approval, Board Election, and Luncheon
Bloomington 10AM-Noon (Prior to the IWRA Spring Meeting)

On behalf of the entire planning team, I look forward to your comments and interest as we move forward on this exciting endeavor.

William Guertal (USGS), Chair

Jody Arthur (IDEM), Siavash Beik (Christopher Burke Engineering), Leighanne Hahn (Office of Indiana State Chemist), Terry Stephenson (Historic Hoosier Hills RC&D), Stu Shipman (IDNR), Elizabeth Trybula (IASWCD)