

Wildcat Creek Watershed Alliance Board Meeting
on December 13, 2008,
at the Russiaville Public Library

Board Members Present:

Jack Rhoda, President	Jeff Phillips	Glen Boise
Christian Chauret	Leah Harden	
John Maher	Joe O'Donnell	
Ben Franklin	Michelle Gilbert	

Others Present:

Sarah Brichford	Ken Munro	Linda Eastman
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- I. President Rhoda called the meeting to order as 6:30 PM. He asked everyone to introduce themselves.
- II. Mr. Rhoda noted the minutes for the October 23, 2008 meeting were not available. He read the minutes in summary to those present. Mr. Chauret moved to approve the minutes; motion seconded by Mr. Franklin; and motion passed.
- III. Mr. Rhoda asked for the Treasurer's Report. Acting Treasurer Chauret distributed his report. He noted receiving \$3,000 for the Little Wildcat Creek project. Also, he stated he had discovered that IDEM had reimbursed the Alliance twice for the same claim. He will contact the current IDEM representative, Crystal Rehder, about correcting it. Mr. Rhoda reported that the Indiana American Water Co. had informed him, they would donate \$2,000 to the Alliance in January of 2009. Ms. Gilbert moved to approve the Treasurer's Report; motion seconded by Mr. Franklin; and motion passed.
- IV. Committee Reports
 - A. By-Laws Update – Mr. Boise described the various changes proposed for the Alliance's By-Laws. They include changing the Board members' titles from Member to Director, and providing for remote meetings using the many electronic means of communication. Mr. Rhoda asked for a motion from the Board. Mr. O'Donnell made the motion to approve the changes to the By-Laws; motion seconded by Mr. Chauret; and motion passed. Mr. Boise was requested to send out cleaned up copies of the By-Laws to the members and for posting on the Alliance's website.
 - B. Fund Raising – Mr. Franklin reported he had not been able to contact Jill Hoffman about the Upper White River Alliance's fund raising efforts. The Board discussed different aspects of fund raising. Mr. Franklin requested others join the committee as several original members have left the Alliance. Mr. Phillips reported seeing an Upper White River Alliance display at the Muncie Mall. He felt it was impressive.
 - C. Education – Ms. Gilbert reported the grant application to the Center for Watershed Protection was not accepted. She noted that the effort has produced a good template for future grant applications. Mr. Chauret suggested summarizing the grant as a one page handout for handing out during fund raising. Ms. Gilbert she would miss the next several Board meetings.
- V. Old Business
 - A. Mr. Rhoda reported meeting with Crystal Rehder, IDEM, and Heather Buck, CBBEL, for

the quarterly site visit for the Little Wildcat Creek Implementation Grant on December 11, 2008. They discussed the status of the grant and that some \$20,000 was not committed. They had discussed several ideas. One proposed having a series of workshops on using rain barrels. It would include selling barrels to residents in the watershed at the grant supported cost. The Board discussed which neighborhoods in the Little Wildcat Creek Watershed had residents who might be interested in rain barrels. It was suggested to invite residents from Sharpsville as the town was partially in the watershed. It was emphasized that the grant expired on March 31, 2009. Other proposed activities discussed were installing a rain garden on the Jackson Morrow Park grounds, on golf courses, church properties, and school properties. The Board discussed other ideas. The postcards for the original grant project offering rain barrels and construction of rain gardens at grant subsidized prices still needed to be mailed out. Mr. Rhoda asked for a motion. Mr. O'Donnell made a motion to authorize three workshops on rain barrels and rain gardens for residents in the Little Wildcat Creek Watershed including in Sharpsville and to investigate further improvements at Jackson Morrow Park. Motion seconded by Mr. Phillips. Motion was approved. Mr. Rhoda stated he would contact Ms. Buck on our decision.

- B. Clinton County SWCD 319 grant application – Ms. Harden reported the grant process was uncertain given the leadership transition at the Federal level. She noted that IDEM had complemented them on their grant application.
- C. The “Strategic Plan” discussion – Ms. Gilbert reported sending out copies of the Alliance's Strategic Plan to the members. She noted it was still labeled “Draft”. Mr. Boise volunteered to see if he could remove the “Draft”. Ms. Gilbert would send the Plan out again.
- D. Alliance Letterhead – Mr. Maher presented the selected letterhead with the changes the Board had requested. Mr. Rhoda suggested increasing the size of “Watershed Alliance”. The Board reviewed the revised letterhead. Mr. Phillips suggested it was boring. The Board looked at the set of original proposed letterheads. The version with the outline of Indiana, the partial outlines of the watershed counties and the Wildcat Creek watershed appealed to some of the Board. They suggested completing the outlines of the watershed counties and replacing the Wildcat Creek watershed with just the major streams. They would be more recognizable for more people. Mr. Maher stated he will contact the designer and request the changes.
- E. Network Annual Meeting – Mr. Rhoda asked the Board what were their desires on holding the annual meeting. The By-Laws called for holding an annual meeting in the first quarter of the year. We have not done so for many years. He wanted a return to holding the annual meetings. It would help attract a broader audience for the Alliance's activities. Mr. Franklin suggested delaying the 2009 meeting until the second quarter given the time constraints. Ms. Harden asked what the possible agenda would include. Some of the ideas put forward are: the state of the Wildcat Creek; past projects of the Alliance and others in the watershed; an Alliance business meeting; update on the Continental Steel Super Fund Site in Kokomo; and what the attendees desired for the future. Mr. Rhoda asked Ms. Brichford and Ms. Harden to form a committee for organizing the annual meeting. They agreed to form the committee. The Board discussed possible meeting sites.

VI. New Business

- A. Little Wildcat Creek Bank Restoration Project – Ms. Brichford reported the restoration work would begin December 15, 2008. The Wildcat Creek Guardians, some DNR staff and others have volunteered to work. The Board discussed the event.

B. Mr. Rhoda inquired about interest in holding a meeting with local officials, possibly using a tele-conference format. Mr. Phillips stated he still had materials from the previous effort organizing a similar meeting.

VII. Other Business

A. Ms. Brichford reported on the Wildcat Creek Guardian's project supported by Delphi Electronics and Toyota Motors Co.

B. Mr. Boise reported Howard County had finally received funding for the buying and demolition of their Dellwood Dr. property.

C. Mr. Phillips volunteered to join the Education Committee.

D. Mr. O'Donnell reported that engineers for the Hoosier Heartland Corridor Highway Project had contacted him seeking sites for mitigating damage from construction of the highway.

VIII. Next Meeting - The next meeting was set for January 22, 2009 at the Russiaville Pubic Library starting at 6:30 PM.

IX. Adjournment – Mr. Rhoda adjourned the meeting at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted by: _____
Glen R. Boise, Acting Secretary