

SWEET Meeting Minutes
Monday August 14, 2023 at 10:30am
This meeting was held virtually and in person.

Present: Maggie Sullivan (Friends of Lake Monroe), Martha Miller (MC Soil and Water CD) Elisa Pokral (The District), Trohn Enright-Randolph (MC Surveyors Office), Michael Dorsett (Indiana University), Tamby Wikle-Cassady (resident of MC), Rebecca Swift (Bloomington Parks and Rec) and Adam Rickert (MC MS4).

1. Call to Order

2. Big Collaboration Items (those needing group discussion)

- i. City of Bloomington Utilities Newsletter is in development.
- ii. INAFSM-Indiana Association of Floodplain and Stormwater Management Conference is scheduled for 9/13-9/15/2023. If SWEET members are attending INAFSM conference, carpooling might be a possibility.
- iii. Discussion of completing a survey to determine optimal SWEET meeting time and date was tabled until later in the meeting.

3. Agency and Department Updates

a. Friends of Lake Monroe (Maggie Sullivan)

- i. Gearing up for annual **Lake Monroe Day** on Sunday September 17, 2023. For the week leading up to 9 17 2023, FLM will have events such as hiking, biking, kayaking, pontoon boat rides, shoreline clean ups and water treatment plant tours. On the evening of 9/17, a celebration/fundraiser at the Upland Wood Shop (350 W 11th Street, Bloomington) is planned. Information and registration for the events planned during this week is available on the Events section of FLM website, <https://friendsoflakemonroe.org/events/>
- ii. FLM is working on a cost share program within the watershed, and it includes the counties of Brown, Jackson and Monroe. Martha Miller is assisting with the cost share program which encourages conservation practices.
- iii. In October, DNR is sponsoring a **Monroe Lake Cleanup Week** with a week's worth of cleanup events. A cookout is planned during this week; an Eventbrite registration link will be forwarded by Maggie when available.
- iv. Maggie attended the **Indiana Water Summit** (August 10-11) and reported the focus was on managing water resources on a statewide level in terms of quantity and water quality. Maggie, along with Kat (CBU) gave a presentation on watershed planning, who the key partners are and how it works. Kat spoke on the importance of protecting source water for drinking water and the cost comparisons in treating a problem after it has happened to prevention efforts. For Lake Monroe, harmful algal blooms and the complications in treating the water to render it safe and tasty for drinking. Another watershed group from the toe of Indiana presented on the issues present in their neck of the woods such as coal mine acid drainage. The Watershed Summit provided an opportunity to compare and contrast what watershed planning looks like around Indiana. Each year for the conference, the Indiana Water Summit completes a 5 to 6 page white paper to summarize what was discussed and what the actions items are.

The white paper is then made available to elected officials throughout Indiana.

b. The Go Green District (Elisa Pokral)

- i. Elisa is planning on attending the graduate student mixer for environmental not for profits scheduled from 3 to 6 on 8 15 2023.
- ii. Elisa just returned from vacation and is currently preparing curriculum for the (hopefully normal) academic school year.

c. City of Bloomington Parks & Recreation (Rebecca Swift)

- i. Rebecca recently co-hosted a **Hoosier Riverwatch** training and added 7 new Hoosier Riverwatch volunteers to the system.
- ii. Several SWEET members have previously attended instructor level **Hoosier Riverwatch** training. As a reminder, if you would like to host your own basic training for staff or the public, just let Rebecca or Autumn know and they can provide training support.
- iii. **Bugfest** is coming up on September 23 and some of you on this call have already responded by signing up as an exhibitor. Bugfest is in its tenth year as one year was cancelled due to Covid. Bugfest 2022 had over 1500 in attendance and due to parking considerations, it has been moved to Karst Farm Park. A link to sign up for **Bugfest 2023** was placed in the SWEET Agenda:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfbYHRZ4tVT0hBUrYv9VeEP4rb_nDSR6LiuiCWDN0xoyNHwA/viewform

- iv. **World Rivers Day**: Rebecca found an older program guide that her predecessor used to do and decided to bring back. As a result, Bloomington Parks and Recreation is planning a creek clean up at Switchyard Park on September 24th from 1 to 3 pm. The Bloomington Parks and Recreation Fall Program Guide will go live later in the week and have info on the Switchyard clean up event.
- v. **Nature Days** starts again on September 5. **Looking** for Creek Station Facilitators and/or Group Leaders for Leonard Springs on Tuesdays from 9:45-2pm. Rebecca included the following links to sign up within the Agenda:

[September 5](#)
[September 12](#)
[September 19](#)
[September 26](#)
[October 10](#)
[October 17](#)
[October 24](#)
[November 8](#)

- vi. Discussion on lack of USGS stream gauges in Monroe County occurred and their importance to stream water quantity and quality monitoring. As a first step, Rebecca mentioned reviewing publicly available data through the Hoosier Riverwatch database. Martha mentioned that NRCS and IDEM has additional data beyond Hoosier Riverwatch data. Maggie indicated that USGS stream gauges (and where they are placed) was mentioned during the Water Summit last week. During the Water Summit, USGS and US Army Corps and DNR are talking about doing a statewide study to determine where the bigger gaps of where the streams are not monitored. A large part of the study is to determine where flooding is likely to occur and to have a basis to prioritize future stream gauge placement. Another important aspect both Maggie and Michael brought up is the fairly expensive cost to maintain a stream gauge. For past USGS stream gauge installations, a local partner is necessary who helps cover the costs.
- vii. Parks and Recreation is rolling out a new asset management software (during 2024) that heavily utilizes GIS data. Currently CBU uses the software and City of Bloomington Planning Department will use it as well.

d. City of Bloomington MS4 (Kriste Lindberg)

Kriste was not able to attend the meeting, however Adam summarized the items Kriste had placed in the agenda:

- i. Residential stormwater grant application deadline is **September 1, 2023**.
- ii. First Landscape Education Workshop was hosted by CBU on July 26, 2023 and it was well attended. 34 attendees at the “start of the bell” with more arriving over the course of the event.
- iii. Climate Change Resilience Task Force Update: 10 16 2023 workshop on addressing vulnerability priorities.
- iv. CBU is working on a storm drain marking program/stormwater landing page designed to help determine what programs the public might want to get involved.

e. Monroe County SWCD (Martha Miller)

- i. Martha mentioned the Beanblossom Watershed Planning Grant that should go live in late fall 2023.
- ii. Soil and Water just submitted the Notice of Intent for Indian Creek with Sara Peel as the watershed coordinator for both projects. Sentinel Landscaping has provided a letter of support for Indian Creek as this is an important target area for them.
- iii. Soil and Water will be at Peden Farms for the Children’s Farm Festival as well as the Fall Festival Education Day.
- iv. Martha mentioned the Indiana Watershed Leadership Academy has opened up for registration and indicated this was an extremely valuable watershed training experience for her.
- v. Erica Eason is the new Resource Technician for Soil and Water. Erica has a background in small farm urban permaculture, urban ag and soil health.

f. Indiana University (Michael Dorsett)

- i. IU has a new education effort of household hazardous waste. Disposal information for all IU campuses around the state will be included on their website. Display ads and videos will be part of the household hazardous waste education effort.
- ii. A stream clean up event is being planned for this fall.

g. Monroe County Surveyors Office (Trohn Enright-Randolph)

- i. In May, Surveyors Office obtained unanimous County Council support to establish a GIS Technician position. Trohn hopes to have the position filled in the next few weeks. The team of two will provide even greater GIS resources for those requesting assistance.
- ii. Surveyors Office is moving to north end of Showers building.
- iii. Obtained support from County Commissioner to expand GIS licensing. Moving forward, MC will have ample licenses to distribute to county staff with 3 levels of users: “pro”, “intermediate” and “novice”. Trohn stated the distribution of additional licenses is a “game changer.” Trohn intends to have greater GIS resources available to county staff and the public including Soil and Water, Solid Waste District, Monroe County Public Library and provide training within the new space for staff requesting GIS assistance and skill development.
- iv. Indiana Farm Bureau is doing their 2023 Drainage School on August 30th with **August 24th** as the deadline to register: <https://www.infarmbureau.org/drainage>

4. Public Input

- a. Tamby indicated she just wanted to see what SWEET does and had no comments for the meeting.

5. Discussion of determining potential change to SWEET meeting time and/or day.

a. Discussion included:

- currently SWEET meeting is 2nd Monday of the month starting at 10:30am, for future meetings the day of the month and starting time can be changed
- in relation to the starting time: “the earlier the better” with starting at 9am being ideal.
- I second starting at 9am.
- all of the Mondays are the same for me
- Adam has a standing meeting starting at 9 every 2nd Monday of the month, however choosing a different day of the month would not pose any schedule conflicts
- Any other day except for Mondays, I have schedule conflicts
- Suggestion of sending out another poll/survey
- in relation to starting at 9am: “payroll is due on Mondays for me; however it is not consistently the 1st, 2nd, 3rd or 4th Monday and for the instances that I have a schedule conflict, I can update the agenda and just be a little late.”
- in the event I am unable to attend, hoping to have fellow staff attend SWEET meeting and provide updates and engage in discussion

6. Adjournment

- b. Date of Next Meeting: Monday September 11, 2023 at 10:30am, HYBRID
 - i. Zoom links will be sent. In-person will be held in room 100B.