

SWEET Meeting Minutes

Monday November 27, 2023 at 10:00am

This meeting was held virtually and in person.

Meeting Recording:

<https://monroecounty-in.zoom.us/rec/share/l262VzEx0JbEP6zgbLf4m9zDbVHOuARbXkIDAFsE-JyX6O-EDIJi2w31B7N14JXb.jvw20EScv19NG5x9>

Present: Autumn Brunelle (MC Parks and Recreation), Rebecca Swift (City of Bloomington Parks and Recreation), Erica Eason (MC Soil and Water), Kriste Lindberg (City of Bloomington Utilities), Trohn Enright-Randolph (MC Surveyors Office), Adam Rickert (MC MS4), Michael Dorsett (Indiana University), David Lampe (USGS and resident of MC).

1. Call to Order

Introductions of attendees within conference room 100B and online.

2. Big Collaboration Items (those needing group discussion)

- a. SWEET Meeting Minutes Newsletter/Flyer
 - i. Develop a 1 page document/flyer to promote SWEET with contents to include participating organizations logo's, events/programs we would like to highlight, 1-2 sentences to describe participating organizations and their services, QR code. Discussion and questions as to intended audience for flyer: public, with purpose to let public know SWEET exists and to encourage public to participate with events/programs. Autumn discussed Indiana Native Seed Communities ½ page brochure as a template for SWEET flyer. Discussion of having a SWEET sub-webpage (or landing page) that describes who is on SWEET and examples of the programs/events available through SWEET participating agencies/organizations and a flyer promoting the SWEET landing page/sub webpage. The flyer/brochure and/or landing page could have pictures of stream clean up events and other events that may occur throughout the year, yet do not have an established date, time, location or existing webpage. The idea of creating a landing page with hyperlinks for all events, including established events (Bugfest, Adopt A Stream) was discussed.
 - ii. Discussion of developing a quarterly newsletter for SWEET. Initial part of newsletter discussion focused on completing landing page and brochure/flyer first and then developing a newsletter to keep the public engaged. Questions asked by Autumn included, 1) how the public would sign up and consent to receive the newsletter and 2) from what account (email) the newsletter would be sent? SWEET currently has a SWEET Facebook account, although posts are infrequently completed. Trohn made the point of responsibility and maintenance for a landing page or a FB profile.

3. Agency and Department Updates

- a. Friends of Lake Monroe
 - i. FYI, October field day was canceled due to family emergency at host farm.
 - ii. "Fireside Chat: Protecting Water Quality in Brown County" will be held at the Nashville Public Library on Monday December 4.
<https://www.friendsoflakemonroe.org/events-page/fireside-chat-improving-water-quality-in-brown-county>
 - iii. Have about \$45,000 in cost-share funds allocated and hoping to approve another \$30,000 in projects by the end of the year leaving \$15,000 available.
 - iv. Will focus heavily on septic system maintenance education in 2024.
- b. The Go Green District (Elisa Pokral)-No updates
- c. City of Bloomington Parks and Recreation (Rebecca Swift)
 - i. Rebecca is co-hosting a Hoosier Riverwatch Instructor Training in March 2024 with Autumn Brunelle and Dylan Allison with IDEM. Save the date for March 22, 2024 from 10-3 at Karst Farm Park with a registration link to be shared when available.
 - ii. Save the date for Adopt A Stream virtual orientation (for 2024-2025 season), March 28, 2024 from 5:30 to 6:30pm. Links will be shared when available.
 - iii. Leonard Springs Nature Days will begin in 2024 on March 26th. Rebecca is looking for creek station and karst station facilitators. Registration links will be shared when available.
 - iv. Rebecca received a scholarship to attend the Indiana Watershed Leadership Academy in 2024 offered through Purdue University and partnering through Indiana Lakes Management Society.
 - v. City of Bloomington Parks and Recreation is partnering with the (Bloomington) Economic and Sustainability Department to offer free climate action programs on the second Wednesday of the month, 12 to 12:45 at Switchyard Park. The idea is to offer the free workshops for people to come during their lunchtime to learn about different grant opportunities as well as different skill building opportunities (ex: rain garden installation) and selecting resilient species. Links for all events will not go live until December 15, 2023 when the winter/spring program season starts. Climate action workshop on June 12th will have Joanna Sparks providing a tour of Switchyard Park to point out some of the different green infrastructure and provide a planting species list for anyone that attends. Rebecca mentioned that future climate action workshop could be hosted by SWEET as an educational based/skill building

program related to a grant program. No preregistration is necessary to attend the free workshops.

- d. Monroe County Parks and Recreation (Autumn Brunelle)
 - i. Give a Whoop training is scheduled for January 20, 2024 at the Karst Farm Park Commons building. The registration for this free event, open to the public will not be available until later in December 2024.

- e. City of Bloomington MS4 (Kriste Lindberg)
 - i. Residential Stormwater Grants – All have been awarded for the year.
 - ii. Adopt-a-Drain – CBU does a newsletter for Adopt A Drain and SWEET could possibly develop a newsletter by learning from the Adopt A Drain newsletter.
 - iii. Kriste did a talk for the utilities service board last Monday evening.
 - iv. Adopt A Stream update, CBU has adopted a stream segment of Clear Creek North of the West Gordon Pike. CBU recently removed a lot of debris from this segment.
 - v. CBU is working with MC Community School Corporation in the maker challenge involving stormwater. Save the date for Friday Jan 5, 2024, from 9-11am, presentations on the makers challenge. Further details will be provided by Kriste when available.
 - vi. Climate change resilience task force had their 2nd workshop a couple of weeks ago and they are moving forward with their individual action groups.
 - vii. CBU is setting up a precipitation gauge through CoCoRaHS (Community Collaborative Rain, Hail, and Snow) network is a volunteer program through the National Weather Service.

- f. Monroe County Soil and Water (Erica Eason)
 - i. MCSW provided farm tours for 3rd graders during the fall at 4 separate farms. 2 to 3 days was spent at each farm. Erica reported it was a cool realization moment for many of the 3rd graders to begin to understand where their food comes from.
 - ii. MCSW is providing free soil tests for MC residents. The tests can be completed year round as long as the soil is not frozen. MCSW is partnering with MC IRIS and Erica has learned about invasives through this partnership. In the long run, Erica is hoping to evaluate any invasive species and erosion issues on the properties she is completing a soil test.

- g. Monroe County Highway Department Stormwater Program (Adam Rickert)
 - i. Contractors Workshop was on November 15, 2023. Adam provided a summary of some of the presentations including one on karst topography. Presentations from the workshop should be on MC Highway, Stormwater Program website in the next few weeks.
 - ii. For the January SWEET meeting, Adam would like to have a discussion about Minimum Control Measures (MCM) MS4 communities have to fulfill as part of their permit, specifically MCMs 1 and 2.
 - iii. Question from Kriste regarding the date of the SWEET meeting for 2024. Adam responded that the SWEET meeting will be the 4th Monday of the Month from 10 to 11 am.
 - iv. MC Highway Stormwater Program has completed limited storm drain marking over the last few weeks in neighborhoods without a HOA.
- h. Monroe County Surveyors Office (Trohn Enright-Randolph)
 - i. Trohn indicated a GIS interactive map that tracks the solar eclipse has been created. To access the site, you may have to pull up the MC GIS Division home page first, <https://gisserver.co.monroe.in.us/portal/apps/sites/#/monroe-county-gis-division> and then navigate to the **2024 Great American Solar Eclipse Path** web app under the **Featured Web Applications** banner.
 - ii. MC Surveyors Office has finished moving in to their new offices on the second floor of the Showers Building North, Suite 205.

4. Public Input

- a. David Lampe (with USGS) was in attendance. David indicated he is part of a research group with the USGS, looking at stormwater volume reduction and green infrastructure. As part of a study of a rain garden installation at City Hall in Gary, Indiana, David and others looked at reduction due to trees within basins. As part of a study in Wisconsin, the USGS monitored before (and after) Ash trees were removed from a basin.
- b. USGS has also studied urban flooding and provided low cost urban flooding type monitors. The City of Madison, Wisconsin has been involved with developing the urban flooding monitors.
- c. The **All Things Water in Indiana Science Symposium**, organized through the efforts of the **Indiana Water Monitoring Council** and **Indiana Water Resources Association** will be on 11/30/2023 at MADE in Plainfield Indiana.

5. Reminders

- 1) Tabling Collaboration - If you would like to coordinate to share tabling responsibilities at an upcoming event, post it to the [Event Calendar Spreadsheet](#) with a description, and note who has grouped together. Please also add it to the agenda for our next meeting, if there is time to do so, or send a note to the group that it is an option.

- 2) No SWEET meeting for December 2023, next SWEET meeting is scheduled for January 22, 2024.
- 3) City of Bloomington has several events scheduled for April 5-8, 2024 as part of the solar eclipse with information to be made available on the Parks and Recreation website. Discussion at (non SWEET) preparation meetings for the solar eclipse weekend has focused on the amount of people anticipated to arrive in Monroe County. In summary, the population of MC is expected to swell exponentially with a resulting strain on many grocery, restaurants, hotels, roadways and other areas. Rebecca framed the population increase as, "imagine this weekend as if every home IU football game, homecoming, and Little 5 were planned for the same weekend." Further discussion estimated the increase in population as between 600,000 to 1,000,000.
- 4) **Adjournment**
 - a. Date of Next Meeting: **Monday January 22, 2024**, HYBRID
 - i. Meeting links will be sent. In-person will be held in room 100B of Showers Building.