

SWEET Meeting Minutes Monday, July 22, 2024

After a brief check-in meeting began at 10:02am

In attendance: Erica Eason (MC Soil and Water), Kriste Lindberg (CBU), Adam Rickert (MCHD-SP) Trohn Enright-Randolph (MC Surveyors Office), Elisa Pokral (MC Waste Reduction District), Maggie Sullivan (Friends of Lake Monroe), Kelsey Thetonia (MCHD-SP), Rachael Sargent (City of Bloomington Planning).

BIG COLLABORATION ITEMS

- SWEET Landing Page was shared with attendees. Further minor edits will be made.
- 1 question survey, “How would you improve SWEET” was suggested.
- Draft SWEET mission statement was read, “Our mission is to support and enhance stormwater environmental education through collaboration and discovery.”

UPCOMING CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

- 60th Anniversary of Lake Monroe events, full list of events here: <https://events.in.gov/event/60th-anniversary-events-monroe-lake>
- [Indiana Water Summit](#) will happen in Indianapolis August 21-22
- Friends of Lake Monroe is offering a [Septic Maintenance Voucher](#) program in Monroe County
- [Bug Fest](#) is set for August 24, 2024
- Stream clean-up for [Lower Cascades](#) is scheduled for August.
- [Weed Wrangles](#) are happening monthly at various locations around Bloomington.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON PARKS AND RECREATION

- [Bug Fest](#) is set for August 24, 2024.
- Parks and Recreation is partnering with the City of Bloomington’s Department of Economic and Sustainable Development to offer free climate action programs the second Wednesday of the month from 12 to 12:45pm at Switchyard Park.
- Stream cleanup for [Lower Cascades](#) is scheduled for August.
- [Weed Wrangles](#) are happening monthly at various locations around Bloomington.

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON UTILITIES

- [Title 13](#) begins July 1, 2024 and is the enhanced stormwater regulations for CBU. Educational items in relation to Title 13 will be released.
- Kriste mentioned the informational meeting hosted by the Bloomington Economic Development Council on 7/17/2024.
- CBU is working on signage for their rain gardens as a weed whacker was recently used on one of their rain gardens.
- Kriste is working on doing another big push on Adopt A Drain.
- CBU is working with MCCSC on the Makers Challenge.
- CBU is working to participate in IDEM’s [Clean Community Program](#).
- New MS4 educators group has been created, hosted by Sarah Wolf of the Hendricks County Partnership for Water Quality.

- Making progress with the Heavy Rainfall subcommittee of the Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COAD) group.

MONROE COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION

- No report.

MONROE COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

- Erica has been working on the grants program with 5 of the 10 grants for the year.
- MC Soil and Water has received 1 applicant for the Lower Salt Creek 319 Grant funding.
- MC Soil and Water has started a new Star program which is an incentive program for local farmers. Program is patterned after a program in Illinois.
- Free soil testing with the Lake Monroe Water Fund has been extended through the end of the year.

MONROE COUNTY WASTE REDUCTION DISTRICT

- Elisa reported that Waste Reduction District (WRD) tabled at the MC Fair with the MC Highway Department Stormwater Program. At the Waste Reduction District table, 106 fair attendees entered for the chance to win a rain barrel. Winner of rain barrel lives within Monroe County and was excited to pick it up.
- Elisa is looking into the WRD selling rain barrels and compost bins for Earth Day 2025. If WRD sells these items, they will likely be on their website by January 2025.
- Elisa is looking into possibly partnering with City of Bloomington's ESD on rain barrels.

MONROE COUNTY HIGHWAY STORMWATER PROGRAM

- Passed our stormwater ordinance and we are fully implementing it currently. We will give room for projects with design under review to meet the old standards and we are not requiring a complete re-design.
- Stormwater Panel was held last week where county, Bloomington, and Ellettsville discussed our ordinances in front of builders, developers, realtors and local elected officials. Over 100 people were in attendance.
- With the implementation of our new ordinance, the stormwater program is planning to hire a new full time position.
- Moore's Creek Road project along Lake Monroe is set to begin construction soon. Moore's Creek will be raised so that it is out of the floodplain. Project has been in the works for the last five years.
- HOA Workshop is scheduled for August 15, 2024 at the Ellettsville Library, 5:30-6:45pm.

MONROE COUNTY SURVEYOR

- Trohn asked about Friends of Lake Monroe's goal of extending the Watershed Coordinator's position.

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON PLANNING

- Rachael reported that she started the position as Environmental Planner about two weeks ago and did not have anything to share currently.

INDIANA UNIVERSITY

- No report.

TOWN OF ELLETTSVILLE

- No report.

FRIENDS OF LAKE MONROE

- Friends of Lake Monroe is excited to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the lake. DNR is spearheading the celebration and Maggie estimates there are over 100 events scheduled between now and the end of October. Painting events, kayak trips, shoreline clean up and discounts on boat rental will happen with partnerships with different agencies.
- FLM is hosting Lake Monroe Day on Sunday September 15, 2024 at Woolery Mill.
- As part of the 60th anniversary of Lake Monroe, FLM is partnering with City of Bloomington to do water treatment plant tours. Pontoon rides, kayak trips, shoreline cleanups and Bloomington Bicycle Club is bringing back their Tour de Ramps event for bicyclists wishing to pedal up and down Lake Monroe boat ramps.
- Currently running a [Septic Maintenance Voucher](#) program in Monroe County with participants receiving a voucher for up to \$100 towards septic tank pumping. FLM hosted a workshop on septic education with 14 people in attendance.
- FLM is in the process of writing another 319 Grant application. Our hope is to get funded funding that would run from next year December for three years. Monroe County has agreed to put in \$75,000 of cost share. We believe the city of Bloomington will do the same. So that gives us a really healthy match for the grant. I'm working out the details and we'll be submitting that in September.

PUBLIC INPUT

- No public input.

NEW BUSINESS

- No new business, meeting adjourned at about 11:40am.

NEXT MEETING

August 26, 2024 at 10:00am.