

**Urban Waters Partnership Meeting—June 2012**  
**Notes are listed in Green. Action items in orange.**

**A recording of this meeting is available.**

**WHEN: June 27th , 2012**

**WHERE: NIRPC Office**  
**6100 Southport Road**  
**Portage, IN 46368**

Introductions - 15 min

New Coordinator

Welcome Natalie Johnson

New Partners

In attendance: Jim Sweeney, Tom Dilley, Diane Banta, Lynda Lancaster, Michelle Caldwell, Ashley Snyder, Sue Bennett, Charlie Morris, Liz McConnell, Nicole Barker, Gene Fleming, Dan Plath, Jen Birchfield, Jennifer Gadzala, Mingyan Zhou, Pau Buska, Lynne Westphal, Natalie Johnson, Peg Donnelly, Angela Larsen

Communication - 15 min

Listserves

May want to use combination of Constant Contact or another service such as Vertical Response (free). The listserves are meant to communicate to the entire group. Constant Contact would allow us to do the same, however create better designed e-blasts that can be forwarded on to others if you choose. By a combination, we can better communicate and forward on more appealingly displayed information to the public/other partners. If you are uncertain how to use and you want to distribute material, send email directly to Natalie. **Also Natalie will send list of current members on listserves. Please add to list who may be appropriate to invite in the future.**

Websites

Natalie will be working with Caroline Klos to create template for other pilot programs. Facebook was discussed. May not be necessary with website in place.

Sub-Group Updates – 45 min

East Branch Little Calumet & Salt Creek

Charlie is doing a study, and has sampled for it from 48 sites. The study will provide info that lays the groundwork for an EA. It will assess the ecological role of coarse woody debris in the river. Gene Fleming has restoration projects going on in the area that coincide with the East Branch of the Little Calumet or Trail Creek. Lynda mentioned CSOs and handicapped access. Jen update on WMP, GLISTEN students, 11 weekly sampling. Dan has

been leading an outreach effort teaching urban children basics of paddling which is part of American Rivers grant. Angela Larsen has excel sheet of current projects and working map of areas of potential.

### Trail Creek

Angela has potential opportunity to partner with Trail Creek. Natalie will put them in touch. Dan announced a clean-up occurring on July 13<sup>th</sup> with multiple partners (Shirley Heinze, NIPSCO, Save the Dunes, NWI Steelheaders, MC Chamber of Commerce, MC Parks. Tom Dille mentioned there are current members w/grants in the area working on a grant regarding the emerald ash borer. Dan was able to acquire money from HUD for ADA access ramp for boat launch, Michigan City helped with cost. This project was fueled by UW.

### Grand Calumet Area of Concern

CARE committee needs more representation from municipalities. Jennifer Gadzala reported the Vision Document was created with much public input. Diane or Kay will provide document for Natalie.

Side Topic: Paul wanted to know if writing Urban Waters into a grant would give grant more points—Natalie will investigate. Charlie mentioned the difficulties of covering overhead for UW small grants—can EPA redesign? Diane suggested the topic of grants is placed on the agenda for next month's meeting. Natalie will look for funding opportunities and pass along as well as who can provide match.

### Mapping

Topic tabled due to time constraint.

### What Makes Something an Urban Waters Project – 20 min

1. If UW member Feds provided funds after the start of the UW program
2. UW partnership sped up a project's implementation
3. When a group cites Urban Waters in a proposal and receives the funds
4. UW local partners agree to count something as UW

Ensure that proper credit is due—let someone know if you think not enough credit is being given.

### Draft Project Report Review – 15 min

Please review and make sure points discussed in your sub group are covered. Diane to send photo for report. Need to bullet successes. Send all comments in *before* July 10<sup>th</sup> (preferably sooner) to Natalie. Map needs to be revisited to account for watersheds: Natalie to contact Mark Johnston. Need to document how many jobs are created or saved from projects.

Round Robin – 20 min

Canceled due to time constraint.

Questions? Comments?

Please Contact Natalie Johnson

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