1. INTRODUCTIONS

2. FUNDING AGENCY UPDATES

2.1 INDIANA FINANCE AUTHORITY – INDIANA BROWNFIELDS PROGRAM (IBP)
   2.1.1 Received additional money from EPA. Funding still available for water and soil cleanup projects. Communities and non-profits are eligible entities.

2.2 TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR BROWNFIELDS (TAB)
   2.2.1 Providing free technical assistance for brownfield projects.
   2.2.2 Grants due 1/31/19. Non-profits are now eligible. Cleanup grants increased to $500,000 with a 20% match. Assessment grants up to $300,000. Coalition up to $600,000. Application reduced from 15 pages to 10 pages.

2.3 USDA, RURAL DEVELOPMENT (RD)
   2.3.1 Julia Henney retired as of 12/21/18.
   2.3.2 Michael Stahl passed away suddenly.
   2.3.3 No hiring is expected in 2019.
   2.3.4 Currently has access to funds. No idea what the allocation will be for 2019.
   2.3.5 There are 41 total applicants; 18 in RD Apply; and 11 planning grants into construction.
2.3.6 Interest rates will increase in 2019.

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<th></th>
<th>Market</th>
<th>Intermediate</th>
<th>Poverty</th>
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<td>4%</td>
<td>3.25%</td>
<td>2.375%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019 Rates</td>
<td>4.5%</td>
<td>3.375%</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
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2.3.7 What can the industry do to make it easier for RD?

2.3.7.1 Engineers/consultants doing well with RD Apply.

2.3.7.2 Reminder that you can file application for multiple divisions at one time; water, wastewater, solid waste and storm water.

2.4 SRF LOAN PROGRAM

2.4.1 Staffing: Welcome Artemis Nikolaou who started on 12/5/18. Artemis worked with IDEM Drinking Water for a couple of years and has familiarity with permitting. Stacey Orr Gardner started her position in July 2018. Ethel Morgan is still assisting as a part time employee.

2.4.2 Drinking water demand $300-400 Million.

2.4.3 Wastewater demand over $1 Billion.

2.4.4 Closed on $370 Million for wastewater program and $155 Million for drinking water in 2018. Drinking water sub funds are all allocated/used. Wastewater sub funds approximately $20 Million.

2.4.5 Requirement changes:

2.4.5.1 Asset management plans became effective on 7/1/2018.

2.4.5.2 Had $500,000 of grant money available to assist with asset management plans in 2018. As of meeting date, had awarded 21 grants at $25,000 each.

2.4.5.3 Wastewater requires both a financial management plan and an asset management plan. Requirements for the financial management plans is included in the asset management plan guidance documents.

2.4.5.4 Drinking water requires only an asset management plan.

2.4.5.5 Camille can do presentations about financial and asset management plans at project planning meetings.
2.4.6 SRF currently has 27 drinking water applications and 37 wastewater applications in various stages of review.

2.4.7 Interest rates reset on 1/1/19. Might see a slight increase.

2.4.8 Keep incentives in mind. Can include Green Project Reserve after PER is submitted. Communicate early with Camille.

2.4.9 What drives SRF funding fluctuations?
   2.4.9.1 Demand is up across the board. Awareness is also up.

2.4.10 How can consultants help SRF? Keep up the good communication.

2.4.11 What drives SRF funding fluctuations?
   2.4.11.1 Demand is up across the board. Awareness is also up.

2.5 IU PUBLIC POLICY INSTITUTE

2.5.1 EWIG monthly meetings are the 2nd Thursday of each month at RCAP. Anyone can sign up.

2.5.2 Rural Wastewater Task Force meets at 10 am at RCAP to talk through issues with rural wastewater issues.

2.5.3 Providing updated stormwater needs for the Water Task Force.

2.5.4 Relaxed requirements for Infrastructure, $1.3 Billion, and overall program, $4.53 Billion.

2.6 INDIANA OFFICE OF COMMUNITY & RURAL AFFAIRS (OCRA)

2.6.1 Eric Ogle, CDBG Program Director. Matt Wakefield is the CDBG Program Manager overseeing planning grants.

2.6.2 Scoring and awarding planning grants at a quicker rate. Several were not funded and those were offered feedback meetings.

2.6.3 Applications submitted by the 15th of the month will know by the 1st of the following month if funded.

2.6.4 Still getting caught up on plan reviews. Having issues getting timely responses to modification requests. Consultants/Applicants should try to turn modifications around more quickly and communicate early and often.

2.6.5 Finalized updates to minimize plan requirements for all programs except water infrastructure. Still working through concerns with non-alignment with USDA, SRF, and HUD requirements.
2.6.6 OCRA is not trying to require more items than other agencies. Trying to provide better clarifications on what OCRA expectations are for applicants.

2.6.7 Construction application reviews completed in mid-December. Scoring for second round application announcement anticipated January 17, 2019. 35 applications reviewed which is down from the typical 40-50 applications. Competitiveness has markedly increased. The difference between funded applications is tenths to hundredths of points. OCRA is working with communities and grant administrators to make sure items are clear to understand.

2.6.8 In the SIP and Wastewater/Drinking Water programs, a summary PER is a big benefit.

2.6.9 Applicants are encouraged to do more with regional plans (planning). Does the documentation clearly communicate if a project multiple entities/partner? For example, two different main street organizations working together.

2.6.10 Maximum grant amounts in the Wastewater program will remain the same for 2019. An action plan for the Drinking water program is anticipated in early 2019.

2.6.11 The Wastewater/Drinking water matrix has been revised. The rate is a combined rate not just utility applying for funding. OCRA will be looking at benchmark rates. Any changes that are needed would be part of the 2020-2024 plan. OCRA feels that the current approach allows for almost every community in Indiana to apply.

2.6.12 All agencies agree that they don’t want communities to produce multiple PER’s for funding. If communities are experiencing that, the communities need to speak up.

2.6.13 Rural Water Task Force report has been released. The report suggested that OCRA also require Asset Management Plans. OCRA is looking into this suggestion.

2.6.14 OCRA is trying to partner with the Indiana Bond Bank to help fund the gaps that occur. Bond Bonk does think they can help with gap funding. OCRA will continue to work with the Bond Bank to bridge the gaps and encourages other agencies to do the same.

3. ACEC UPDATES

3.1 GENERAL

3.1.1 Call-in agenda setting meeting seemed to be acceptable to all.
3.2  **FUNDING COMMITTEE CONFERENCE**

3.2.1 A chairperson is needed for the 2019 Funding Committee Conference. If anyone is interested, get with Mark Sullivan or Beth.

3.3  **LEGISLATIVE UPDATES**

3.3.1 ACEC is working with Representative Solliday to condense the public report to a concise document. Beth will share the document once it is approved by Representative Solliday. This session will be a lot of work trying to define how it all works with different groups and agencies.

3.3.2 Funding has not been discussed during the meetings so that legislators could try to identify sources. The committee will need to fight for funding and will need to reconcile all interests.

3.3.3 There has been a lot of gossip about which bills may come back. Anticipate seeing the following again:

- 3.3.3.1 PVC bill
- 3.3.3.2 Elimination of distressed utility language
- 3.3.3.3 Bill to mandate a specific septic tank system be approved. Currently not supported by the State.
- 3.3.3.4 Bill requiring IDEM and INDOT review government efficiency act, plans for OUCC rate studies.

4. **FUTURE MEETING DATES:**

Next Agency Meeting

March 20, 2019 1:30pm to 2:30pm

1 North Capital First Floor Conference Room