ACEC IDNR Committee Meeting Minutes
April 23, 2019

Meeting Minutes prepared by Michael Oliphant.

An ACEC IDNR Committee planning meeting was held at United Consulting on April 9, 2019. The following members of the ACEC IDNR Committee were in attendance.

Rachel Sparks               GAI
Jason Mathias               B&N
Brandon Arnold              USI
Jay Gibson                  CHA
Dan Miller                  Parsons
Brian Shaw                  BLN
Brian Powers                Clark Dietz
Rich Connelly               HNTB
Nabil Ghalayini             WSP
Ben Deichmann               SJCA
Michael Rowe                UNITED
Michael Oliphant            UNITED
Drew Flamion                Commonwealth
Ryan Cummins                StructurePoint
Breagan Eicher              Lawson-Fisher Associates
Brian Stephens-Hotopp       VS Engineering
Brian Powers                Clark Dietz

The following subjects were discussed at the meeting:

1. The following upcoming ACEC events were discussed at the meeting.
   a. Project Management Forum– April 16, 2019
   b. Southern Indiana Roundtable- April 17, 2019
   c. National ACEC Spring Conference- May 5, 2019 to May 9, 2019
   d. Diversity Spring Event 2019 – May 15, 2019

2. The division of water is in the process of updating UNITY. The update to UNITY has caused the delay of some Construction in a Floodway permit application reviews. UNITY is DNR’s database used to track permit applications internally.

3. Temporary construction measures can be included in the initial construction in a floodway permit application or authorized as an amendment during construction. The temporary measures for construction included in the application are often amended during construction. The formation of a committee to look at the potential for developing standards for temporary construction measure was recommended. The committee would require representatives from ACEC, IDNR, IDEM, INDOT, consultants and contractors.

4. Temporary construction measures are being requested by INDOT on most projects. DNR does not require the temporary construction be included as part of the permit application. The construction methods are often left up to the contractor on non-INDOT projects. The construction contractor would request an amendment to Construction in a Floodway permit.
5. Some temporary construction measures require a significant amount of design to provide the details necessary to request the authorization of the temporary construction measures. Coordination with INDOT ES could occur to determine if providing this information up front is necessary based on recent feedback from IDNR.

6. It was suggested that representatives from construction contractors be contacted to see if they would be interested having standards in placed for temporary impacts.

7. It was mentioned that Beth Hillen was the new Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer. However, the IDNR website indicates that the IDNR - Division of Historic Preservation appointed Beth McCord as the new Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer.

8. INDOT maintains an MOU with IDNR for maintenance projects. Generally, these projects do not require work within the stream channel. The agreement does not apply to cities, towns, and counties. However, IDNR would consider allowing cities, towns, and counties to not apply for a permit if the project clearly falls under the guidelines of the maintenance MOU with INDOT. It was suggested potentially discussing the possibility of expanding the general license for other types of minor projects.

9. Currently, the in-lieu fee program cannot be used for IDNR floodway reforestation mitigation. IDNR is in the process of developing a non-rural policy that will allow the use of the in-lieu fee program. The policy will have to go through an approval process that includes the Natural Resources Commission approval of mitigation credit pricing. ACEC will possibly contact IDNR to see if they can provide assistance speeding up the process.

The above minutes reflect our understanding of the discussions and decisions made at this meeting. If you have any questions, additions, or comments, please contact our office at your convenience.