



Indiana Water Resources Association

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The Indiana State Section of the American Water Resources Association

February 25, 2016

Dear Members and Friends of IWRA,

I've been thinking lately about the recent history of water resources and the various regulations and initiatives to improve water. We've seen great successes over the years, but how can we measure where we've made improvements, and where we go from here? While an easy question to ask, in my experience it hasn't been so easy to answer. With this in mind, I've chosen ***"Evaluating the Restoration of Indiana's Water Resources"*** as the theme for the 37th Annual Indiana Water Resources Association Symposium.

On **June 8-10**, we will convene for the 2016 symposium in the Potawatomi Inn at **Pokagon State Park** on beautiful Lake James, in Steuben County, Indiana. During the first half of the symposium, we will learn about efforts to restore water resources and how success might be measured. The second half is a field trip that will give us a chance to see restoration in action. **If you have a topic that fits well with our symposium, please see the Call for Abstracts and submit your idea for consideration.** We encourage student participation this year in the form of a poster session before our awards banquet on Wednesday night. If you know of students that would like to present their work, please tell them the IWRA Student Scholarship Fund will support their participation at the symposium. If you have questions on the meeting or student scholarships, please contact me or one of the other officers.

I'd like to thank those individuals that supported the IWRA Student Scholarship Fund in 2015: Les Arihood, Jody Arthur, Don Arvin, Tony Bailey, J. Darrell Bakken, Mark Basch, Siavash Beik, Thomas Berquist, Sarah Brichford, Thomas Bruns, Melissa Clark, Martha Clark Mettler, Jacques Delleur, Kathleen Fowler, Val Frazee, Billy Giles, Bob Gillespie, Rosemarie Hansell, Jeff Healy, Mark Howell, Paul Johnson, Joe Ketterman, Jesse Kirkham, David Knipe, Gary Lamberti, Sally Letsinger, Jim Luckiewicz, Jeff Martin, John Mundell, Greg Nethery, John Noel, Doug Opell, Mark Pyron, Gretchen Quirk, Marylou Renshaw, Monique Riggs, Chris Ritz, Paul Ruegamer, Michael Sears, Cheryl Silcox, Barbara Simpson, Jon Stolz, James Sullivan, Harold Templin, Jerry Unterreiner, David Wagner, Robert Waltz, Kathryn Watson, Troy Weaver, Terry West, John Wilson, Pam Wolsiefer-Leak, and Lorraine Wright. Your support is critical for enhancing student participation at our meetings.

We welcome the following new members to IWRA: Melissa Clark, Ed Clements, Jeffry Grigsby, Andi Hodaj, Tom Hohman, Fushcia Ann Hoover, Steve Hurst, Jesse Kirkham, Gary Lamberti, Sanoar Rahman, Brandon Root, Amanda Shepherd, Ben Sperl, and Leslie White. We hope to see you at the June meeting!

Officers for 2016 are:

President: Joe Schmees, IDEM, jschmees@idem.in.gov, 317-308-3194
President-Elect: Jeff Martin, USGS, jdmartin@usgs.gov, 317-600-2748
Secretary: Cyndi Wagner, IDEM, cwagner@idem.in.gov, 317-308-3381
Treasurer: Kathleen Fowler, USGS, kkfowler@usgs.gov. 317-600-2737

We would like to continue recognizing our peers for their wonderful work in water resources.

Please submit a nomination for the Charles Harold Bechert Award and/or the IWRA Outstanding Achievement Awards for presentation at the 2016 symposium. The Bechert Award celebrates lifetime achievement of excellence in water resources whereas the IWRA Outstanding Achievement Awards honor individuals who have contributed significantly to any of the goals of IWRA including:

- Promoting research and technical, social, economic, and legislative advances in all aspects of water resources;
- Collecting and disseminating of water-resources information through publications, symposia, and other media;
- Relating the needs of management, educational, and governmental institutions for specialized services and guidance to qualified professionals; or
- Initiating and maintaining lines of communication in the water-resources community.

Please send your nominations to Mark Basch, IWRA Awards Committee, mbasch@dnr.IN.gov, (317) 232-0154. **The nomination deadline is April 15, 2016.**

Last year IWRA recognized these colleagues for their outstanding work: **Dr. Greg Olyphant**, retired Professor, Indiana University, received the Charles Harold Bechert Award. **Jane Hardisty**, Indiana State Conservationist with NRCS, received the Outstanding Achievement Award Public Sector; **ACRES Land Trust** received the Outstanding Achievement Award Private Sector; and the **Manchester University Environmental Studies Program**, received the Outstanding Achievement Award Academic Sector. Congratulations to all our award winners!

Dr. Klaus Neumann, 2015 IWRA president, led another successful symposium "**Urban, Sub-urban, and Non-urban Water Resources of Indiana**" at the Ball State University Alumni Center in Muncie. The meeting featured a special session and field trip on the proposed Mounds Lake Reservoir organized by **Dr. Jane Frankenberger**. Thank you to Klaus, Jane and all of those that helped organize the symposium, and to those of you that attended.

Finally, I'd like to leave you with a few thoughts on the future of IWRA. When my first supervisor, Art Garceau, asked if I'd like to succeed him as IWRA secretary in 2008, I thought sure, but what do I have to offer? As a 24-year old novice in the adult world, I had only been working in water resources for just under two years, and the thought of being an officer of a professional organization was a bit intimidating. Reflecting on this, now in the midst of my tenth year working for IDEM, I realize that it was one of my better decisions. I'm appreciative that Art and other IWRA members brought me into the fold, and treated me as a peer. Where else can a young person feel comfortable rubbing elbows with people that have a careers worth of experience? I've thought quite a bit about 2008 lately, because we have an aging membership and I'm no longer the young, impressionable young man I once was. We're coming into a new era, where we need to update our web and communication technologies, and we need members to help out. We also need to encourage younger professionals to join our ranks. My plea to you is to invite your younger colleagues, as Art did for me, to show them the great value of an IWRA membership. If

you're young and already a member, invite your peers, or volunteer to help out with new technology and membership development. You already are in the know. I'm excited to be your president this year, but I'm even more excited about the future of IWRA. We'll see you in June!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Schmees". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Joe Schmees
2016 IWRA President
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