

Indiana Department of Natural Resources

SWAP Planning meeting –March 21, 2013 at Discovery Hall on the Indiana State Fairgrounds

Attendees:

Joe Robb – US Fish and Wildlife Service, Big Oaks

Jeff Kiefer – US Fish and Wildlife Service

Stacey Sobat – IDEM

Greg Beilfuss –IDNR, Outdoor Recreation

Cliff Chapman – Indiana Land Protection Alliance

Mike Sertle – Ducks Unlimited

John Bacone – IDNR, Nature Preserves

Mark Stacy/Ramona Breggeman – IDNR, Reclamation

John Shuey – The Nature Conservancy

Gary Dinkel – US Forest Service

Chris Gonso – IDNR, Forestry

Raoul Moore – Sycamore Trails RC&D/Indiana Forest and Woodlands Owners Association

Andrew DeWoody – Purdue University

Terry Smith –American Electric Power

Dave Stratman – Natural Resources Conservation Service

Mark Reiter –IDNR, Fish and Wildlife

Core Team from IDNR, Fish and Wildlife:

Amanda Wuestefeld

Julie Kempf

Sandy Clark-Kolaks

Steve Donabauer

Nate Levitte

Sam Whiteleather

Shannon Winks

Kent Hanauer

Brant Fisher

Adam Phelps

Facilitators: Joe Tutterow and Kristin Brier

March 21, 2012 State Wildlife Action Plan Meeting Agenda

11:00 a.m. -- Introductions

Overview of SWAP process and general timing

Break into 4 flip charts groups-- each focused on a different issue

1. The SWAP will be successful when our ecosystems are...
2. The SWAP will be successful when our conservation community is...
3. The SWAP will be successful when funding can...
4. The SWAP will be successful when the citizens of Indiana...

*Questions 1-4 are the four big questions on the four flip charts. From here our facilitators will walk us through the questions below as they relate to questions 1-4.

-What are the critical issues we must address?

-What factors (mandates, mission, external and internal influences) make it a strategic issue?

-What outcomes will indicate success?

-What are the consequences of failing to address each issue?

-Where should we prioritize and focus?

12:30 p.m. -- Lunch – lunch will be served in the Discovery Hall

Continue Flip Chart Discussions

Wrap-up discussions

2:30 p.m. -- Turn in note cards with organizations interest in participating and have a safe trip home

Meeting notes begin on the next page

Rough timeline for completion and implementation of SWAP

In 2013

- a. Establish the advisory team
- b. Develop a RFP for a survey to collect information from the conservation community at large.
- c. Establish a contract and create the survey.

In 2014

- a. Conduct the survey, collect & review the data.
- b. Establish actions.
- c. Set priorities.

In 2015

- a. Complete the SWAP document and begin implementation.
- b. Receive federal approval of the SWAP by fall of 2015.

Group flip chart activity

This activity split meeting participants into 4 groups, each with a different question to answer. The main question is written in blue text, and the participants used the following questions to guide the conversations at each flip chart.

-What are the critical issues we must address?

-What factors (mandates, mission, external and internal influences) make it a strategic issue?

-What outcomes will indicate success?

-What are the consequences of failing to address each issue?

-Where should we prioritize and focus?

The summary sheet that is listed for most of the groups was used when the groups reported back to the whole. All participants were given an opportunity to ask questions and provide comments and feedbacks to each of the flip chart groups.

Each participant was given 4 dots to vote on the information that they felt would be important as we begin the rewrite process of SWAP. These votes are captured and highlighted in the notes below.

The SWAP will be successful when CITIZENS of Indiana...

Summary sheet

Establishing Buy-In (10 votes)

- Understanding (1 vote)
- Education (1 vote)
- Marketing (1 vote)
- Participation (2 votes)

Overcome Issues

- Ignorance
- Apathy
- Disconnection
- Education (2 votes)
- Lack of bus driver (7 votes)

Consequences of failing

- Conservation community
 - o Invisible or viewed in bad light
- Bad decision making
- Lack of funding
- Lack of caring
- Habitat decline

Flip chart - page 1 -- The SWAP will be successful when CITIZENS of Indiana....

- understand ecosystems
- care about ecosystems
- are involved in the process (weak in the past)
- value yields action (time, money, voting, volunteering) (2 votes)
 - need opportunities for action
 - also see value in helping with the plan
- become stakeholders
- Sense of buy-in (critical mass)
- recognize value of Ecosystems and wildlife conservation
- people are empowered to: Take action, Provide Input, Provide Funds/materials/effort

Flip chart page 2 – Critical issue related to Citizens

- Lack of caring
- Lack of understanding
- Major disconnect between day-to-day activities and activities and nature
- KIDS
 - o Maybe easier to reach/mold
 - o Lack of education
 - o Structure education in school
- Reaching the right people and enough people
- Lack of recent work –program/staff cuts – lack of funding (NREC) Education being cut across the board
- State education standards
 - o Don't include enough wildlife curriculum (no time to fit it in)
 - o Limit what teachers can do

Flip chart page 3 –Consequences of Failing --Citizens

- SWAP just words on paper
- Invisible to the public
- Not tapping into all resources (lack of funding)
- Another generation that cares but doesn't understand or don't know or don't care
- Bad decision making because of ignorance
- Conservation community viewed in bad light
- Citizens needs, wants, desires ignored
- Species and habitat decline

Flip chart page 4 – Things standing in the way of citizens using the SWAP

- lack of knowledge of the SWAP
- lack of access to the SWAP
- lack of marketing
- Getting people actively involved –change the environment ---so citizens care about SWAP
- Lack of bus driver – No SWAP coordinator – to implement the plan
 - No knowledge of ICAP –result of first writing of plan
- Buy in from all conservation community –keep SWAP in spotlight

Parking Lot –Citizens

- Tie Plan to environment for citizens
- In SWAP –explanation for citizens –why did it, what it means to you

SWAP will be successful when our conservation community is...

Summary Sheet

- Create conservation community (addresses number 1-9, 11-14, 16-18) (11votes)
- Positive public perception
- United front –conservation not coming from only agencies (1 vote)
- widespread impact (1 vote)
- SWAP questionnaire –Starting point
- What makes a conservation community?

Flip Chart pages 1-2 -- SWAP will be successful when our conservation community is...

1. Well funded “integrated”
2. Has shared goals/vision (4 votes)
3. Aware of shared goals
4. Has common priorities
5. Working toward shared goals/priorities (1 vote)
6. Communicating shared goals to outside partners
7. Aware of each partners role
8. Understanding of other partners’ needs/limitations
9. All contributing to shared goals – work, projects
10. Valued by the greater community
11. Using the SWAP at the local level
12. Communicating between active partners
13. Growing (new groups joining the effort) – businesses, organizations, etc.
14. Reaching/attaining conservation goals (4 votes)
15. Recognized by legislators (heard)
16. Appropriately designating tasks among partners (1 vote)
17. Finding overlapping goals (1 vote)
18. Not focusing on differences between partners (respect differences)
19. Flexible to change (3 votes)

Flip Chart page 3 -- Current success:

- Southern Indiana Conservation happenings conference
- # partners interested in SWAP
- Partnership demonstrated by Lilly Wetland Project
- Fairbanks Landing (flexibility)
- HRI –messaging to public

SWAP will be successful when our ecosystems...

Summary Sheet

Big scale management (diversity w/in habitats) (11votes)

- Functional (large land tracts) (functional =viable, healthy)
- Tie public and private lands

Measurable metrics (adaptive) (1 vote)

Combine groups priorities to statewide priorities (focus on commonalities) (1 vote)

Improve water quality (4 votes)

Better interactions between agriculture and conservation groups

Return natural disturbances (either natural or manmade) (1 vote)

Invasives (2 votes)

Flip chart page 1-2 – SWAP will be successful when our ecosystems...

- Protected
- Habitat is not species specific
- Less fragmentation (expand existing protected areas)
- Habitat diversity (7 votes)
- Functional habitats
- Landscape level management/protected areas
- Shotgun vs. targeted or big lands vs lots (small areas)
- Private lands really involved
- Tie existing properties
- Tier priorities
- Increase species diversity
- Natural river hydrology

Flip chart 2-3 – ecosystems Issues

- Monocultures (large scale farming)
- Fragmentation
- Urbanization
- Water quality (hydrology, erosion, pollution)
 - o Drought
- Species composition (extirpations, invasives, loss fire, farming practices, loss of natural disturbances)
- Competing uses
- Changing public values and connection to land (ethics)
- Economics short vs. long term

Parking Lot –Ecosystems

- Old Plan had no geographic priorities

SWAP will be successful when Funding can:

- Leverage SWG Funds (5 votes)
 - o Tying game funds with non-game funds
 - o Tying SWG funds with private funds
- Funding is directed to high leverage priorities across the state – avoiding random acts of conservation.
- Funding coordination with-in agencies
- SWAP generates outside funding sources (2 votes)
- #1 ranking within group - Leverage SWAP for additional funds (10 votes)
 - o SWAP directs inflow of conservation dollars for greatest good.
 - Federal
 - Non-profit
 - State
 - Private landowners
 - Energy companies
 - Coal companies
 - Mitigation
- Lack of resource sharing
- Need to break down barriers with shared vision
- Establish common language
- Funds generated by SWAP would be spent in a strategic manner
- RFP approach
- #2 ranking within group - Conservation community prioritizes allocation of funds (7 votes)
 - o Priority areas/habitats
- More money –SWG funds
- Sell compelling issues
- SWAP needs compelling vision – We will work together towards _____ (1 vote)
- Critical need areas identified

Wrap-up

During the meeting wrap-up, participants were asked to fill out a simple information sheet that will provide the core team with information about each of the participating organizations. This information will be used as we develop the Advisory Group.

Next Meeting

April 30 at The Nature Conservancy office, located at 620 E. Ohio St., Indianapolis. We will meet from 1pm -3:30pm.