

## **Indiana Department of Natural Resources SWAP Planning meeting - Meeting Notes**

**April 30, 2013**

Efroymsen Conservation Center (The Nature Conservancy Indianapolis office)  
11 am to 3 pm

### **Attendees:**

Joe Robb – US Fish and Wildlife Service, Big Oaks  
Jeff Kiefer – US Fish and Wildlife Service  
Cliff Chapman – Indiana Land Protection Alliance  
John Bacone – IDNR, Nature Preserves  
Mark Stacy – IDNR, Reclamation  
Ramona Briggeman – IDNR, Reclamation  
Ellen Jacquart – The Nature Conservancy  
Gary Dinkel – US Forest Service  
Chris Gonso – IDNR, Forestry  
Raoul Moore – Sycamore Trails RC&D/Indiana Forest and Woodlands Owners Association  
Robert Swihart – Purdue University  
Mark Reiter – IDNR, Fish and Wildlife  
Mike Mycroft – IDNR, State Parks  
Justin Harrington – IDNR, State Parks  
Barb Simpson – Indiana Wildlife Federation  
Liz Jackson – Indiana Woodland and Forest Owners Association  
Kevin Crane - IDEM

### **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

### **Facilitators: Jack McGriffin and Kristin Brier**

**11:00 a.m.** -- Introductions  
Review timeline  
Recap March discussion areas

Begin developing goal statements and objectives for each topic area. We'll break out into the 4 topic areas/flipcharts (your choice on topic area, does not have to be the same as last time).

Ecosystems  
Conservation Community

Funding  
Citizens

As we develop goals and objectives, we want you to consider the following questions for each of the topic areas:

- What is/are the common or shared statement(s) of the desirable and measurable results in achieving the vision of guiding a diverse conservation community towards enhancing and conserving fish and wildlife resources?
  - What are the critical indicators for success?
  - What mechanisms will allow us to evaluate success of (topic area) over time?
  - What is reasonable and practicable for the State Wildlife Action Plan?

**12:30 p.m.** -- Lunch – pizza will be delivered on-site.

**1 p.m.** -- Continue developing goal and objective statements.

**2:30 p.m.** – Open discussion of where we are going, pieces missing, other comments/questions.

**3:30 p.m.** – Wrap-up discussions. End.

## Goals Proposed

These goals were developed by the end of the workshop. They are the first cut and may be revised with input from additional partners. These will be presented to the kick-off meetings to the partners and public at large as the starting point of where we are headed with the next SWAP.

### Funding:

#1: 2015 SWAP successfully guides application of SWG monies and outside funding sources to maximize fish and wildlife resource habitat protection, enhancement, and creation as identified in the 2015 SWAP.

Action: Establish priority areas reflective of priority habitats.

#2: SWAP will have project-based deliverables that can be funded by other public and private monies to leverage SWG monies.

Action: Database of funding sources and criteria for funding.

Action: Identify smaller areas for niche species outside established priority areas.

### Conservation community:

Create a conservation community working toward the common goals and priorities. This community will be:

- Organized (we know all the players)
- Funded (members financially supported by their organization)
- Cooperative (build consensus, address “what’s in it for me?” – common goals)
- Communicating (including ICAP - record success, share information through the process)
- Works as a unit (common goals)

### Ecosystems

Indiana is a mosaic of large-scale, functional, diverse ecosystems that are managed across jurisdictions to promote long-term sustainability and health.

Actions:

- Assessment of Indiana habitat and threats
- Define terms (common language)
- Create priority habitat areas

### Citizens

Foster public awareness to achieve buy-in of SWAP goals

Actions:

- Identify bus driver (coordinator) – citizen science coordinator?
- Create and Market consistent messaging
- Provide opportunities for public involvement
- Identify outreach resources

## Background

### Vision:

Indiana's State Wildlife Action Plan will be a national leader in guiding a diverse conservation community towards the shared goal of enhancing and conserving fish and wildlife resources.

### Mission:

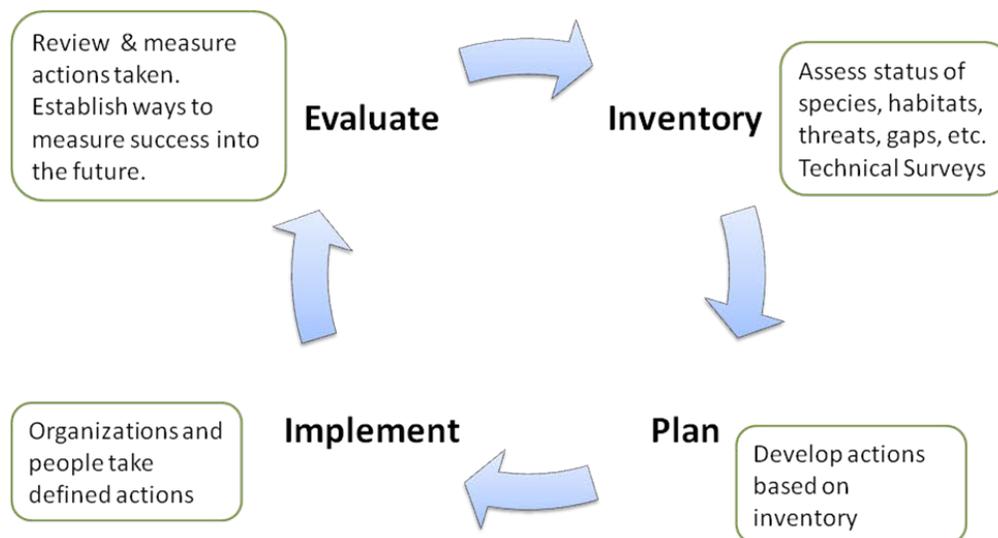
The purpose of Indiana's State Wildlife Action Plan is to manage, conserve, and enhance habitat and population stability for diverse fish and wildlife resources. By 2025, the SWAP will be fully integrated throughout Indiana's conservation community. The SWAP will serve to bridge the efforts of dedicated natural resource professionals and stewards, which will ultimately enrich the quality of life for all Hoosiers.

### Timeline:

- Mid-2013: Formal kick off with early opportunities for input from partners.
- 2014: Technical survey to partners about species, habitats, threats. Actions to be developed and prioritized.
- 2015: Finalize SWAP. Begin implementation. Submit for federal approval.

### Stages of SWAP Planning:

We are in the Evaluation phase. We are reviewing our success since the 2005 plan, in addition to determining how we will measure actions and success in the 2015 plan. This begins with developing goals and objectives.



### Four Themes:

In early conversations with Fish and Wildlife staff, along with partners, four big themes emerged when presented with the question "We know Indiana has been successful at conserving & managing natural resources when..." Those themes are:

- Ecosystem – habitats, species, water quality, etc
- Conservation Community – partnerships
- Funding – support
- Citizens – public opinion & interest

**Time – Talent – Treasure Activity:**

This is a quick survey to assess potential resources available from organizations.

If your organization has time, talent and/or treasure to contribute to the SWAP planning process, place a dot in the corresponding category for each of the four topic areas. The numbers in the table below correspond to the number dots placed in each category.

	Time	Talent	Treasure
Funding	9	7	2
Conservation Community	15	16.5	7
Ecosystems	19	19.5	4
Citizens	13	7.5	2

**Sticky Note Activity:**

In context of the planning process and the four themes, what key thing(s) do you need out of the State Wildlife Action Plan? (see responses on following pages)

**Goal Development:**

The part of the day was devoted to developing goals using both the Sticky Notes above and the drafted goals provided by the SWAP Core Team. The goals drafted by the Core Team were done using the responses and input from the previous meeting about what success looks like for ecosystems, conservation community, funding, and citizens.

During the process, some words, phrases, and ideas stood out. Those that were documented are also provided below along with the goals developed.

## FUNDING

Sticky notes: *In context of the planning process and the four themes, what key thing(s) do you need out of the State Wildlife Action Plan?*

The ideas contributed in funding ranged from the planning process to implementation.

How will each partner and stakeholder contribute fund for planning process.

Find shared goals for shared funding.

Understand the sources and allocation of funds – compared to other DNR and state budgets.

Enough to produce a usable SWAP.

Private funding sources are identified for marketing, etc.

Better understanding of issues by voters = more \$ from pols.

SWAP guides where conservation funding goes.

Funding of on-the-ground projects to restore/enhance populations of SGCN.

Funding is available to protect all habitat types.

Funds allocated to priority habitats.

Guidance / opportunity to utilize Farm Bill / USDA monies to create or manage habitat on private land.

Dedicated funding at numerous levels (Fed, State, Local)

### Goals Developed

#1: 2015 SWAP successfully guides application of SWG monies and outside funding sources to maximize fish and wildlife resource habitat protection, enhancement, and creation as identified in the 2015 SWAP.

Action: Establish priority areas reflective of priority habitats.

#2: SWAP will have project-based deliverables that can be funded by other public and private monies to leverage SWG monies.

Action: Database of funding sources and criteria for funding.

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## CONSERVATION COMMUNITY

Sticky notes: *In context of the planning process and the four themes, what key thing(s) do you need out of the State Wildlife Action Plan?*

The ideas contributed here were broken down into themes of partnerships, roles, shared goals, process, participation, and some with overlapping themes.

### Partnerships

SWAP will help my section engage in more partnerships to put more habitats on the ground.  
Maximize partnerships.

### Shared goals

Conservation community planning towards like goals.  
Concentrate on shared goals to work together on.  
Broad buy-in of shared goals.  
Clear goals  
Unified goals.  
Highlight common interest.  
Consistent and well understood set of conservation priorities.

### Roles

How will the Conservation Community work together; what role will each take in the planning process.

### Participation

Participation  
The SWAP to help my DFW section become an active player in the conservation community.

### Process/Participation

The plan has expectation for continual communication with the conservation community.  
Process for Conservation Community engaged in management and implementation of SWAP.

### Goal Developed

Create a conservation community working toward the common goals and priorities. This community will be:

- Organized (we know all the players)
- Funded (members financially supported by their organization)
- Cooperative (build consensus, address “what’s in it for me?” – common goals)
- Communicating (including ICAP - record success, share information through the process)
- Works as a unit (common goals)

## ECOSYSTEMS

Sticky notes: *In context of the planning process and the four themes, what key thing(s) do you need out of the State Wildlife Action Plan?*

### Outcomes

- List of positive activities land owners can do to improve ecosystems
- Recognition that ecosystems transcend boundaries and that partnerships will be needed for management
- Reasons to modify woodland activities by landowner
- Big-picture for managing properties as a network to conserve all ecosystems throughout IN
- On-the-ground projects that enhance populations of SGCN
- Stronger, more robust ecosystems (invasives)
- Significant reductions in threats to SGCN (e.g. invasive species)
- Increase diversity. Increase water quality.

### Process

- Goals for amount of area protected/restored for specific ecosystems and habitats in Indiana.
- Priority areas
- Agreement among agencies of species and habitats that are most at risk
- Developing a shared way to measure results for ecosystems and their components
- SWAP ecosystem plan integrates with other fish and wildlife plans (e.g. Sport Game and Fish)
- Focused effort on functional landscapes conserving a diversity of species
- Create a plan that will be based on healthy systems for all native species
- The plan has a goal and strategy to protect the full array of habitat types.
- Planning that results in a simple, practical product

### Goal Developed

Indiana is a mosaic of large-scale, functional, diverse ecosystems that are managed across jurisdictions to promote long-term sustainability and health.

### Actions:

- Assessment of Indiana habitat and threats
- Define terms (common language)
- Create priority habitat areas

### Key words/phrases:

- Functional
- Sustainable
- Large-interconnected
- Diverse
- Inter-jurisdictional
- Active

## **CITIZENS**

Sticky notes: *In context of the planning process and the four themes, what key thing(s) do you need out of the State Wildlife Action Plan?*

### Involvement

- Citizens to be involved
- Citizens to have opportunity for input
- Discussion

### Goals/Buy-in

- The plan makes it easy for citizens to understand and support its goals (clarity, logic)
- Buy in
- Clear goals
- Refine an easy to understand message that sticks with citizens
- Broad citizen support for conservation and SWAP goals

### Education

- More strategized and more active communications about wildlife to Indiana citizens
- Educated public (informed)
- Citizens understand why SWAP is important and they take action
- Highlight importance of management
- Better educated and involved citizens (no apathy, no ignorance)

### Other

- Highlight forestry wildlife connections
- We can rally our friends groups and influence specific NGOs that we are involved with to participate in SWAP
- SWAP will help citizens recognize the value of public lands
- Increased interest in fish and wildlife resources

### Goal Developed:

Foster public awareness to achieve buy-in of SWAP goals

### Actions:

- Identify bus driver (coordinator) – citizen science coordinator?
- Create and Market consistent messaging
- Provide opportunities for public involvement
- Identify outreach resources

### Key words/phrases:

- |                      |                            |
|----------------------|----------------------------|
| Activism             | Conservation is beneficial |
| Enhance              | Marketing – strategy for   |
| Consistent messaging | Value                      |
| Educate              | Change behavior            |