

FRIENDS OF CEDAR CREEK NOVEMBER 27, 2018

David Van Gilder, President of Friends of Cedar Creek met at 6:30 pm at the Garrett Public Library along with the Northeast Chapter of the Sierra Club. Our next meeting was announced: Allen Haynes of the DeKalb County SWCD will speak January 29, 2019 at 6:30 at the Dustin Preserve discussing the Cedar Creek canoe trail in DeKalb County. Cedar Creek is classed as a Recreational River but during April to June unless the water is high, it is hard to navigate.

Our speaker, Matt Kuziinsky, Sr Managing Wetlands Scientist with a consulting company, teamed with Dave Van Gilder to go through some websites we could use to find out property owners, permits (pending or existing), 404 permitting, log jam removal, public notices about log jams. The Allen County GIS website is very good. There are also websites in DeKalb County, Whitley County, and for IDEM GIS. The complete list of websites and links are posted on the Friends of Cedar Creek website for all to be able to access.

On the second listing, information that can be accessed includes property owners, contour maps, tax information, historic designation, wetland designations, and legal drains. The Dept of Planning Services site will list calendars, staff reports, hearing officers, agendas (which could show maps, drawings, and the like, but often by the time an item is on the agenda a decision has already been made)

In DeKalb County, there are jurisdiction questions; so starting at the county website may get you where you need to be. The planning department is tricky as information may be found through a street address or the name of the developer. Google maps and Google earth are or may be helpful.

The water quality resources include Environmental Resource Center (Purdue Fort Wayne) and the Water Quality Information Service and the St. Joe River Watershed Initiative (Sharon Partridge) which has added the St. Marys and the upper Maumee (SJRWI.org) which collects and posts data. The Tristate Watershed Alliance which requires a user name and password is also a source of information. A user can locate e. coli contamination by site and can download into a spreadsheet for analysis. IDEM has information as well, but fewer data points.

Drainage boards can be looked at through county sites, but all information may not appear on line. Log jam removal can be found at IDEM at in.gov/idem/5474.htm. 401 water quality certification will show nationwide permits. Paddlers for Conservation (Eel River area) does less intrusive clearing of logjams (similar to the Palmeto method?).

IDEM and IDNR websites are better as they have a virtual file (all documents ever scanned, but not accessible though there is a person link who will answer and help). There is a 1973 Scenic River link which lists a paper (64 pages). DeKalb County is looking more comprehensive. Nathan Frye, Deputy Surveyor of DeKalb County was present and described some of the work on Cedar Creek (a log jam south of County Road 68) is being looked at by a retired Navy man who has a company, Water Ops LLC.

Additionally, in.gov/NRC is the ultimate authority (through the Court of Appeals) in Indiana on many issues. Public notices through the Army Corp of Engineers (Cedar Creek is in the Detroit District) for projects that require a 404 permit (most are 401 permits) and include highway projects. There will be soil analysis information in this area as well.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 pm

Mary Anna Feitler, Secretary