

Syllabus: Indiana Watershed Leadership Academy

Note: This is modified slightly each year, but provides the overall program followed.

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OVERVIEW

Welcome to the **Indiana Watershed Leadership Academy**, an in-depth training program for watershed professionals and volunteers. The purpose of this Academy is to provide you with key skills and knowledge you will need to lead a watershed group through the challenging process of developing and implementing a watershed plan.

The Indiana Watershed Leadership Academy is a program developed and led by Purdue University, funded in part by a grant from the USEPA through a contract to the Indiana Department of Environmental Management. The Academy is guided by a diverse Steering Committee of conservation and environmental organizations and agencies.

Learning modules have been developed by leaders at Purdue University, as well as collaborative efforts between the Indiana Watershed Leadership Academy Team and the multi-stakeholder Steering Committee. The content of the Academy curriculum also benefits from lessons developed by The Ohio State University.

PRIMARY ACADEMY CONTACTS

- Jane Frankenberger, Professor of Agricultural and Biological Engineering and Purdue Extension Water Quality Specialist, is the Academy Director. You can contact her by e-mail at frankenb@purdue.edu (preferred) or by telephone at 765-494-1194.
- Sara Peel is the Coordinator for the Academy. Sara organizes the lodging and meals and will be managing the distance education modules, making sure your assignments are reviewed, and keeping track of who has done what. Contact her at speel@purdue.edu or 765-337-9100 if you have questions about the Academy.

ACADEMY TEAMS

You will be part of small “Teams” which will increase interactions during and between face-to-face sessions. Each Team will benefit from an experienced team leader who is a graduate of the Academy, and has volunteered to help this year’s participants in this valuable way. Ask them questions and benefit from their experience!

Your primary team is your Color team, which was semi-randomly selected to allow you to meet the most number of new people. A second set of Teams is based your area of interest within watershed leadership. These are known as “interest teams”. We have also developed a third set of teams based on your regional location or drainage basin known as “regional teams”.

FACE-TO-FACE WORKSHOPS

The three face-to-face workshops in the Academy curriculum create opportunities for students to learn from each other and develop new professional relationships. Two workshops require overnight stays, and the graduation and project presentation session is one day. It is very important that you plan to attend all three workshops. Be sure to notify us as soon as possible if you are unable to attend a face-to-face meeting. A schedule of all workshops is at the end of this syllabus. Directions and detailed agendas will be communicated during the course.

LEARNING MODULES

One of the key elements of the Indiana Watershed Leadership Academy is the distance education, which takes place through nine learning modules.

Format of the Modules

Each learning module in the Academy contains (1) introduction to the topic, (2) background readings, and (3) the assignment. Some also have one or more videos that serve as a lecture to help introduce the material. After completing each module, please complete the evaluation.

Some **Readings** are labeled "Required", which you need to read in order to complete the module. Other background readings are offered under the heading "Additional Resources," which you are encouraged to read if you wish to learn more about a particular topic. All of the required readings will be made available to you through the Blackboard Learning System, or a link will be provided directly to them on the Web.

Each module also contains an **Assignment**, which has been designed to relate directly to your watershed planning and restoration efforts. Therefore, assignments are of a "hands-on" nature and we expect these to be very applicable beyond the Academy. You are encouraged to work with your watershed group, stakeholders, local officials, and others in your community as part of the assignments. Although you are ultimately responsible for writing and submitting your own assignments, we strongly encourage you to work with these people and your Academy Team members as a critical part of the learning experience.

Most lesson module assignments have more than one option -- Basic and Advanced. Complete only one of the options, and indicate clearly which option you have selected in your submission.

There are six required modules, and you will choose three additional elective lesson modules. You are required to complete nine lesson modules in order to graduate and receive your professional certificate in watershed management. Refer to the calendar for assignment due-dates. Overdue assignments must be submitted for credit but will not be reviewed.

Instruction for Submitting Assignments

Please submit assignments as an attached Microsoft Word file, or if you do not have Microsoft Word, then as a pdf file. Please name your document as your last name followed by the assignment number. For example, if Sara Peel submits Assignment R1, she will name her file **peel-R1.doc**.

Email all assignments to: speel@purdue.edu by noon on the due date, which is usually a Monday. Assignments turned in late will receive credit, but may not be reviewed.

Review and Feedback on Assignments

We will keep a record of completed assignments, and periodically send you emails with your progress on assignments. In addition, watershed professionals and graduates of the Academy will provide feedback on your assignments, which will be emailed to you. You must submit nine complete assignments to receive your professional certificate in watershed management at the graduation session. We recognize that certain circumstances may make it impossible for you to submit an assignment on time. In these instances, contact us as soon as possible to arrange for a suitable alternative deadline.

GROUP PROJECT

During the second part of the Academy, you will complete a project in groups of 2 or 3 people that contributes to watershed management in Indiana. This project provides an opportunity to create your own learning experience on a topic of your choosing. Plan to spend about 10 hours per person on the group project. Topics addressed by participants in previous years are on the web site. Projects will be presented during the graduation session. Each member of your group will present one portion of the project for 5 minutes. Once the group presentations are complete, you will be divided into small groups to discuss how to move the group projects forward by discussing how project be used by others, who can use them, and any next steps that would make the projects useful to others. Resulting information will be compiled and shared with IWLA alumni to make the projects and additional ideas available to the larger watershed community.

COMMUNICATION BETWEEN WORKSHOPS

Course Website (<https://campus.extension.org/>)

All participants should join this platform, which we use for course materials and discussion. You will also be using this as a resource to obtain information and network for upcoming meetings and to access follow-up information from our face-to-face meetings. You can also use the discussion forums to organize car pools to meetings, ask questions on assignments, toss around project ideas, etc.

Email List (iwla@ecn.purdue.edu)

We also maintain an Academy email list, which we use to send out regular updates, reminders, and notices. You can email other participants this way to pass along news and information that you feel would be relevant to your fellow students, but it is moderated to avoid erroneous postings. To post messages to the listserv send them to: iwla@ecn.purdue.edu. We will approve and send them to others.

Closed Facebook Group

We will use a closed Facebook group to interact between face-to-face meetings. While we will not host organized discussions on the Facebook group, we encourage you to share job postings, grant information, discuss projects or modules, and post articles and information that are of interest to you and other participants. The group is not moderated, so please be considerate and professional.

TIME COMMITMENT

We recognize that you probably hold a full time job, may have family and community responsibilities, and that additional work outside of these can be difficult to accomplish. This Academy has been developed to directly benefit and aid in the day to day work of watershed professionals and volunteers. We hope that the Academy will help you in your daily watershed-related duties and activities.

Lesson modules assignments will be due every two weeks, and each assignment will involve about 3 or 4 hours of your time. Some participants spend much more, but this should not be necessary unless you want to learn more. In addition, you will be involved in completing an in-depth project involving about 10 hours of your time. This covers the distance learning portion of the Academy.

The three face-to-face class sessions add five days total over the four month period that the Academy is in session. The skills and knowledge gained, the relationships built, and recognition of being a graduate of this Academy will be the rewards for the time and effort you bring to the Academy.

LIST OF MODULES

The following list provides an overview of the Learning Modules in the Academy curriculum. Complete Required Modules are available in your course notebook and all Modules are available at the course website.

Required Modules (Everyone completes these.)

- R1. Introduction to the Academy
- R2. Stakeholder Involvement*
- R3. Tools for Watershed Inventory
- R4. Watershed Inventory and Analysis
- R5. Understanding the Land Use Planning Process and Engaging Planning Officials
- R6. Setting Goals to Achieve Outcomes

Elective Modules (Draft list; You will receive more information in April, and choose one during each period)

Elective period A	Elective period B	Elective period C
A1. Organizing Your Watershed Group	B1. Running Effective Meetings	C1. Group Facilitation Skills
A2. The Clean Water Act: Overview	B2. The Clean Water Act: Water Quality Standards and TMDLs	C2. The Clean Water Act: Understanding Permits
A3. Web Sites and Online Social Networking: Developing Your Message	B3. Web Sites and Online Social Networking: Implementing Your Site	C3. Estimating Load Reductions for Best Management Practices
A4. Effective Outreach Using Social Marketing Strategies	B4. Gathering Social Information About Your Watershed	C4. Estimating and Presenting Environmental and Economic Benefits
A5. Understanding Drainage Policy and Practice	B5. Identifying Best Management Practices for Your Watershed	C5. Sustaining Your Watershed Group Financially
A6. Using EPA's Watershed Plan Builder	B6. Calculating Loads Using Your Monitoring Data	C7. Using Social Indicators to Effectively Target Your Watershed Education Programs

ACADEMY SCHEDULE

Typical Dates (Varies each year)	Module & Due Date
January 1-13	Introduction to the Watershed Academy (R1). <i>Bring draft assignment R1 to the Workshop for discussion. Due by email Jan 13</i>
January 8-9	1 st Workshop – Canyon Inn, McCormick’s Creek State Park <i>Focus on Gathering People and Information</i>
January 14-27	Stakeholder Involvement (R2). <i>May require a stakeholder meeting.</i> <i>Assignment due January 27</i>
January 28-February 10	Tools for Developing a Watershed Inventory (R3) <i>Assignment due February 10</i>
February 11-24	Watershed Inventory and Analysis (R4) <i>Assignment due February 24</i>
February 25-March 9	Understanding the Planning Process and Engaging Planning Officials (R5). <i>May require a meeting with a local planning official. Please plan ahead.</i> <i>Assignment due March 9</i>
March 10-23	Setting Goals to Achieve Outcomes (R6) <i>Assignment due March 23</i>
March 31-April 1	2 nd Workshop – Tecumseh Leadership Center, Brookston, IN <i>Focus on Implementing Your Watershed Plan</i>
April 6	Elective Module Choices due. Submit your three elective module choices
April 2-13	Elective Module 1 <i>Assignment due April 13</i>
April 14-27	Elective Module 2 <i>Assignment due April 27</i>
April 28- May 11	Elective Module 3 <i>Assignment due May 11</i>
May 18	1. Team Project due. Powerpoint presentations submitted after May 20 will not be used at Graduation. 2. Handouts should be finalized and submitted with your presentation. If you wish to distribute during graduation, please print copies. 3. Last date for late assignments to receive credit before Graduation
May 20	Graduation Session, Ft. Benjamin Harrison State Park Conference Center, Indianapolis. 9am-3:30 pm. Team Project presentations