

IMAB Meeting 8/6/2025 Notes

Attendees: Sam Lashley, Ben Esterline, Allison Curry, Tony Bailey, Connor McCarthy, Breegan Anderson, David Lampe, Don Cummings, David Beachler, Garth Lindner, Beth Hall, Austin Pearson, Sarah Hudson, Stu Foster, Beth Carpenter, Ginger Davis

Review of Previous Meeting Minutes

- Emergency Managers Alliance of Indiana Meeting – Beth's presentation was a good meeting.
- Austin added a new map to the website.
- Beth and Garth discussed site locations, but no definite sites were chosen.

Old Business:

- Beth and Don acquired funding from Johnson County for a Purdue Mesonet station.
- Working with the state mitigation officer, did anything come of this? There was a webinar with key county EMAs that didn't have a mesonet station in or adjacent to their county, but it did not gain much traction.
- Fayette County started the process of applying for a BRIC grant, but had to withdraw application because it required an archaeological survey. The cost exceeded the available funds.

New Business:

- Governor Braun's EO – 2563 Statewide water inventory and water management plan
 - Had a meeting set up back in June to talk about what we (mesonet community) have, what we need, and how to fulfill a lot of items within the EO. This EO is being driven by the major entities operating in Lebanon. Sam included the full EO in the meeting reminder email.
 - Beth Carpenter followed up with Ryan Mueller after this meeting. They need to work out some issues on their end. He said to follow up with him in mid-August. Sam noted that IMAB has set up to be able to help with this.
 - **ACTION: Beth C. will be reconnecting with him in mid-August.**
 - DNR is holding state agency meetings to reach consensus on each of the four points in the EO. Starting October 1, they will host external partner meetings. The report will inform the 2027 legislative session. There are plans for regional meetings with external partners. Groups in this room will be invited to participate. Garth has been working with IDEM, IDH, the Regulatory Commission, and INDOT.
 - ISDA perspective from state agency partner meetings: ISDA is positioned to help with water quality programs. NWS gets calls all the time about inversions and corn sweat (ET) – two things are aren't readily available from any public monitoring network aside from the mesonet(s)
- Emergency Alert System Taskforce Formation – Jonathan Witham at the state leading. NWS is a part of it.
 - The Governor announced the formation of an emergency alerting task force in response to the Texas flooding in July 2025. Why does this involve IMAB? We need the observations for better accuracy and local relevance. Sam mentioned the Indiana dust

storm from mid-May. There are no observations in western Indiana for these events. NWS has a new model that updates every 30 minutes. Based on this model, they issued warnings for the dust storm (60-70 mph winds). NWS would have had a faster warning time if they had confirmed the winds. A phone call from an EMA director alerted NWS to this. Champaign, IL, was the only station that showed something that was happening.

- How do we package some of these impact stories? NWS is more accustomed to doing this on the science side. When it comes to the public side of things, we don't usually do this. NRCS wrote about it as a wind erosion event.
- Ideas:
 - Consider creating a public communication or videos about that.
 - Capstone projects for students at Purdue in Robin's class?
 - Ball State has its atmospheric science program, which has good media.
 - Emergency Management has after-action reports.
 - NWS does have good videos for the public.
 - PDF little scenarios for the legislative session.
 - Can reference certain events and build the case for the Mesonet.
 - What about TV meteorologists reporting on particular cases? EMA scripts the media interview. Apps and extras have videos. Two strong advocates in the state (Indy and northern Indiana).
 - Farm Bureau has a well-funded media group that puts together a magazine and social media. All these media folks are looking for content. Highlight unusual events.
 - Best way to document these events? Sarah would have to know who we are asking. Is it a legislative request to the public? Consider maintaining a library of events and formatting it accordingly based on our target audience. Tie it back to the support of economic development. Maximizing outputs by supporting improvements that will help several different agencies.
 - **ACTION ITEM (who??): Work with Farm Bureau to bring these stories and anecdotes. Non-mesonet people to understand the value and make the case for funding.**

- **Updates**

- Purdue Mesonet – Beth Hall (see Beth's PPT sent via email)
 - David Beachler would like to be involved in snow sensor testing.
 - [OTT sensor particle-ID sensor](#). A little bit more high-tech than what is used at ASOS sites. Recommended 'scintillometer' to measure turbulence which may be a complementary variable to low-level inversions for off-target drift concerns.
 - Other topic(s) that came up during presentation from IMAB participants:
 - The [Ohio River Basin Alliance](#) has been actively visiting Congress every summer. Lacking congressional funds for restoration activities. It could be a group we can partner with. Maybe not full statewide funding, but it might be an opportunity. They just released a new draft report. Back in DC to pitch to elected reps. Aiming for half of the reps from the Ohio River Basin region who attend.

- The southern third of Indiana faces the same risk as Kentucky (restoration needs and lack of funding?). The corridor in the Ohio Valley will need some attention.
- Raising mesonet awareness and/or funding via research grants. Other mesonets, like Oklahoma, include the use of the mesonet in a pre-award worksheet. Among the many screens, they added 'Are you going to be working with Mesonet data?'. Their idea is that it gets flagged with the preaward program, then possibly incorporated into the budget. The PU department head said it doesn't guarantee funding is coming, but it gives us an idea of the data's usage.
- Indiana Water Balance Network – Ginger Davis
 - IWBN has been dealing with budget cuts. A lot of her effort has been placed elsewhere. She has been tasked with looking at water data holistically. Looking at the governor's EO.
 - They've been focusing more on the data and QA/QC aspects. They recognize that they have QA/QC problems. They still face QA/QC issues with wind sensors and have replaced bearings. Some soil moisture sensors have failed. Securing funding for new sensors has been challenging. A university grant awarded before the budget cuts helped, and they now have a reasonably healthy budget to purchase new sensors.
 - New stations
 - Funding in place for a station at CRANE. Looking at water storage at the edge of the glacial till and doing some soil profiling at CRANE. A student was brought on this summer to help with installation, but unfortunately, it couldn't be completed. IGWS is still planning to move forward with this.
 - IWBN is also installing an instrument at Versailles State Park. We are finalizing the MOU for the station and planning to establish a new station near Vincennes to secure an energy grant. They need site-specific information on wind speeds and water flow through the mines. This station is less than a mile from one of the Purdue Mesonet stations.
 - They have a site where trees have grown up around a station. Debating about moving the station. Holding fast while budgets are under consideration.
 - QUESTION: What ever happened to the partnership with Purdue where IGWS/IWBN would focus more on ground monitoring (potentially leveraging the above-ground mesonet materials infrastructure from the Purdue Mesonet) and Purdue/IN-SCO would focus on the mesonet (network of weather stations)?
 - Ginger met with her administration; they didn't want to turn over their weather stations but wanted to have proof of concept. They prioritize water measurement at those stations.
- Bylaws Discussion
 - Garth mentioned INAFSM was going to read through the bylaws. Their group agreed that "Skip" can review the bylaws for free. Garth needs to initiate this now.
 - Indiana Mesonet Advisory Body rather than Board – "IMAB"

- Article 2: A change 'subsurface' to 'surface' OR
 - Do we want to stay with the definition of 'Mesonet' or let Indiana define 'Mesonet'? How could or should the groundwater and surface monitoring be better differentiated from the more traditional weather monitoring station that typically distinguishes a 'mesonet'?
 - QUESTION: How should we define a "mesonet"?
 - RWIS network observes other variables too. Wouldn't consider those sensors as part of the Indiana Mesonet. In the case of Indiana, is the information shared through the website primarily focused on the meteorological aspects? Is IMAB going to be advocating for funding of the groundwater?
 - The water part matters. Don is not in favor of taking out groundwater or surface water. Can't address the Governor's EO without the water piece.
 - May be worth including the phrase 'may also include groundwater and surface water measurements'
 - Should we say this is the Indiana Mesonet definition?
 - Rather than saying 'mesonet stations' or 'mesonet site' may Or 'mesonet station may include other measurements such as...' so that they can be leveraged.
 - Add a second paragraph for groundwater and surface water monitoring.
 - Keep imagining the whole water cycle and how this network can address that. IMAB is in an advisory role. Can take what they say and throw it out the window if they want.
 - See comments on capitalization and improvement to the infrastructure management bullet.
 - Education to be added to the list of items. Robin sent a draft of this.
 - 'Mesonet sites are engineered to collect, at a minimum, common meteorological data'. Find a spot to mention that 'bylaws will be updated with emerging technologies'.
 - Flexibility for this body to integrate other networks as they deem appropriate.
 - Site visits for sensors: What does 'or as otherwise indicated' mean? Don brought this. You don't put anything on fixed calibration schedules. If you see that something is still right on the mark at 6 months every time, maybe expand to 8 months. For the word 'modern', change to 'acceptable'. Will occur semi-annually and comply with the AASC Mesonet Best Practices and Recommendations... add a reference for the AASC document.
 - Governance section
 - Big vision is to have a one-stop shop for a centralized site of all weather data. Indiana Mesonet is not responsible for doing QA/QC of data. ACIS

does something similar; maybe we can implement 30-day period corrections when IN-SCO does data pulls (to ensure all presented data online is as up-to-date as possible).

- There's no time interval in there, so we added 'operational' to the definition.
- Article 4 – Membership
 - Don't have INDOT, USDA, USGS
 - There was some concern about gov entities being on the board for recommendations with money. A 'board' is different from a 'body', though (hence the name change). May be an issue for involvement. Maybe not list organizations directly, but keep them 'At Large Members'. Could also note within the bylaws 'may include but not limited to INDOT, USDA NRCS, USGS, etc.'
 - Make sure the word 'body' is in the doc, not 'board'.
 - Account for 2/3 of voting members.
- Quorum and Voting
 - Include 'more than 50%' rather than '50% + 1'
 - If there is a non-voting member in attendance for a special meeting. The intent is that they would not be allowed to vote.
- Affiliation and Standards
 - Equipment maintenance and upgrades: include future plan intensions from member mesonet programs. Year-to-year comparisons for our networks can only be done a year out for now. Maybe look at 3 years?
 - **ACTION (Beth): IN-SCO to provide materials outlining how we meet the minimum recommendation for the AASC Mesonet Recommendations doc. Could provide a good draft of documentation.**
 - We want the burden to be on the network to prove they are worth being part of IN-Mesonet, not the board or the IN-SCO.
 - Application: Can there be a rubric? Pull it from AASC.
 - **ACTION ITEM: Beth H, track down a copy. Synoptic rubric too. Can create a doc.**
 - Can we add to the bylaws that rubric/identified metrics in the bylaws? Wouldn't recommend adding a rubric to the bylaws. We can have the rubric for the site, instruments, etc., online. Lends credibility to stations in the network. May hinder those without a web presence.
 - D. REQUIREMENTS AND TERMS: Is there a method for getting rid of a network? – not yet. A section on the Mesonet program accountability needs to be added. How do we know they are doing those two inspections? Reports can be required to be submitted monthly or at regular intervals. Quality Assurance. If you are joining, you need to be taken care of by the QA/QC.
 - **ACTION (Sam): draft up section on member mesonet program accountability**

- 2-year renewals?
 - Is there a requirement for longevity coming into the network? For example, does a five-year study for station implementation qualify?
 - Make a list of who was here today to vote. We do have MADE Room on schedule for Oct 1 and Dec 1.
- **ACTION ITEM: Austin, Sam, and Beth work on improving the bylaws with recommendations from today's meeting. Have it ready to review by the next meeting.**