

**State of Indiana**  
**Water Conservation and Efficiency Program Review**  
**November 21, 2011**

The State of Indiana submits the following Water Conservation and Efficiency Program review to the Regional Body and Compact Council pursuant to the requirements set forth in the Agreement Article 300 and Section 3.4.1 of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Sustainable Water Resources Compact (the Compact).

**1. Lead agency/agencies:**

The lead agency is the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR). The lead contact person is IDNR Deputy Director Ron McAhron.

**2. Water Conservation and Efficiency Goals and Objectives**

Indiana's Lake Michigan Basin water conservation and efficiency goals are those of Section 4.2.1 of the Compact that includes the basin-wide goals as follows:

- a. Ensure the improvement of the waters and water dependent natural resources;
- b. Protect and restore the hydrologic and ecosystem integrity of the Basin;
- c. Retain the quantity of surface water and groundwater in the Basin;
- d. Ensuring sustainable use of waters of the Basin; and
- e. Promoting the efficiency of use and reduce losses and waste of water in the Basin.

The State of Indiana's water conservation and efficiency objectives are summarized in Indiana's Water Management Policy that *"recognizes that Indiana's abundant resources are a public good for all citizens of the State, and promotes the efficient use of this water by encouraging environmentally sound and economically feasible conservation measures to ensure availability for future generations"*.

Based upon the experience gained under existing Indiana programs by virtue of the outreach ability afforded from those programs, Indiana has concluded that increased awareness and education regarding the Compact in general and the benefits of conservation and efficiency specifically are necessary and prudent initial steps toward achieving the long term goals.

**3. Water Conservation and Efficiency Program Overview.**

The following statutory provisions are applicable to the Water Conservation and Efficiency program in the State of Indiana:

- **Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact (IC 14-25-15)**  
Interstate agreement on the use of water resources in the Great Lakes-St Lawrence River basin.
- **Significant Water Withdrawal Facility Registration (IC 14-25-7-15)** Registration and withdrawal reporting requirements for facilities with the capability of withdrawing more than one hundred thousand (100,000) gallons of ground water, surface water, or ground and surface water combined in one (1) day.

- **Sale of Water (IC 14-25-2)** Conservation planning is required in the application for the sale of water from any Reservoir financed fully or in part by the State.
- **Emergency Regulation of Ground Water Rights (IC 14-25-4)** Provides for protection for small capacity wells and procedures to limit high capacity pumping when discharge exceeds the recharge capability of the source aquifer
- **Emergency Regulation of Surface Water Rights (IC 14-25-5.5)** Restriction of high capacity pumping can be required in order to restore lake level under certain conditions.
- **Water Shortage Task Force (IC 14-25-14)** Indiana's Water Shortage Plan was updated in 2009 including Conservation and Efficiency considerations.

#### **4. Promotion of Environmentally Sound and Economically Feasible Water Conservation Measures, Consistent with Regional Objectives.**

- **Guide programs toward long-term sustainable use.**
  - Statewide registration and water use reporting program under IC 14-25-7-15 of over 3,600 facilities covering the full range of water use categories has been in place since 1985.
  - Detailed river basin studies for the Indiana portion of the Great Lakes Basin (Lake Michigan Region, St. Joseph River Basin, and Maumee River Basin) were completed in the 1990's by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Water. These studies provide a valuable baseline of detailed information regarding the availability, development, protection and projected use of the ground water and surface water resources of each river basin.
  - Best Management Practices (BMPs) for each registered water use category have been developed and distributed to all registered SWWFs within the Great Lakes Basin and statewide. The identification of applicable BMPs was completed with the use of industry standards and input from SWWF representatives, area water user groups, environmental groups, private sector water management firms, academia, and area planning commissions.
  - Water Management Planning Frameworks are available for each water use category and can assist water users with their conservation planning efforts, especially those registered as SWWFs. The framework is directed, as a guidance document, at those facilities that may not currently have conservation requirements as part of daily operating procedures and encourages facilities to more readily develop & implement conservation and efficiency programs on a voluntary basis.
  - In 2010 a statewide survey and BMP checklist was sent to all SWWFs. The survey purposes were to:

- 1) gather data on conservation and efficiency efforts of all Indiana SWWFs; and
- 2) share information on BMPs, water management practices, new technology, and other pertinent topics relevant to conservation and efficiency efforts.

- The follow up survey included with 2011 water use report mailing requested email addresses to improve communication efforts with SWWFs, conservation and efficiency educational needs (most common indicated future strategy for SWWFs as indicated by 2010 survey results), and potential voluntary reduction goals and previously achieved reduction percentages. The mailer also included information on the implementation of LSA Document # 11-667(E) regarding the permitting of water withdrawals within the Great Lakes Basin that exceed the established thresholds set forth in IC 14-25-15-7.
  
- **Promote the efficient use and conservation of water.**
  - Implementation of educational mailings to registered SWWFs to communicate the importance of water use efficiency and conservation practices. The educational mailings are ongoing, utilizing the long established correspondence for SWWF annual water use reporting as a vehicle for providing information on conservation and efficiency.
  - Encouragement of universal water metering programs, including water audits, to identify leaks, waste, and opportunities for water savings in all educational items.
  - *Indiana's Water Management Policy* recognizes that Indiana's abundant water resources are a public good for all citizens of the State, and promotes the efficient use of this water by encouraging environmentally sound and economically feasible conservation measures to ensure availability for future generations.
  - Development of a Statewide Water Management Plan that promotes improvements in water management practices, such as watering lawns, gardens, and farm fields efficiently, using water efficient fixtures in homes and businesses, using drought resistant landscape practices, and using reclaimed or lower quality water for irrigation, industrial, and other appropriate non-potable uses.
  - Suggested Model Ordinance—The Model Conservation Ordinance describes a suite of measures including good water management practices at all times, potential price increases for water during times of shortage, and enforced rationing during periods of extreme water shortage. While some of the measures in the ordinance may not apply in all situations or locations, the purpose of the measures is to encourage wise use of the resource and to minimize the impacts of seasonal or short-term water shortages.
  - Conservation and efficiency programs are mandatory as part of permit application for any new or increased withdrawals or diversions under the Compact. (Emergency Rule LSA Document #11-677(E) which became effective on November 1, 2011)

- **Develop water conservation education programs and information sharing.**
  - Current development of a water conservation and efficiency website clearinghouse that will outline the historical process of implementation of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact, corresponding permit rule and conservation and efficiency rule development.
  - Educational and printable material available and conveniently accessible to public, water users, SWWFs, and various stakeholders on Indiana's water conservation and efficiency clearinghouse website.
  - Significant Water Withdrawal Facility (SWWF) data is accessible and linked to conservation and efficiency clearinghouse.
  - Website clearinghouse includes links to other conservation programs, such as the EPA's Water Sense program.
  - Indiana registered SWWFs surveyed on current water conservation and efficiency efforts and water management practices and those that are planned for implementation in the future. Included with the 2010 annual water use report form, the survey received a 54% response rate from facilities within the Great Lakes Basin. (Acquired data accessible from website clearinghouse.)
  - Continue to build on the success of surveys associated with annual water use reporting. Use of ongoing process of surveying facilities and building the database to track the implementation of new or revised conservation strategies by SWWFs, as well as the movement of conservation and efficiency strategies and BMPs formerly indicated as 'planned' to the 'current' category.
  
- **Improve monitoring and standardize data reporting among state and provincial water conservation and efficiency programs.**
  - SWWF water use data was first made available online in 2005 that provides annual summaries and withdrawal data for the previous five years. The data is updated annually. A portal for on-line submittal of SWWF annual water use information is currently being developed to facilitate and standardize data reporting.
  - Checklists of Best Management Practices developed specifically for each SWWF water use category will allow standardized comparisons of implemented and planned conservation and efficiency efforts.

**5. The State of Indiana's timeline for implementation of voluntary Water Conservation and Efficiency Program.**

- Indiana has posted information addressing Section 4.2 of the Compact, including development of water conservation and efficiency goals and objectives consistent with the basin wide goals and objectives by December 8, 2010 (two years from the effective date of the Compact). A rule for voluntary conservation and efficiency is being finalized.
- Public outreach and input from applicable stakeholders has been a cornerstone in implementation of the Compact and will continue to be regarding development of Indiana's voluntary Water Conservation and Efficiency Program through the coming years.
- The Department of Natural Resources will work with the Natural Resources Commission to propose and pursue adoption of permanent rules to implement voluntary water conservation and efficiency programs.
- The Department will also continue to coordinate efforts with Indiana Department of Environmental Management and the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission in areas involving the Compact in general and conservation and efficiency in particular.