

**WATER SHORTAGE TASK FORCE:  
POLICY AND PRIORITY COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY  
March 2, 2007**

The **Policy and Priority Committee of the Water Shortage Task Force** conducted its meeting from 10:00 am to 12:30 pm (EST) on March 2, 2007, in Conference Room A of the IGCS in Indianapolis. The following is a brief summary of presentations, major discussion topics and suggested action items from the meeting:

**Presentations**

- 1) **Annex 2001**; Ron McAhrn, Deputy Director, IDNR
  - Minnesota has adopted Compact, Ohio and New York making significant progress.
  - Diversions from Great Lakes Basin prohibited except for 1) straddling communities (must have return flow); 2) communities in straddling counties (requires regional review and defined need); 3) interbasin transfers (must have defined need).
  - Ground Water diversions from basin will be evaluated using surface water divide.
  - Annex will impact planning in Great Lakes Basin
  
- 2) **Planning for Central Indiana's Water System**; Carlton Curry, Indianapolis Dept. of Waterworks.
  - Water supply utilities meeting to look at regional water supply needs.
  - IWC supplied by ground water (25%) and surface water (75%)
  - IWC will not seek regional water authority unless supported by at least 65% of surrounding communities.
  - Daily water use per person has been reducing in IWC service area.
  - Reduced water rates for summer irrigation may not be best policy.
  - Must look regionally for water supply – how much “drought insurance” must be considered.

**Major Discussion Topics**

- 1) Use and reliability of the Palmer Hydrological Drought Index (PDHI).
- 2) Task Force should investigate supply and demand issue, not just drought.
- 3) Difference between the terms “drought” and “water shortage”.
- 4) Water conservation ordinances for communities should be consistent statewide.
- 5) Replace the term “need” with “demand” when defining a water shortage (adds economic component to water use).
- 6) What and where is demand for water in the state; where is water needed?
- 7) State must look at rewards for water conservation.
- 8) Investigate water supply availability in major economic areas (Indy, Ft. Wayne, etc.).
- 9) Balance between economic and environmental impacts of water shortage.

### **Suggested Action Items**

- 1) Match future water demand with available water supply (Southern Illinois University and/or Purdue University can potentially provide supply and demand forecasting).
- 2) Review conservation techniques developed for varying demographics and locations (Texas has implemented this type of program, and a copy will be provided by Jack Wittman).

### **Items for Discussion/Presentation at Task Force Meeting**

- 1) Development of “Glossary of Terms” for Water Shortage Plan.
- 2) Review minimum stream flow requirements for various environmental needs.
- 3) Evaluate existing conservation ordinances (perhaps referred as “Memorandum of Understanding”) to be used as templates for Water Shortage Plan.
- 4) Explanation of Palmer Hydrological Drought Index (PHDI).

The Policy and Priority Committee agreed that monthly meetings should be conducted for the next several months, with scheduled conference calls (when necessary). The next committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Friday, April 20, 2007 from 10:00 am to noon (EDT) at the IGCS in Indianapolis.