

**WATER SHORTAGE TASK FORCE:
MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE
MEETING SUMMARY
March 2, 2007**

The **Monitoring and Assessment Committee of the Water Shortage Task Force** conducted its meeting from 1:00 to 3:00 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) **Update of locations and resolutions of reported ground water and surface water conflicts; 1985-2006;** IDNR, Division of Water
 - Water Rights: Emergency Regulation (IC 14-25-4) provides protection for domestic well owners against impacts of high capacity (HC) ground-water pumping.
 - Approximately 150 complaints received per year; most not caused by HC pumping.
 - Most well failures voluntarily resolved by affecting HC facility.
 - Several domestic well failures in Fort Wayne area due to quarry and municipal pumping.
 - Significant ground-water withdrawals in Hamilton County by other than high capacity facilities
 - 26 domestic well failures in Town of Wyatt due to landfill dewatering; resolved voluntarily by landfill.
 - Well failures primarily local issue, not due to regional water level declines.
 - Surface water conflicts occurred primarily during the summer of 1988

- 2) **Evaluation of existing statewide stream, lake and ground water monitoring networks;** IDNR, Division of Water
 - Significant reduction of gages in USGS hydrologic network in 2003 due to reduced cooperative funding by IDNR.
 - Ground water monitoring wells reduced from 94 to 35; Stream gages reduced from 115 to 41; Lake gages reduced from 80 to 8.
 - Possible cooperative funding of gages by other entities (water utilities, cities, industry, etc.)
 - Data valuable for drought evaluations, water rights investigations, minimum streamflow determinations, etc.
 - Line item for gage funding by state agencies.

- 3) **Summary of reported water use from registered Significant Water Withdrawal Facilities; 1985-2005;** IDNR, Division of Water
- 3519 SWWFs currently registered with IDNR; number of facilities consistent during the past 12 years.
 - Approximately 3.35 TG of water use reported in 2005 from 5988 wells and 1434 surface water intakes.
 - 3.12 TG from surface water and 230 BG from ground water in 2005.
 - Increase in ground water withdrawals for public water supply following 1988 drought.

Major Discussion Topics

- 1) Evaluation of water rights complaints located in significant water use areas that could indicate regional problems.
- 2) Growth of water use by category – Indiana predicted to have significant increase in irrigation pumping.
- 3) Correlation between scale of drought and scale of impact.
- 4) Potential funding sources for expansion of hydrologic data network.
- 5) Identification of water quality, quantity and other hydrologic data available at various agencies/organizations.

Items for Discussion/Presentation at Task Force Meeting

- 1) Investigate potential line item funding for hydrologic data network.
- 2) Summary presentation of available web-based hydrologic data.
- 3) Evaluation of SWWF data by category to identify water use trends, including identification of additional proposed large water users (ethanol plants, large subdivisions, etc.).
- 4) Brief summary of Annex 2001

The Monitoring And Assessment Committee proposed that monthly meetings should be conducted, and be held in the afternoon on the same day (third Friday of the month) as the Policy and Priority Committee meetings. The next Monitoring and Assessment Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Friday, April 20, 2007, from 1:00 to 3:00 pm (EDT) at the IGCS in Indianapolis.