

Proposed Resolution for the Funding of Stream, Lake and Reservoir Gages and Ground-Water Observation Wells.

**Prepared by the
Indiana Water Shortage Task Force
September 18, 2008**

Whereas current funding for maintaining Indiana's stream and lake gage and ground-water observation well network is derived from several sources, including the United States Geological Survey (USGS), Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM), Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT), United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) as well as local governments and other private entities;

Whereas Indiana currently has 174 stream gages, 37 ground-water observation wells and 10 lake gages that are operated and maintained by the United States Geological Survey;

Whereas the number of stream and lake gages and ground-water observation wells in Indiana's network has been reduced from a total of 343 in the year 2003 to a total of 221 in the year 2008 due to the reduction of funds available within the operating budgets of State and Federal Agencies and Local Units of Government;

Whereas it is essential to understand the quantity of water in Indiana's streams, lakes and aquifers in order to properly manage the state's water resource, predict the occurrence of droughts and floods, and enhance disaster preparedness;

Whereas the current network of stream and lake gages and ground-water observation wells requires annual maintenance and repairs;

Whereas existing and new stream and lake gages and observation wells are needed to enhance understanding of Indiana's surface water and ground-water systems and enhance predictive capability;

Whereas funding for maintaining and expanding Indiana's stream and lake gage and ground-water monitoring well network can be impacted by budget shortfalls occurring within IDEM, IDNR and INDOT;

Whereas a stable funding source is critical to the network's long term viability;
Therefore:

Proposed Resolution

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives/Senate of the

General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

SECTION 1. That a dedicated fund shall be established to serve as the funding source for the State's costs for the stream and lake gage and ground-water observation well network.

SECTION 2. That the dedicated fund established in Section 1 shall be known as the *Indiana Drought and Flood Gage Emergency Preparedness Fund*.

SECTION 3. That the *Indiana Drought and Flood Gage Emergency Preparedness Fund* shall be initially funded by the reallocation of gage acquisition and maintenance appropriations.

SECTION 4. That the *Indiana Drought and Flood Gage Emergency Preparedness Fund* shall be administered by an interagency panel that includes the director or their designee from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management, Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Indiana Department of Transportation, the Indiana Department of Homeland Security and the Office of the Governor. The director of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources shall convene the panel.

SECTION 5. That the interagency panel shall also include one advisory representative from the United States Geological Survey, United States Army Corps of Engineers, National Weather Service and the Indiana Water Monitoring Council.

SECTION 6. That the money in the *Indiana Drought and Flood Gage Emergency Preparedness Fund* does not revert to the state general fund at the end of the state fiscal year. However, if the fund is abolished, the money in the *Indiana Drought and Flood Gage Emergency Preparedness Fund* reverts to the state general fund.

Supporting Exhibits

1. Maps depicting the current stream and lake gage and monitoring well network.
2. Pie chart showing the current sources of funds.
3. Summary of gage funding by Federal, State, Local or other supporting entities.

