



Pokégnek Bodéwadmik · Pokagon Band of Potawatomi

Department of Natural Resources

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(800) 517-0777 · (269) 782-9602 · (269) 782-1817 fax

Jim Goodheart
Department of Environmental Quality
Constitution Hall, 6th Floor South
525 West Allegan Street, P.O. Box 30473
Lansing, MI 48909-7973

Dear Mr. Goodheart:

The Pokagon Band of Potawatomi would like to thank the efforts that the Office of Great Lakes is doing to compile a water strategy for the State of Michigan. To make a guidance document that incorporates the health and biological integrity of the Great Lakes water resources as a driving force to economic prosperity will be beneficial to future generations.

The indigenous people of this area hold water as a sacred and essential element for life. To this day we hold water ceremonies to pray for the health of our waters. Women, like water, have life giving capabilities. In the Neshnabe culture it is the responsibility of all woman to protect the rivers, streams, lakes, and oceans for all life on Earth.

In an effort to support the State of Michigan Water Strategy the Pokagon Band Department of Natural Resources has listed activities currently occurring within the Pokagon community and future activities that would support the goals of the water strategy. You will find them as amendments in the right column of the attached 2015 Office of the Great Lakes Draft Water Strategy Table 2.

The road ahead will not be an easy one as common knowledge of water and how it is intertwined throughout our daily lives is lost to many. Watershed thinking and understanding the water cycle from when it starts as rain or snow across the landscape to the many paths it takes to reach our wetlands, rivers, streams, and lakes will be vitally important. The Clean Water Act has addressed many of the point sources issues of the past. In the future non-point sources need to be better managed to truly improve the health and biological integrity of our Great Lakes water resources.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions regarding this submission. I can be reached via email at Jennifer.Kanine@PokagonBand-nsn.gov or at 269-462-4214.



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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Kanine".

Jennifer Kanine, PhD, AWB
Director, Department of Natural Resources
Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians

CC: Jon Allan

Goal 1: Michigan's aquatic ecosystems are healthy and functional.

Outcome: Aquatic ecosystems are resilient and diverse.

#	Recommendation	Implementation Metric	Lead Actor	Pokagon Band Activities
1	Prevent the introduction of new aquatic invasive species and control existing populations of aquatic invasive species in accordance with the Michigan Aquatic Invasive Species Management Plan.	By 2020, the ecological separation of the Great Lakes basin and the Mississippi River basin, especially in the Chicago Area Waterways system has been initiated.	State and federal agencies, Nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), local units of governments, individuals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begin monitoring efforts for Aquatic Invasive Species • Continue efforts in finding funding sources • Create Aquatic Invasive Species Management Plan
2	Work with other Great Lakes states and provinces to harmonize aquatic invasive species prevention, early detection processes and response actions across the Great Lakes region.	By 2016, implement a pilot project with Ontario and interested states to evaluate and pursue areas of harmonization.	State agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue and improve partnerships with Tribal, Federal, and State staff on aquatic invasive species issues
3	Accelerate research and solutions to identify mechanisms of food web disruption and changes of nutrient flows in the Great Lakes with a focus on the effects of invasive species.	By 2017, a minimum of three new research projects will be established for the purposes of evaluating nutrient shifts in Great Lakes food webs to help focus appropriate management, social, and economic responses.	Universities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore partnerships with universities and colleges to study and improve water resources (SMC, Notre Dame, Grand Valley State, WMU, MSU, Purdue, CMU)
4	Develop a comprehensive strategy to prevent nuisance and harmful algal blooms.	By 2017, develop a strategy to prevent harmful algal blooms and HABs based on desired outcomes.	MDEQ, local public health departments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce nutrient runoff to reduce potential algal blooms <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Implement buffer areas around water resources b. Reduce mowing to promote native plants c. Implement nutrient reduction farming practices d. Work with county Health Departments to reduce failing septic systems

6	Develop harmful algal toxin water quality criteria and implement a real-time monitoring strategy for Michigan's Great Lakes drinking water intakes and public recreation locations threatened by harmful algae.	By 2020, increase by 20% the number of people served by drinking water suppliers using surface water sources with real-time monitoring equipment installed to provide early warning of potential public health threats. By 2020, develop harmful algal toxin assessment criteria. By 2020, implement a real-time monitoring strategy for Michigan's Great Lakes drinking water intakes and public recreation locations threatened by HABs.	MDEQ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support Great Lakes activities by Federal and State agencies. • Currently not an issue in Pokagon Band waters, observational monitoring by DNR is occurring for potential issues
8	Incorporate planning for wet weather extremes and increased variability into state, regional and community planning.	Best management practices are reviewed every five years and updated (if necessary) to reflect climatic changes such as changes in rainfall frequency, duration or intensity.	State, Governmental entities, communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a Pokagon Band storm water management plan • Update building code to better manage storm water • Incorporate more pervious surfaces and green initiatives • Support local agency storm water manage planning
	Provide technical assistance and develop technical tools and training programs for communities, local officials and water stakeholders to inform and improve their water literacy and help them integrate water impacts into local land-use planning and decisions.	By 2020, develop a public official water literacy measurement. By 2020, develop a training module for local elected officials and decision-makers on the connection between land-use planning and zoning and the siting and approval of new projects. By 2020, develop a training module for local elected officials and decision-makers on the merits and benefits of asset management planning.	Universities, regional government and planning organizations, MDEQ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue outreach efforts to citizens via newsletters, website, and events • Continue work with watershed groups to educate and promote land-use practices that protect and improve water resources • Work with tribal planner to update building code and storm water management plan

10	Develop tools and guidance related to shoreline and riparian ecology and management and provide necessary technical support and training to municipalities, watershed-based organizations and landowners to achieve full benefits of riparian areas.	By 2020, develop a baseline for the current research and educational capacities. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate to pinpoint areas of capacity expansion. • Develop tools, guidance and training on best practices. • Determine need to update guidance and training materials. 	MDNR, MDEQ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with tribal planner to update building code and storm water management plan • Develop riparian management and guidance documents
11	Remove or improve dams that are no longer safe or ecologically, economically or socially viable to protect public safety and create healthy, connected aquatic systems.	By 2020, address all dams most at risk of failure.	MDEQ, MDNR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removed impoundment on Rodgers Lake Outlet (2015) • Support local efforts in address degrading water structures
12	Focus river and stream restoration efforts on addressing small hydrological impediments like culverts to create connectivity and restore stream stability.	By 2020, increase the number of small hydrologic impediments that are restored over a baseline established in 2015.	NGOs and local units of governments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue working with watershed groups in inventorying culverts and impoundments • Support databases such as the new Fishworks database that documents location and information on culverts and impoundments in the Great Lakes area • Work with tribal planner to update building code and storm water management plan
13	Refine and improve the water withdrawal assessment process to ensure sustainable use of water resources and that high priority is given to incorporating existing and new data and models to better represent local and regional water resources and surface water/groundwater interactions.	By 2016, develop a list of priority Water Use Advisory Council recommendations and an implementation plan.	MDEQ, MDNR, MDARD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inventory water withdraws on Pokagon Band's lands. • Place meters on wells and create database to track use

14	Provide technical and financial support to communities to plan and implement green infrastructure techniques and low-impact development while preserving natural spaces in the design of new developments, redevelopments and road projects to ensure storm water management and improve hydrology.	By 2020, increase the number of attendees to green infrastructure conferences, applications for projects, amount of grant dollars awarded to projects incorporating green infrastructure or low-impact development, and number of programs incentivizing green infrastructure projects and the number of Michigan communities that are recognized for green infrastructure projects and strategies over a baseline established in 2015.	MDEQ, MDOT, MDNR, Michigan State Housing Development Authority, MEDC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with tribal planner to update building code and storm water management plan • Develop riparian management and guidance documents • Continue efforts in finding funding sources
15	Modernize road and highway planning and infrastructure to effectively accommodate storm water runoff and infiltration needs, thereby reducing the costs and impacts of flooding.	By 2020, increase the number of Michigan's new road and highway projects designed to better accommodate storm water runoff and infiltration needs over a baseline established in 2015.	MDOT, local road and highway commissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with tribal planner to update building code and storm water management plan
16	Enhance financial and technical support of local stakeholder efforts to develop and implement watershed management plans to restore impaired waters, protect high quality waters, and develop and utilize local water resource assets.	By 2018, increase the number of grants, training and educational opportunities on the development and implementation of watershed management plans over a baseline established in 2015.	MDEQ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue working with watershed groups • Continue assisting conservation districts with macroinvertebrate monitoring (MI Corp)
17	Use existing authority to work with local units of government with storm water discharge or storm water-related hydrologic impairments in their waterways to establish Phase II storm water plans for impaired water bodies.	By 2020, increase the number of water bodies with storm water plans in place to address designated use impairments caused by storm water discharges and hydrologic impairments over a baseline established in 2015.	MDEQ, MDNR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with tribal planner to update building code and storm water management plan

18	<p>Eliminate impairments in priority watersheds that have degraded water quality and/or aquatic ecosystems due to nutrient runoff and soil erosion. Engage landowners through a collaborative and adaptive community-based natural resource management process to identify local actions to change behaviors and solution to achieve those outcomes. Failure to achieve those demonstrable outcomes within established timeframes could trigger additional measures.</p>	<p>By 2018, identify priority watersheds. Develop performance standards to cover statewide land-use activities. Agricultural land-use will directly follow MAEAP guidelines and participation criteria to remain consistent with the state's recent efforts. Concurrently develop the escalated "additional actions" triggered once a watershed has been determined to be impaired. By 2018, develop regional action teams with protocols for working with landowners. Educate collaborative teams on existing regulations and enforcement mechanisms allowed in their regions. By 2020, collaborative processes are in place with plans to achieve water quality outcomes in priority watersheds.</p>	MDEQ, MDARD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead by example by being proactive in community-based natural resources management • Continue work with watershed groups to educate and promote land-use practices that protect and improve water resources • Improve monitoring efforts in the Great Lakes and work with partners • Reduce nutrient runoff and sediment erosion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Implement buffer areas around water resources b. Reduce mowing to promote native plants c. Implement nutrient reduction farming practices d. Work with county Health Departments to reduce failing septic systems
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Goal 2: Michigan’s water resources are clean and safe.

Outcome: Surface and groundwater are managed to support sustainable human uses and ecological function.

#	Recommendation	Implementation Metric	Lead Actor	Pokagon Band Activities
1	<p>Protect drinking and source water areas by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuing to ensure remediation activities address the long-term impact on drinking water sources • Identifying and diligently protecting source water protection areas • Assisting well owners with identifying potential water well vulnerabilities • Focusing resources on contamination sources with the highest potential for causing contamination of drinking water supplies, including chemical storage facilities • Enhancing the drinking water geographic information system database and making information available across MDEQ programs and to local public health department environmental health personnel • Supporting mapping of local groundwater conditions in partnership with well contractors and others who collect groundwater information. 	<p>By 2020, address IT security issues, such as firewall and server capacity, to make information publically available. By 2020, develop educational materials to encourage residents with private drinking water wells to test new wells prior to use for nitrates and arsenic and to test wells prior to sale or transfer for bacteria, nitrates and arsenic.</p> <p>By 2020, develop an interface to effectively and efficiently track and monitor for groundwater contamination, and implement data tracking.</p>	MDEQ, local health departments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with Facilities and Maintenance Departments to create well database and address abandoned wells • Work with county Health Departments or internally setup of a well testing program for tribal citizens • Create fund to assist tribal citizens to improve failing drinking water systems • Investigate Federal or Tribal dollars

2	Develop a plan for aquifer protection that addresses geothermal construction and proper abandonment of wells.	By 2016, convene a stakeholder work group to develop draft legislation to regulate closed-loop geothermal construction. By 2020, develop educational materials for community land- use water systems and local health departments to increase plugging rates of abandoned wells when municipal water mains are extended.	MDEQ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with Facilities and Maintenance Departments to create well database and address abandoned wells
3	Establish inspection requirements for residential wells, including testing wells for nitrates, bacteria and arsenic.	By 2020, implement a statewide requirement for periodic inspections of drinking water quality.	Legislature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with county Health Departments or internally setup a well testing program for tribal citizens • Create fund to assist tribal citizens to improve failing drinking water systems • Investigate Federal or Tribal dollars
4	Develop a spill and communication strategy and organize an incident command approach to prevent, prepare for and respond to environmental disasters and chemical releases.	By 2016, implement the pipeline strategy currently being developed under the leadership of MDEQ and the Attorney General.	MDEQ, MDNR, MDARD, Michigan State Police, Department of Technology, Management and Budget	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with Tribal Planner, Police Department, and County Emergency Response people in creating Tribal Emergency Response Plans
5	Develop and implement a uniform statewide sanitary code that is flexible and provides standards for site suitability based on risk. Establish a long-term, sustainable funding source to support onsite wastewater programs at the state and local levels and to assist financially distressed owners of private on-site wastewater systems with repair and replacement costs.	By 2020, every county health department has an inventory and assessment of private, single-family home water supplies and all septic systems. By 2020, secure a long-term funding source to complete the inventory and to assist distressed owners.	Legislature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with county Health Departments or internally setup a septic testing program for tribal citizens • Create fund to assist tribal citizens to improve failing septic systems • Investigate Federal or Tribal dollars
6	Establish inspection requirements for residential on-site wastewater systems.	By 2020, implement a statewide requirement for periodic inspections of on-site septic system performance for properties with on-site wastewater systems.	Legislature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with Facilities and Maintenance Departments to create septic system database • Work with county Health Departments or internally setup of a septic testing program for tribal citizens

7	Develop marketing and education campaigns and outreach tools directed at homeowners' on-site wastewater management and maintenance and funding opportunities to assist with repair and replacement.	By 2020, increase the number of entities implementing outreach campaigns directed at homeowners on septic management.	NGOs, local units of government,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue outreach efforts to citizens via newsletters, website, and events • Continue work with watershed groups to educate and promote land-use practices that protect and improve water resources
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Goal 3: Michigan communities use water as a strategic asset for community and economic development.

Outcome: Economic and community development plans and efforts fully leverage water assets to create great places to live, work and play..

#	Recommendation	Implementation Metric	Lead Actor	Pokagon Band Activities
1	Emphasize water resources as assets in state, regional and community planning efforts to provide appropriate, sustainable protection and too fully leverage community-based economic opportunities.	Increase walkability score of waterfront communities to measure the effect of economic activity and investment on or near water in a community, watershed or region.	MSDHA, MEDC, MDEQ, MDNR regional governments, local units of government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue outreach efforts to citizens via newsletters, website, and events • Continue work with watershed groups to educate and promote land-use practices that protect and improve water resources
3	Provide in-depth technical assistance to support communities with developing and implementing community visions and strategies for waterfront redevelopment, access and use.	Increase in the number of communities participating in Redevelopment Ready Communities Program.	Regional and interagency teams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with Human Resources Department to develop training session for tribal government decision makers

Goal 4: Michigan's water resources support quality recreation and cultural opportunities.

Outcome: Waters of the state are world renowned for recreational pursuits such as hunting, fishing, boating and swimming.

#	Recommendation	Implementation Metric	Lead Actor	Pokagon Band Activities
1	Expand the use of real-time monitoring and source tracking techniques at high risk beaches by local health departments, counties, communities and universities, and address sources of beach contamination.	By 2020, all of Michigan's water meets total and partial body contact designated uses with no closures or advisories. Real time monitoring at all high-risk beaches.	MDEQ, local health departments, local units of government, universities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue E. Coli testing to track concerns • Work with State of Michigan on Statewide E. Coli TMDL
2	Continue national and regional coordination of mercury reduction activities, such as implementation of the Great Lakes Mercury in Products Phase-Down Strategy and the Great Lakes Mercury Emission Reduction Strategy.	Reduce the mercury levels in edible portions of Great Lakes, inland lakes and stream fish to below 0.35 parts per million by 2020.	MDEQ, MDCH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement annual or bi-annual monitoring program for toxins in fish and wildlife • Provide a stance on mercury level concerns in the Great Lakes region to Federal and State agencies

Goal 5: Michigan has a strategic focus on water technology and innovation to grow sustainable water-based economies.

Outcome: Policies and innovative technologies are developed and adopted to grow and promote sustainable water-based economies.

#	Recommendation	Implementation Metric	Lead Actor	Pokagon Band Activities
1	Market the state’s competitive advantage as a highly attractive place for business creation and investment because of our abundant natural water assets, water research capabilities, highly skilled talent, economic development expertise, and powerful tourism and business-marketing brand.	Increase the number of water- dependent companies and investments locating in Michigan. Specifically track aquaculture technology and related opportunities.	MEDC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate business opportunities that use water in economic yet sustainable way <p>Examples:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hydroponics 2. Aquaculture 3. Geothermal
2	Establish voluntary water efficiency targets for all major water sectors to reduce water use impacts and costs.	By 2020, develop a baseline for water usage, data collection and definitions to inform development of water conservation goals and objectives. Collect data for two years. Increase by 20% the number of businesses, industries, and municipalities with water efficiency within their water management plans.	Water use sectors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inventory water withdraws on Pokagon Band’s lands • Place meters on wells and create database to track use.
3	Promote innovative technologies that reduce cost and water loss, or convert waste products to usable materials.	By 2020, increase the number of new, innovative and cost- effective technologies, pilot projects, and startups are commercialized, come to market and result in connections with end users to reduce costs and water consumption, or convert waste products to usable materials and produce energy over a baseline established in 2015.	MDEQ, MDARD, MEDC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate business opportunities that use water in economic yet sustainable way • Work on building codes that incorporate more innovative technologies

4	Develop a water conservation and reuse strategy for the state that incorporates the use of green infrastructure, grey water systems, and energy production that includes recognition programs.	By 2018, develop a water conservation and reuse strategy that identifies major sectors by water use and their locations.	MDEQ, MDARD, MDOT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with tribal planner to update building code
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Goal 6: Michigan invests in infrastructure and supports funding to maintain clean water and healthy aquatic ecosystems.

Outcome: People support investment of both public and private funding of Michigan water resources.

#	Recommendation	Implementation Metric	Lead Actor	Pokagon Band Activities
1	Implement a communication strategy focused on messages that link the relationship between investments in water infrastructure and clean water and the benefits infrastructure provides for drinking water, recreation, and cultural and economic opportunity.	By 2017, implement a communication strategy focused on connecting economic, environmental, social and cultural values to Water Strategy outcomes.	NGOs, MDEQ, MDCH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue outreach efforts to citizens via newsletters, website, and events • Continue work with watershed groups to educate and promote land-use practices that protect and improve water resources • Support Water Walkers and utilize them as partners in education
2	Utilize pricing and funding strategies to support infrastructure improvements while allowing for water conservation.	By 2020, increase the number of communities that have pricing and funding strategies as part of their asset management plans to support infrastructure improvements over a baseline established in 2015.	Local units of government, water utilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with Maintenance and Finance Department to set degradation rates on infrastructure to plan for the future.
3	Evaluate current community practices regarding providing water to financially distressed customers to ensure all citizens have affordable access to water for drinking and sanitation.	By 2017, increase the number of communities that have practices in place to ensure financially distressed customers have access to water for drinking and sanitation over a baseline established in 2015.	Local units of government, water utilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create fund to assist tribal citizens to improve failing drinking water and/or septic systems. Investigate Federal or Tribal dollars.

Goal 7: Michigan has integrated outcome-based monitoring systems that support critical water-based decisions.

Outcome: Monitoring systems are in place at a scale and frequency to ensure water quality and quantity are maintained to support diverse uses and values.

#	Recommendation	Implementation Metric	Lead Actor	Pokagon Band Activities
1	Implement a pilot decision support framework that includes monitoring; data and information; and analytical tools for assessing ecological, economic, social and cultural values and outcomes at local and regional watershed scales.	By 2017, fund and implement a water resource decision support framework that provides information about the integration of ecological, economic, social and cultural values and outcomes.	MDEQ, MDNR, MDCH, MDARD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide tribal perspective

Goal 8: Michigan has the governance tools to address water challenges and provide clean water and healthy aquatic ecosystems.

Outcome: Policies, organizational and institutional structures are in place to achieve goals and outcomes of the Strategy.

#	Recommendation	Implementation Metric	Lead Actor	Pokagon Band Activities
1	Enhance the understanding, knowledge and skill set of communities to facilitate and support community-based dialogue and water-related vision development.	By 2016, work with community foundations and private foundations to support community-based dialogues.	Community and private foundations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue outreach efforts to citizens via newsletters, website, and events • Continue work with watershed groups to educate and promote land-use practices that protect and improve water resources
3	Evaluate and implement necessary changes to laws including state and local land-use statutes as well as the Michigan Drain Code to create a more integrated, watershed based system for managing water at the landscape level and achieving water quantity and quality outcomes.	By 2016, create an ad hoc external advisory body to evaluate existing laws and statutes including the Drain Code and local land-use statutes. By 2018, panel should provide recommendations to the Directors.	MDEQ and MDARD Directors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educate State on Treaty and Sovereign Rights that come along with changing laws and codes
	Retain full authority under the Clean Water Act to continue to manage Michigan's own water resources.	Continue assumption of federal programs under the Clean Water Act.	MDEQ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educate State on Treaty and Sovereign Rights that come along with Clean Water Act authority

	Create an Interdepartmental Water Team to unite agencies to ensure a cohesive common strategy around implementation of the Water Strategy. The team will establish a process for stakeholder collaboration, criteria for setting implementation priorities, identifying cross agency joint	By 2015, create interdepartmental water team. By 2015, put a working agreement in place to establish implementation priorities, a process for stakeholder collaboration, and an adaptive.	MDEQ, MDNR, MDARD and MEDC Directors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support efforts for a water team • Have meetings with local DNR/DEQ offices
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Goal 9: Michigan citizens are stewards of clean water and healthy aquatic ecosystems.

Outcome: Individuals and communities understand their responsibility for and make informed and responsible decisions regarding water resources..

#	Recommendation	Implementation Metric	Lead Actor	Pokagon Band Activities
1	Integrate water literacy principles into place-based education and state of Michigan curriculum standards tied to Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) across all grade levels.	By 2016, develop a strategy to integrate freshwater literacy principles into place-based education and state curriculum standards.	MDEQ, MDNR and Department of Education, State Board of Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep Education Department informed of State progress • Work with Education Department to integrate water education in curriculum
2	Develop a survey tool to assess behaviors and attitudes toward Michigan's water resources to assess changes over time.	By 2016, develop a chart that encompasses all implementation activity timelines. Develop clear metrics about stewardship related to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to fund water quality infrastructure • Measuring the community's connection to local water assets • Knowledge of, and affinity for, local waters • Metrics of volunteerism and local philanthropy that support a community's vision for water and water- related assets • Measuring actual progress versus planned 	MDEQ, MDNR, Universities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement surveys during annual meetings or census surveys.

3	Expand opportunities to engage citizen volunteers and participation, such as the Michigan Clean Water Corp (MI Corps) program, in gathering water quality and quantity data, in restoration, providing access and maintenance of important water- related resources.	By 2016, develop a list of participants and define engagement levels. Track progress toward increasing engagement levels.	MDEQ, MDNR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue assisting conservation districts with macroinvertebrate monitoring (MI Corp) • Continue work with watershed groups to educate and promote land-use practices that protect and improve water resources
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From: [Shayna Petit](#)
To: [mi-waterstrategy](#)
Subject: Petit Comments
Date: Friday, August 28, 2015 6:30:04 PM
Attachments: [Petit- Water Strategy Comment .docx](#)

Hello DEQ and Office of the Great Lakes,

Attached are my comments on the Water Strategy. I want to say tremendous job on this document--it both looks beautiful and poses many thoughtful recommendations. I look forward to speaking with you further about my comments.

Thank you,
Shayna

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Shayna Petit
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Monday, August 24th, 2015

Office of the Great Lakes
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
525 West Allegan Street
P.O. Box 30473
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Director Jon Allan,

As a graduate student at Michigan State University focusing on Great Lakes policy and Community Sustainability, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality's Water Strategy is very important to me. I strongly support your efforts at the Office of the Great Lakes, and commend your progress toward water sustainability in the state of Michigan through the goals put forth in this document. I am pleased with the overall Water Strategy recommendations, but want to offer my opinions on areas to improve in your implementation plan.

Goals for long-term education are clearly stated in the Water Strategy, but the short-term efforts could use more detail. In the document, there is strong mention of the need for education, mainly in the K-12 curriculum. This is extremely important, since water stewardship starts at a young age. As a long-term goal, I find this to be promising. However, in the short-term I would like to see a stronger, more influential plan for "branding" the Water Strategy and water stewardship within the Michigan community. The United Nations defines sustainability as using current resources while protecting and maintaining the same resources for future generations. We need to ensure that current adults are also onboard with conservation practices, in order to ensure the protection of our water resources today.

Corporate partnerships, specifically with the craft brewing industry, show major potential for strengthening this area of marketing. Michigan is 6th in the nation for number of breweries, with 159 breweries total in 2014 (Ruppert, 2015). Our unique access to the Great Lakes enables us to compete with states as large as California in the beer industry. And an important fact to remember is that without water, there is no beer. The brewing process for craft breweries requires on average 6-8 barrels of water to produce one barrel of beer (Leschin-Hoar, 2014). This includes not only the 90% water content of beer, but also the water used in the production process (Leschin-Hoar, 2014). Craft breweries across the country have been partnering with each other and NRDC to promote water neutrality and sustainability (Ellison, 2013). An exquisite example of inter-brewery partnerships is that of Michigan's Great Lakes Water Conservation Conference for Craft Brewers and Policy Makers, a periodic conference that began in 2009. Based on the increasing popularity of

craft breweries in Michigan, the state's beer companies have strong potential to be influencers of public opinion on water sustainability.

There is some evidence that adults who drink craft beer are also more aware of their environmental reputation. Studies have shown that adult beer drinkers are more likely to be concerned about appearing “environmentally conscious,” tend to seek fulfillment through environmental stewardship, and are more likely to spend more money on “environmentally friendly” products (Kallenberger, 2011). This is a powerful incentive both for breweries to become water neutral, and for them to work toward re-branding water sustainability. Beer companies and drinkers can symbiotically work together to change the way our state views water. By aligning popular breweries in Michigan, the Office of the Great Lakes would have a major opportunity to embed water stewardship in a large section of the adult population.

This type of re-branding is absolutely necessary to achieve goals of sustainability in Michigan. Many people do not know how to improve their footprint, are unaware of any water shortages, or simply are not concerned that their practices have an impact. Targeting the contemporary adult population through a product so popular as craft beer is a promising way to mobilize a greater number of people toward the goals laid out in the Water Strategy.

I would love to help with the branding efforts moving forward with the Water Strategy, to the best of my capabilities. As mentioned before, I am currently a graduate student and have limited time availability with my school and work commitments. Regardless I could help in some areas in a minimal fashion until I graduate this coming spring. At that time, I will be much more available to join the Water Strategy implementation efforts and would love to be involved. I look forward to further discussion about the Strategy and my comments.

Sincerely,
Shayna Petit

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References

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Kallenberger, Mike. "Green Branding for Brewers." Power Point, St. Louis, MO, April 25, 2011. <http://www.conserve-greatlakes.com/Resources/Documents/Green%20Branding%20-%20Kallenberger.pdf>

Leschin-Hoar, Clare. "Water Is Essential to What We Do." *Voice of San Diego*, February 14, 2014. <http://www.voiceofsandiego.org/all-narratives/drought/water-is-essential-to-what-we-do/>.

Ruppert, Geneva. "The Rise and Regulation of Craft Beer." Mackinac Center for Public Policy, July 22, 2015. <https://www.mackinac.org/21550>.

From: [R A](#)
To: [mi-waterstrategy](#)
Subject: Proposal: Brav: an Online Dispute Resolution for water strategy.
Date: Sunday, August 23, 2015 10:33:11 AM
Attachments: [Brav Grant Proposal1.docx](#)

Hello,

Along with my JD, I am a Psychology graduate of the University of Michigan -- Ann Arbor. I also hold a Master's Degree in Health Law and Policy.

A new study came out last week that discussed talk therapy as a solution to disputes including labor law issues. I have spent much research on alternative dispute resolution as a remedy for those in conflict, and seek to cultivate the largest online network, training ordinary people in conflict management who in turn resolve the conflicts of others on the website's face to face platform ([brav.org](#)).

We have knowledge on how Brav helps victims cope with trauma, but we seek much more support to determine long term effects. Coming together with groups including task forces and police departments provides an effective alternative for those survivors who seek to have a conflict managed. Further, these groups help provide accountability by ensuring that all necessary parties appear for an online conflict resolution session(s).

I would like to speak to you about Brav.

Please find information on Brav attached. Please do not hesitate to contact me at [313 610 9961](#).

--

Thanks,
Remi

Make it a favorite: [Brav.org](#)



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From: [Bruneau, Michelle \(DCH\)](#)
To: [mi-waterstrategy](#)
Cc: [Groetsch, Kory J. \(DCH\)](#); [Gray, Jennifer \(DCH\)](#); [Bohr, Joseph \(DEQ\)](#)
Subject: Public Comment - Water Strategy MDHHS TARS
Date: Wednesday, August 19, 2015 2:04:23 PM
Attachments: [2015-08-19 - PUBLIC COMMENT DEQ WS - FINAL.pdf](#)

Hello Emily, et al:

Thank you for the opportunity to further comment on the Water Strategy. Our input is attached.
Good luck and thank you for your awesome work on this major endeavor!

- Michelle

><{{{'> www.michigan.gov/eatsafefish <'}}}><

Michelle Bruneau, MA
Project Manager & Health Educator
Michigan Department of Health & Human Services
201 Townsend, 4th Fl
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Direct: (517) 335-8984
Toll free: 1-800-648-6942
Fax: (517) 335-8800
bruneaum@michigan.gov

From: [Priscilla Miller](#)
To: [mi-waterstrategy](#)
Subject: Public Comment
Date: Sunday, August 23, 2015 4:14:47 PM

The proposed Water strategy is a bold affront against private property rights. While it is certainly in the best interests of residents of the State of Michigan to protect the state's water resources, this wide-ranging proposal is not the vehicle for doing so and should be resisted.

The Clean Water Act provided the statutory tools sufficient to the task. Michigan is one of two states (New Jersey the other) who found it desirable to create its own statewide network for CWA enforcement. This distinction should not create an opportunity for self-serving state agencies and special interest organizations to carve out employment security and questionable agenda fulfillment. The list of "stakeholders" identifying themselves as agents of this strategy clearly indicate reasons for caution respecting the proposal. Every regulatory authority in the State of Michigan quickly evolves into more pleas for increasing regulatory authority. Increased regulatory authority in the hands of state agencies and expanded use of zoning and regulatory authority by municipalities at the expense of private property rights is becoming counter productive. Especially troublesome is the notion that Canadian Provincial governments, tribal sovereign nations, NGO's, and special interest organizations, will assume to acquire decision making authority over the interests of their neighbors. Doing so, clearly violate the guarantees afforded citizens by Natural Law, the Constitutions of the United States and the State of Michigan.

Submitted as a public comment; Bill & Priscilla Miller
Alden, Mich.

From: [Mark Cornwell](#)
To: [mi-waterstrategy](#)
Subject: Public comment "Protecting Michigan Water Heritage...." report/strategy
Date: Sunday, August 02, 2015 2:37:18 PM
Attachments: [Draft Review Comments Water report REVISED 072715.docx](#)
[FY2015 County Garage salt Usage \(1\).pdf](#)
[r-wd-15-7 nh NON POINT.pdf](#)

Hello,

I mailed a paper copy of my comments for the draft last week but thought I would send my comments and supporting docs via email as well.

They are attached.

Thank you for this opportunity and for bringing this important effort forward.

Sincerely yours,

--

Mark Cornwell
Sustainable Salting Solutions, LLC
12415 North Holly Road
Holly, Michigan 48442

Phone: 248/895-2888 (mobile)
248/634-0820 (Office)

Web: sustainablesaltingsolutions.com

LinkedIn--Mark Cornwell

"Helping Winter Maintenance Professionals Achieve the Balance between; Public Safety, Budgets, and Infrastructure and Environmental Protection"

From: [Michael Weiler](#)
To: [mi-waterstrategy](#)
Subject: Public Comment in the Attachment
Date: Friday, August 28, 2015 11:50:54 AM
Attachments: [Mr.docx](#)

From: [Joe Colyn](#)
To: [mi-waterstrategy](#)
Subject: Public Comment on the Michigan draft Water Strategy
Date: Friday, August 28, 2015 1:31:57 PM
Attachments: [20150828 Input into Michigan Water Strategy II.pdf](#)

Ms Emily Finnell,

Attached is the Originz, LLC comment on the Michigan draft Water Strategy, "**Sustaining Michigan Water Heritage, A Strategy for the Next Generation**".

Thanks for the opportunity to participate in the process.

--

Joe Colyn
Originz, LLC --- food systems for a healthier world
33 Lynwood Drive, Battle Creek, MI 49015
[616 581 1360](tel:6165811360) www.originz.com

From: [Stephanie Chang](#)
To: [mi-waterstrategy](#)
Cc: [Ellen Heinitz](#); [Alex Garza](#)
Subject: Public comment submission - Michigan's draft water strategy
Date: Tuesday, August 25, 2015 5:33:37 PM
Attachments: [MI water supply public comment SChang.pdf](#)

Attached is my public comment regarding Michigan's draft water strategy. Thank you for the opportunity to share my views and I look forward to reading the final version of the water strategy as it becomes available. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Stephanie Chang
Michigan State Representative, District 6
S685 House Office Building
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 30014, Lansing, MI 48909-7514
Phone: 517-373-0823
Email: schang@house.mi.gov

Neighborhood Service Center/Mary Turner Center for Advocacy:
1927 Rosa Parks Blvd, Suite 110A, Detroit, MI 48216
Phone: 313-841-2240

From: [Sabrina Gross](#)
To: [mi-waterstrategy](#)
Subject: Public comments - Michigan Water Strategy Plan
Date: Thursday, August 27, 2015 11:11:23 AM

Thank you for your efforts putting together this plan. After reading the details, I have a few comments regarding missing information in the document. Specifically on Page 13, Table 2, page 60 item #18, & page 72.

I have served on the Huron River Watershed Council as a municipal representative, and also organized the Stormwater Management Committee in the township I live in.

The Strategy does not provide solutions for the excess waste that has occurred as Michigan shifts to industrial food production, particularly in the Western Lake Erie Watershed. Just as any industry has to figure out what to do with more waste, we can see directly the impact of what spreading dissolved phosphorus (P) and E Coli over & over on ground that is already saturated. It ends up in Lake Erie and drinking water.

Although small farms still exist in Michigan, (and Ann Arbor loves to boast about local sourced foods), the reality is that nearly all of the dairy, eggs & meat at grocery stores (from the mom & pop size to Costco), hospitals, restaurants, schools, and other institutions are all sourced from CAFOs. And this waste will continue to increase as food demands increase.

Revisions proposed:

1. Public health is threatened by Michigan's laissez-faire view of industrial waste from CAFOs.

The fact that **CAFO or animal production is not mentioned in the document** speaks volumes about this task force ignoring a major source of water pollution. Just as government has strict laws about waste disposal in other industries, the Strategy should include regulations & enforcement for the CAFO industry specifically. Only on page 21 is "manure" mentioned, and only as a source of nitrates. I would encourage the committee to visit the concentrated DRP effluent from lagoons being spread in Michigan communities.

2. The "Voluntary", "precision" solutions proposed on page 13* are **not** working. Despite record HAB & P levels in Lake Erie, Industrial Agriculture is not willing to revise their disposal of waste. MAEAP continues to recommend spreading of manure on frozen ground, although this is not a "best practice".

Table 2, Item 18 (page 60) should be revised to include: **At the minimum, banning the application of manure (animal waste) on saturated or frozen ground or when heavy rain is predicted, implemented statewide by 2016.**

3. Page 72 suggests that the culprit of Phosphorus loading is from municipal systems, yet experts state 80% of phosphorus loading comes from **nonpoint sources**, and 20% from point sources, & the EPA has documented little change in P discharge from Detroit

wastewater (point source) since 1992.

If Michigan is serious about reducing P, then an important solution is municipal grade treatment of CAFO waste to reduce phosphorus and other toxins in Great Lakes. One CAFO is equivalent to the feces/urine waste from a city the size of Kalamazoo. This waste runs off into Erie when spread continually on the land.

The statement on page 72 should be revised: "Increasing technology innovation capacity in treatment technologies to reduce phosphorus loading from municipal systems **and requiring municipal grade treatment of waste generated from Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations by 2020.**"

*Text from page 13: "These opportunities include promoting changes in the use of phosphorus through mechanisms like the 4R Program (Right Source, Right Rate, Right Time, Right Place), implementation of the Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP) suite of practices, restoration of grasslands and wetlands, use of vegetative filter strips, and use of technologies like precision farming and implementing no-till and conservation tillage techniques to reduce run-off. " **The 4Rs are not being enforced.**

Thank you for your public service.

Sabrina Gross
5807 Lakeshore Drive
Ann Arbor, MI 48108

sabrinaLB@hotmail.com
734-944-5459 (home)
734-355-4218 (cell)

From: [Bryan Burroughs](#)
To: [mi-waterstrategy](#)
Subject: public comments on draft water strategy - from Michigan Trout Unlimited
Date: Friday, August 28, 2015 10:12:42 AM
Attachments: [Water Strategy Comments MITU.pdf](#)

Thank you the opportunity to provide feedback and comments on the Draft Water Strategy.
Comments from Michigan Trout Unlimited are attached to this email.

Thank you,

Bryan

Bryan Burroughs, Ph.D.
Executive Director
Michigan Trout Unlimited
P.O. Box 442, Dewitt, MI 48820
www.michigantu.org
517-599-5238

From: [Sierra Club](#) on behalf of [Sherry Knoppers](#)
To: [mi-waterstrategy](#)
Subject: Public Comments on Draft Water Strategy
Date: Saturday, August 22, 2015 9:38:34 PM

Aug 22, 2015

Director of the Office of the Great Lakes Jon Allan

Dear Director of the Office of the Great Lakes Allan,

Thank you for this opportunity to submit my comments on the Department of Environmental Quality's Office of the Great Lakes draft Water Strategy. I'm glad to see the agency understands the need to take a comprehensive, long-term look at stewarding our state's most precious resource. The draft Water Strategy is a good start and contains important initiatives such as a push for water conservation, but it needs clearer, enforceable measures to achieve its goals.

The Water Strategy relies too heavily on voluntary efforts and actions that "should" be taken rather than "will" be taken to protect our water resources. The OGL needs to develop a stronger vision statement and to put forth specific actions, verifiable goals and data-based solutions to get where we need to be in 30 years.

This is especially true regarding the goal of achieving a 40% phosphorus reduction in the western Lake Erie basin. The Water Strategy relies on voluntary measures to address agriculture's role in the problem, an approach that's been in place for years and hasn't worked, and promotes Michigan Agricultural Environmental Assurance Program practices that will not address the phosphorus problem. The state's approach needs to include much stronger actions, including a complete ban on the application of waste on frozen or snow-covered ground.

The Water Strategy recommendation for legislation to phase out microbeads is an example of a bold, specific and concrete action that would lead to an important improvement in our water quality and public health. The state's plan for Great Lakes protection needs more recommendations like this.

Finally, promoting water as "a strategic asset for community and economic development" is important, but it needs to be balanced with the basic human right of everyone to have access to clean water. A Water Strategy for Michigan needs to underscore this point by ensuring our water systems remain publicly owned and affordable to families for basic needs.

I look forward to your response about the changes you will be making in the Water Strategy to make it a strong document that will truly serve its stated mission of serving as "a roadmap to achieve a 30-year vision to ensure Michigan's water resources support healthy ecosystems, citizens, communities and economies." Again, thank you for this opportunity to share my input.

Sincerely,

Sherry Knoppers
3450 9 Mile Rd NW
Sparta, MI 49345-9762
sknopper@gmail.com

From: [Sierra Club](#) on behalf of [Karen Redden](#)
To: [mi-waterstrategy](#)
Subject: Public Comments on Draft Water Strategy
Date: Sunday, August 16, 2015 10:12:59 AM

Aug 16, 2015

Director of the Office of the Great Lakes Jon Allan

Dear Director of the Office of the Great Lakes Allan,

Thank you for this opportunity to submit my comments on the Department of Environmental Quality's Office of the Great Lakes draft Water Strategy. I'm glad to see the agency understands the need to take a comprehensive, long-term look at stewarding our state's most precious resource. The draft Water Strategy is a good start and contains important initiatives such as a push for water conservation, but it needs clearer, enforceable measures to achieve its goals.

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Sincerely,

Karen Redden
27355 Clairview Dr
Dearborn Heights, MI 48127-1682
redde4@aol.com

From: [Sierra Club](#) on behalf of [Bobby Belknap](#)
To: [mi-waterstrategy](#)
Subject: Public Comments on Draft Water Strategy
Date: Sunday, August 16, 2015 10:12:03 AM

Aug 16, 2015

Director of the Office of the Great Lakes Jon Allan

Dear Director of the Office of the Great Lakes Allan,

Thank you for this opportunity to submit my comments on the Department of Environmental Quality's Office of the Great Lakes draft Water Strategy. I'm glad to see the agency understands the need to take a comprehensive, long-term look at stewarding our state's most precious resource. The draft Water Strategy is a good start and contains important initiatives such as a push for water conservation, but it needs clearer, enforceable measures to achieve its goals.

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I look forward to your response about the changes you will be making in the Water Strategy to make it a strong document that will truly serve its stated mission of serving as "a roadmap to achieve a 30-year vision to ensure Michigan's water resources support healthy ecosystems, citizens, communities and economies." Again, thank you for this opportunity to share my input.

Sincerely,

Bobby Belknap
2128 Pilgrim Hwy
Frankfort, MI 49635-9247
rebelknap@gmail.com

From: [Sierra Club](#) on behalf of [Daniel Ferrier](#)
To: [mi-waterstrategy](#)
Subject: Public Comments on Draft Water Strategy
Date: Saturday, August 15, 2015 11:40:41 PM

Aug 15, 2015

Director of the Office of the Great Lakes Jon Allan

Dear Director of the Office of the Great Lakes Allan,

Thank you for this opportunity to submit my comments on the Department of Environmental Quality's Office of the Great Lakes draft Water Strategy. I'm glad to see the agency understands the need to take a comprehensive, long-term look at stewarding our state's most precious resource. The draft Water Strategy is a good start and contains important initiatives such as a push for water conservation, but it needs clearer, enforceable measures to achieve its goals.

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I look forward to your response about the changes you will be making in the Water Strategy to make it a strong document that will truly serve its stated mission of serving as "a roadmap to achieve a 30-year vision to ensure Michigan's water resources support healthy ecosystems, citizens, communities and economies." Again, thank you for this opportunity to share my input.

Sincerely,

Daniel Ferrier
2234 Hyde Park Rd
Detroit, MI 48207-4964
daniel ferrier@att.net

From: [Sierra Club](#) on behalf of [Larry O'Connor](#)
To: [mi-waterstrategy](#)
Subject: Public Comments on Draft Water Strategy
Date: Saturday, August 15, 2015 11:10:25 PM

Aug 15, 2015

Director of the Office of the Great Lakes Jon Allan

Dear Director of the Office of the Great Lakes Allan,

Thank you for this opportunity to submit my comments on the Department of Environmental Quality's Office of the Great Lakes draft Water Strategy. I'm glad to see the agency understands the need to take a comprehensive, long-term look at stewarding our state's most precious resource. The draft Water Strategy is a good start and contains important initiatives such as a push for water conservation, but it needs clearer, enforceable measures to achieve its goals.

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The Water Strategy recommendation for legislation to phase out microbeads is an example of a bold, specific and concrete action that would lead to an important improvement in our water quality and public health. The state's plan for Great Lakes protection needs more recommendations like this.

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Sincerely,

Larry O'Connor
4221 Echo Rd
Benton Harbor, MI 49022-8401
larryoc@netzero.com

From: [Sierra Club](#) on behalf of [James and Dr. Diana Wright](#)
To: [mi-waterstrategy](#)
Subject: Public Comments on Draft Water Strategy
Date: Saturday, August 15, 2015 8:10:04 PM

Aug 15, 2015

Director of the Office of the Great Lakes Jon Allan

Dear Director of the Office of the Great Lakes Allan,

Thank you for this opportunity to submit my comments on the Department of Environmental Quality's Office of the Great Lakes draft Water Strategy. I'm glad to see the agency understands the need to take a comprehensive, long-term look at stewarding our state's most precious resource. The draft Water Strategy is a good start and contains important initiatives such as a push for water conservation, but it needs clearer, enforceable measures to achieve its goals.

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The Water Strategy recommendation for legislation to phase out microbeads is an example of a bold, specific and concrete action that would lead to an important improvement in our water quality and public health. The state's plan for Great Lakes protection needs more recommendations like this.

Finally, promoting water as "a strategic asset for community and economic development" is important, but it needs to be balanced with the basic human right of everyone to have access to clean water. A Water Strategy for Michigan needs to underscore this point by ensuring our water systems remain publicly owned and affordable to families for basic needs.

I look forward to your response about the changes you will be making in the Water Strategy to make it a strong document that will truly serve its stated mission of serving as "a roadmap to achieve a 30-year vision to ensure Michigan's water resources support healthy ecosystems, citizens, communities and economies." Again, thank you for this opportunity to share my input.

Sincerely,

James and Dr. Diana Wright
369 Hubbard St
South Haven, MI 49090-1520
jameswright225@comcast.net

From: [Sierra Club](#) on behalf of [Mary Roobol](#)
To: [mi-waterstrategy](#)
Subject: Public Comments on Draft Water Strategy
Date: Saturday, August 15, 2015 6:10:16 PM

Aug 15, 2015

Director of the Office of the Great Lakes Jon Allan

Dear Director of the Office of the Great Lakes Allan,

Thank you for this opportunity to submit my comments on the Department of Environmental Quality's Office of the Great Lakes draft Water Strategy. I'm glad to see the agency understands the need to take a comprehensive, long-term look at stewarding our state's most precious resource. The draft Water Strategy is a good start and contains important initiatives such as a push for water conservation, but it needs clearer, enforceable measures to achieve its goals.

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The Water Strategy recommendation for legislation to phase out microbeads is an example of a bold, specific and concrete action that would lead to an important improvement in our water quality and public health. The state's plan for Great Lakes protection needs more recommendations like this.

Finally, promoting water as "a strategic asset for community and economic development" is important, but it needs to be balanced with the basic human right of everyone to have access to clean water. A Water Strategy for Michigan needs to underscore this point by ensuring our water systems remain publicly owned and affordable to families for basic needs.

I look forward to your response about the changes you will be making in the Water Strategy to make it a strong document that will truly serve its stated mission of serving as "a roadmap to achieve a 30-year vision to ensure Michigan's water resources support healthy ecosystems, citizens, communities and economies." Again, thank you for this opportunity to share my input.

Sincerely,

Mary Roobol



From: [Sierra Club](#) on behalf of [Charles Dineen](#)
To: [mi-waterstrategy](#)
Subject: Public Comments on Draft Water Strategy
Date: Saturday, August 15, 2015 5:39:50 PM

Aug 15, 2015

Director of the Office of the Great Lakes Jon Allan

Dear Director of the Office of the Great Lakes Allan,

Thank you for this opportunity to submit my comments on the Department of Environmental Quality's Office of the Great Lakes draft Water Strategy. I'm glad to see the agency understands the need to take a comprehensive, long-term look at stewarding our state's most precious resource. The draft Water Strategy is a good start and contains important initiatives such as a push for water conservation, but it needs clearer, enforceable measures to achieve its goals.

The Water Strategy relies too heavily on voluntary efforts and actions that "should" be taken rather than "will" be taken to protect our water resources. The OGL needs to develop a stronger vision statement and to put forth specific actions, verifiable goals and data-based solutions to get where we need to be in 30 years.

This is especially true regarding the goal of achieving a 40% phosphorus reduction in the western Lake Erie basin. The Water Strategy relies on voluntary measures to address agriculture's role in the problem, an approach that's been in place for years and hasn't worked, and promotes Michigan Agricultural Environmental Assurance Program practices that will not address the phosphorus problem. The state's approach needs to include much stronger actions, including a complete ban on the application of waste on frozen or snow-covered ground.

The Water Strategy recommendation for legislation to phase out microbeads is an example of a bold, specific and concrete action that would lead to an important improvement in our water quality and public health. The state's plan for Great Lakes protection needs more recommendations like this.

Finally, promoting water as "a strategic asset for community and economic development" is important, but it needs to be balanced with the basic human right of everyone to have access to clean water. A Water Strategy for Michigan needs to underscore this point by ensuring our water systems remain publicly owned and affordable to families for basic needs.

I look forward to your response about the changes you will be making in the Water Strategy to make it a strong document that will truly serve its stated mission of serving as "a roadmap to achieve a 30-year vision to ensure Michigan's water resources support healthy ecosystems, citizens, communities and economies." Again, thank you for this opportunity to share my input.

Sincerely,

Charles Dineen



From: [Sierra Club](#) on behalf of [Marie Kopin](#)
To: [mi-waterstrategy](#)
Subject: Public Comments on Draft Water Strategy
Date: Saturday, August 15, 2015 2:11:06 PM

Aug 15, 2015

Director of the Office of the Great Lakes Jon Allan

Dear Director of the Office of the Great Lakes Allan,

Thank you for this opportunity to submit my comments on the Department of Environmental Quality's Office of the Great Lakes draft Water Strategy. I'm glad to see the agency understands the need to take a comprehensive, long-term look at stewarding our state's most precious resource. The draft Water Strategy is a good start and contains important initiatives such as a push for water conservation, but it needs clearer, enforceable measures to achieve its goals.

I want the Water Strategy to have mandatory rules. I have seen over and over again that big companies ignore most 'voluntary' things about emissions, toxic waste, GMO labelling, etc. etc. I understand that the Water Strategy relies too heavily on voluntary efforts and actions that "should" be taken rather than "will" be taken to protect our water resources. The OGL needs to develop a stronger vision statement and to put forth specific actions, verifiable goals and data-based solutions to get where we need to be in 30 years.

This is especially true regarding the goal of achieving a 40% phosphorus reduction in the western Lake Erie basin. The Water Strategy relies on voluntary measures to address agriculture's role in the problem, an approach that's been in place for years and hasn't worked, and promotes Michigan Agricultural Environmental Assurance Program practices that will not address the phosphorus problem. The state's approach needs to include much stronger actions, including a complete ban on the application of waste on frozen or snow-covered ground.

I am very fearful about the continuing use of microbeads which are beginning to coat our lake bottoms. I also understand that the Water Strategy recommendation for legislation to phase out microbeads is an example of a bold, specific and concrete action that would lead to an important improvement in our water quality and public health. The state's plan for Great Lakes protection needs more recommendations like this.

Finally, promoting water as "a strategic asset for community and economic development" is important, but it needs to be balanced with the basic human right of everyone to have access to clean water. A Water Strategy for Michigan needs to underscore this point by ensuring our water systems remain publicly owned and affordable to families for basic needs.

We need your help desperately to keep our great lakes waters clean. Do it now, while it is still possible.

I look forward to your response about the changes you will be making in the Water Strategy to make it a strong document that will truly serve its stated mission of serving as "a roadmap to achieve a 30-year vision to ensure Michigan's water resources support healthy ecosystems, citizens, communities and economies." Again, thank you for this opportunity to share my input.

Sincerely,

Marie Kopin



From: [Sierra Club](#) on behalf of [Dr. Virginia Jones](#)
To: [mi-waterstrategy](#)
Subject: Public Comments on Draft Water Strategy
Date: Saturday, August 15, 2015 1:40:42 PM

Aug 15, 2015

Director of the Office of the Great Lakes Jon Allan

Dear Director of the Office of the Great Lakes Allan,

Thank you for this opportunity to submit my comments on the Department of Environmental Quality's Office of the Great Lakes draft Water Strategy. I'm glad to see the agency understands the need to take a comprehensive, long-term look at stewarding our state's most precious resource. The draft Water Strategy is a good start and contains important initiatives such as a push for water conservation, but it needs clearer, enforceable measures to achieve its goals.

The Water Strategy relies too heavily on voluntary efforts and actions that "should" be taken rather than "will" be taken to protect our water resources. The OGL needs to develop a stronger vision statement and to put forth specific actions, verifiable goals and data-based solutions to get where we need to be in 30 years.

This is especially true regarding the goal of achieving a 40% phosphorus reduction in the western Lake Erie basin. The Water Strategy relies on voluntary measures to address agriculture's role in the problem, an approach that's been in place for years and hasn't worked, and promotes Michigan Agricultural Environmental Assurance Program practices that will not address the phosphorus problem. The state's approach needs to include much stronger actions, including a complete ban on the application of waste on frozen or snow-covered ground.

The Water Strategy recommendation for legislation to phase out microbeads is an example of a bold, specific and concrete action that would lead to an important improvement in our water quality and public health. The state's plan for Great Lakes protection needs more recommendations like this.

Finally, promoting water as "a strategic asset for community and economic development" is important, but it needs to be balanced with the basic human right of everyone to have access to clean water. A Water Strategy for Michigan needs to underscore this point by ensuring our water systems remain publicly owned and affordable to families for basic needs.

We, who live near the Great Lakes, have added responsibility to take care of 1/5 of the world's freshwater resources !

I look forward to your response about the changes you will be making in the Water Strategy to make it a strong document that will truly serve its stated mission of serving as "a roadmap to achieve a 30-year vision to ensure Michigan's water resources support healthy ecosystems,

citizens, communities and economies." Again, thank you for this opportunity to share my input.

Sincerely,

Dr. Virginia Jones



From: [Sierra Club](#) on behalf of [Ruth Mutchler](#)
To: [mi-waterstrategy](#)
Subject: Public Comments on Draft Water Strategy
Date: Saturday, August 15, 2015 1:12:53 PM

Aug 15, 2015

Director of the Office of the Great Lakes Jon Allan

Dear Director of the Office of the Great Lakes Allan,

Thank you for this opportunity to submit my comments on the Department of Environmental Quality's Office of the Great Lakes draft Water Strategy. I'm glad to see the agency understands the need to take a comprehensive, long-term look at stewarding our state's most precious resource. The draft Water Strategy is a good start and contains important initiatives such as a push for water conservation, but it needs clearer, enforceable measures to achieve its goals.

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Sincerely,

Ruth Mutchler



From: [Sierra Club](#) on behalf of [Cynthia Sherman-Jones](#)
To: [mi-waterstrategy](#)
Subject: Public Comments on Draft Water Strategy
Date: Friday, August 21, 2015 11:57:45 AM

Aug 21, 2015

Director of the Office of the Great Lakes Jon Allan

Dear Director of the Office of the Great Lakes Allan,

Thank you for this opportunity to submit my comments on the Department of Environmental Quality's Office of the Great Lakes draft Water Strategy. I'm glad to see the agency understands the need to take a comprehensive, long-term look at stewarding our state's most precious resource. The draft Water Strategy is a good start and contains important initiatives such as a push for water conservation, but it needs clearer, enforceable measures to achieve its goals.

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Sincerely,

Cynthia Sherman-Jones
E3740 26 Rd
Limestone, MI 49816-9662
hushiepie@yahoo.com

From: [Sierra Club](#) on behalf of [James Howard](#)
To: [mi-waterstrategy](#)
Subject: Public Comments on Draft Water Strategy
Date: Saturday, August 15, 2015 12:41:44 PM

Aug 15, 2015

Director of the Office of the Great Lakes Jon Allan

Dear Director of the Office of the Great Lakes Allan,

Thank you for this opportunity to submit my comments on the Department of Environmental Quality's Office of the Great Lakes draft Water Strategy. I'm glad to see the agency understands the need to take a comprehensive, long-term look at stewarding our state's most precious resource. The draft Water Strategy is a good start and contains important initiatives such as a push for water conservation, but it needs clearer, enforceable measures to achieve its goals.

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Sincerely,

James Howard



From: [Sierra Club](#) on behalf of [Kristen Howard](#)
To: [mi-waterstrategy](#)
Subject: Public Comments on Draft Water Strategy
Date: Saturday, August 15, 2015 12:41:18 PM

Aug 15, 2015

Director of the Office of the Great Lakes Jon Allan

Dear Director of the Office of the Great Lakes Allan,

Thank you for this opportunity to submit my comments on the Department of Environmental Quality's Office of the Great Lakes draft Water Strategy. I'm glad to see the agency understands the need to take a comprehensive, long-term look at stewarding our state's most precious resource. The draft Water Strategy is a good start and contains important initiatives such as a push for water conservation, but it needs clearer, enforceable measures to achieve its goals.

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Sincerely,

Kristen Howard



From: [Sierra Club](#) on behalf of [Maureen Hicks](#)
To: [mi-waterstrategy](#)
Subject: Public Comments on Draft Water Strategy
Date: Saturday, August 15, 2015 11:42:50 AM

Aug 15, 2015

Director of the Office of the Great Lakes Jon Allan

Dear Director of the Office of the Great Lakes Allan,

Thank you for this opportunity to submit my comments on the Department of Environmental Quality's Office of the Great Lakes draft Water Strategy. I'm glad to see the agency understands the need to take a comprehensive, long-term look at stewarding our state's most precious resource. The draft Water Strategy is a good start and contains important initiatives such as a push for water conservation, but it needs clearer, enforceable measures to achieve its goals.

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Sincerely,

Maureen Hicks



From: [Sierra Club](#) on behalf of [Eric Stordahl](#)
To: [mi-waterstrategy](#)
Subject: Public Comments on Draft Water Strategy
Date: Saturday, August 15, 2015 11:09:42 AM

Aug 15, 2015

Director of the Office of the Great Lakes Jon Allan

Dear Director of the Office of the Great Lakes Allan,

Thank you for this opportunity to submit my comments on the Department of Environmental Quality's Office of the Great Lakes draft Water Strategy. I'm glad to see the agency understands the need to take a comprehensive, long-term look at stewarding our state's most precious resource. The draft Water Strategy is a good start and contains important initiatives such as a push for water conservation, but it needs clearer, enforceable measures to achieve its goals.

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Sincerely,

Eric Stordahl



From: [Sierra Club](#) on behalf of [Gerald Vande Velde](#)
To: [mi-waterstrategy](#)
Subject: Public Comments on Draft Water Strategy
Date: Saturday, August 15, 2015 10:42:48 AM

Aug 15, 2015

Director of the Office of the Great Lakes Jon Allan

Dear Director of the Office of the Great Lakes Allan,

Thank you for this opportunity to submit my comments on the Department of Environmental Quality's Office of the Great Lakes draft Water Strategy. I'm glad to see the agency understands the need to take a comprehensive, long-term look at stewarding our state's most precious resource. The draft Water Strategy is a good start and contains important initiatives such as a push for water conservation, but it needs clearer, enforceable measures to achieve its goals.

Best wishes as you proceed in work to protect our water.

I look forward to your response about the changes you will be making in the Water Strategy to make it a strong document that will truly serve its stated mission of serving as "a roadmap to achieve a 30-year vision to ensure Michigan's water resources support healthy ecosystems, citizens, communities and economies." Again, thank you for this opportunity to share my input.

Sincerely,

Gerald Vande Velde



From: [Sierra Club](#) on behalf of [Ralph Tuscher](#)
To: [mi-waterstrategy](#)
Subject: Public Comments on Draft Water Strategy
Date: Saturday, August 15, 2015 9:09:32 AM

Aug 15, 2015

Director of the Office of the Great Lakes Jon Allan

Dear Director of the Office of the Great Lakes Allan,

Thank you for this opportunity to submit my comments on the Department of Environmental Quality's Office of the Great Lakes draft Water Strategy. I'm glad to see the agency understands the need to take a comprehensive, long-term look at stewarding our state's most precious resource. The draft Water Strategy is a good start and contains important initiatives such as a push for water conservation, but it needs clearer, enforceable measures to achieve its goals.

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Sincerely,

Ralph Tuscher



From: [Sierra Club](#) on behalf of [Linda Lipkin](#)
To: [mi-waterstrategy](#)
Subject: Public Comments on Draft Water Strategy
Date: Saturday, August 15, 2015 9:09:31 AM

Aug 15, 2015

Director of the Office of the Great Lakes Jon Allan

Dear Director of the Office of the Great Lakes Allan,

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Sincerely,

Linda Lipkin



From: [Sierra Club](#) on behalf of [Michael Berkowitz](#)
To: [mi-waterstrategy](#)
Subject: Public Comments on Draft Water Strategy
Date: Thursday, August 13, 2015 9:47:09 PM

Aug 13, 2015

Director of the Office of the Great Lakes Jon Allan

Dear Director of the Office of the Great Lakes Allan,

Thank you for this opportunity to submit my comments on the Department of Environmental Quality's Office of the Great Lakes draft Water Strategy. I'm glad to see the agency understands the need to take a comprehensive, long-term look at stewarding our state's most precious resource. The draft Water Strategy is a good start and contains important initiatives such as a push for water conservation, but it needs clearer, enforceable measures to achieve its goals.

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Sincerely,

Michael Berkowitz



mike.berkowitz@sierraclub.org

From: [Sierra Club](#) on behalf of [Judith Lowe](#)
To: [mi-waterstrategy](#)
Subject: Public Comments on Draft Water Strategy
Date: Thursday, August 20, 2015 8:47:42 PM

Aug 20, 2015

Director of the Office of the Great Lakes Jon Allan

Dear Director of the Office of the Great Lakes Allan,

Thank you for this opportunity to submit my comments on the Department of Environmental Quality's Office of the Great Lakes draft Water Strategy. I'm glad to see the agency understands the need to take a comprehensive, long-term look at stewarding our state's most precious resource. The draft Water Strategy is a good start and contains important initiatives such as a push for water conservation, but it needs clearer, enforceable measures to achieve its goals.

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Sincerely,

Judith Lowe
5690 Judd Rd
Milan, MI 48160-9734
juddith@earthlink.net

From: [Sierra Club](#) on behalf of [Adam Williams](#)
To: [mi-waterstrategy](#)
Subject: Public Comments on Draft Water Strategy
Date: Tuesday, August 18, 2015 1:54:17 AM

Aug 18, 2015

Director of the Office of the Great Lakes Jon Allan

Dear Director of the Office of the Great Lakes Allan,

Thank you for this opportunity to submit my comments on the Department of Environmental Quality's Office of the Great Lakes draft Water Strategy. I'm glad to see the agency understands the need to take a comprehensive, long-term look at stewarding our state's most precious resource. The draft Water Strategy is a good start and contains important initiatives such as a push for water conservation, but it needs clearer, enforceable measures to achieve its goals.

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Sincerely,

Adam Williams



From: [Sierra Club](#) on behalf of [Thomas Howard](#)
To: [mi-waterstrategy](#)
Subject: Public Comments on Draft Water Strategy
Date: Monday, August 17, 2015 1:44:22 PM

Aug 17, 2015

Director of the Office of the Great Lakes Jon Allan

Dear Director of the Office of the Great Lakes Allan,

Thank you for this opportunity to submit my comments on the Department of Environmental Quality's Office of the Great Lakes draft Water Strategy. I'm glad to see the agency understands the need to take a comprehensive, long-term look at stewarding our state's most precious resource. The draft Water Strategy is a good start and contains important initiatives such as a push for water conservation, but it needs clearer, enforceable measures to achieve its goals.

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Sincerely,

Thomas Howard
32000 Grand River Ave
Farmington, MI 48336-4158
t-j-howard@hotmail.com

From: [Sierra Club](#) on behalf of [Mishia Hunwick](#)
To: [mi-waterstrategy](#)
Subject: Public Comments on Draft Water Strategy
Date: Monday, August 17, 2015 12:14:22 PM

Aug 17, 2015

Director of the Office of the Great Lakes Jon Allan

Dear Director of the Office of the Great Lakes Allan,

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Finally, promoting water as "a strategic asset for community and economic development" is important, but it needs to be balanced with the basic human right of everyone to have access to clean water. A Water Strategy for Michigan needs to underscore this point by ensuring our water systems remain publicly owned and affordable to families for basic needs.

I look forward to your response about the changes you will be making in the Water Strategy to make it a strong document that will truly serve its stated mission of serving as "a roadmap to achieve a 30-year vision to ensure Michigan's water resources support healthy ecosystems, citizens, communities and economies." Again, thank you for this opportunity to share my input.

Sincerely,

Mishia Hunwick
29625 Elmgrove St
Saint Clair Shores, MI 48082-1801
mfhunwick@hotmail.com

From: [Sierra Club](#) on behalf of [Kelly Cormier](#)
To: [mi-waterstrategy](#)
Subject: Public Comments on Draft Water Strategy
Date: Sunday, August 16, 2015 9:42:50 PM

Aug 16, 2015

Director of the Office of the Great Lakes Jon Allan

Dear Director of the Office of the Great Lakes Allan,

Thank you for this opportunity to submit my comments on the Department of Environmental Quality's Office of the Great Lakes draft Water Strategy. I'm glad to see the agency understands the need to take a comprehensive, long-term look at stewarding our state's most precious resource. The draft Water Strategy is a good start and contains important initiatives such as a push for water conservation, but it needs clearer, enforceable measures to achieve its goals.

The Water Strategy relies too heavily on voluntary efforts and actions that "should" be taken rather than "will" be taken to protect our water resources. The OGL needs to develop a stronger vision statement and to put forth specific actions, verifiable goals and data-based solutions to get where we need to be in 30 years.

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Sincerely,

Kelly Cormier
43439 Laurelwood Ct
Canton, MI 48187-4914
kcormier@umich.edu

From: [Sierra Club](#) on behalf of [Thomas Cannon](#)
To: [mi-waterstrategy](#)
Subject: Public Comments on Draft Water Strategy
Date: Sunday, August 16, 2015 5:12:59 PM

Aug 16, 2015

Director of the Office of the Great Lakes Jon Allan

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Sincerely,

Thomas Cannon
1662 Lake Dr
Haslett, MI 48840-8441
toppcatt71@hotmail.com

From: [Sierra Club](#) on behalf of [Helena Coleman](#)
To: [mi-waterstrategy](#)
Subject: Public Comments on Draft Water Strategy
Date: Sunday, August 16, 2015 1:44:07 PM

Aug 16, 2015

Director of the Office of the Great Lakes Jon Allan

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Sincerely,

Helena Coleman
N
Pontiac, MI 48342
helena-c@att net

From: [Sierra Club](#) on behalf of [Jere Greiner](#)
To: [mi-waterstrategy](#)
Subject: Public Comments on Draft Water Strategy
Date: Wednesday, August 26, 2015 3:15:02 PM

Aug 26, 2015

Director of the Office of the Great Lakes Jon Allan

Dear Director of the Office of the Great Lakes Allan,

Thank you for this opportunity to submit my comments on the Department of Environmental Quality's Office of the Great Lakes draft Water Strategy. I'm glad to see the agency understands the need to take a comprehensive, long-term look at stewarding our state's most precious resource. The draft Water Strategy is a good start and contains important initiatives such as a push for water conservation, but it needs clearer, enforceable measures to achieve its goals.

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Sincerely,

Jere Greiner
1534 beidler St apt 4
Muskegon, MI 49441-2952
jgreiner1874jg@gmail.com

From: [Pat Staskiewicz](#)
To: [mi-waterstrategy](#)
Subject: Public Comments to Water Strategy
Date: Wednesday, August 26, 2015 2:39:14 PM
Attachments: [Comments to Water Strategy 8-26-15.pdf](#)

Attached please find comments to the Water Strategy.

Thank you,

Pat

Patrick J. Staskiewicz, P.E.
Public Utilities Director
Ottawa County Road Commission
PO Box 739, Grand Haven, MI 49417
(616) 850-7208 Direct Office
(616) 638-0380 Cell Phone
(616) 850-7237 Fax

From: [Barbara Stevenson](#)
To: [Finnell, Emily \(DEQ\)](#)
Subject: Re: Draft Water Strategy Comments
Date: Monday, October 19, 2015 11:08:16 AM

Hope that needs of low income people are included as well as prevention of disasters such as Flint!

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 19, 2015, at 10:32 AM, "Finnell, Emily (DEQ)" <Finnelle@michigan.gov> wrote:

Thank you for your interest in the draft Water Strategy. The Office of the Great Lakes received many thoughtful and in-depth comments both in electronic and hard copy format and has completed the process of reviewing and cataloging comments as part of the record. We will be working with our steering committee to make revisions and prepare a final strategy and anticipate a final strategy being released in late spring of 2016.

We appreciate your comments and interest in the current and future of management of Michigan's water resources.

Sincerely,
Emily Finnell
Office of the Great Lakes | MI Department of Environmental Quality
PO Box 30473
Lansing, MI 48909
finnelle@michigan.gov
517-284-5036

From: [Mark Cornwell](#)
To: [Finnell, Emily \(DEQ\)](#)
Subject: Re: Draft Water Strategy Comments
Date: Monday, October 19, 2015 10:44:35 AM
Attachments: [Water Quality Implications and the Toxic.pdf](#)
[KimKoretsky2012.pdf](#)

Thank you Emily,

Attached you will find a report that I just received this morning.

Another is recent research by Kim and Koretsky and others at Western Michigan University.

While I am not an academician, having read enough research I am growing more convinced of the implications of road salt connectedness to mobilization of heavy metals and possible even a link to liberation of phosphorus.

Best regards

On Mon, Oct 19, 2015 at 10:32 AM, Finnell, Emily (DEQ) <Finnelle@michigan.gov> wrote:

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We appreciate your comments and interest in the current and future of management of Michigan's water resources.

Sincerely,

Emily Finnell

Office of the Great Lakes | MI Department of Environmental Quality

PO Box 30473

Lansing, MI 48909

finnelle@michigan.gov

[517-284-5036](tel:517-284-5036)

--

Mark Cornwell

Sustainable Salting Solutions, LLC
12415 North Holly Road
Holly, Michigan 48442

Phone: 248/895-2888 (mobile)
248/634-0820 (Office)

Web: sustainablesaltingsolutions.com
LinkedIn--Mark Cornwell

"Helping Winter Maintenance Professionals Achieve the Balance between; Public Safety,
Budgets, and Infrastructure and Environmental Protection"

From: [Jim Olson](#)
To: [Finnell, Emily \(DEQ\)](#); [mi-waterstrategy](#)
Subject: RE: Draft Water Strategy Comments
Date: Monday, October 19, 2015 1:39:12 PM

Emily,

Thank you for note.

While the text of our comments remains unchanged, we found a mix up in footnote numbering and will be submitting before Nov. 1 a substitute copy with corrected footnotes.

Yours,

Jim Olson

From: Finnell, Emily (DEQ) [Finnelle@michigan.gov]
Sent: Monday, October 19, 2015 10:32 AM
To: mi-waterstrategy
Cc: Finnell, Emily (DEQ)
Subject: Draft Water Strategy Comments

Thank you for your interest in the draft Water Strategy. The Office of the Great Lakes received many thoughtful and in-depth comments both in electronic and hard copy format and has completed the process of reviewing and cataloging comments as part of the record. We will be working with our steering committee to make revisions and prepare a final strategy and anticipate a final strategy being released in late spring of 2016.

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Sincerely,
Emily Finnell
Office of the Great Lakes | MI Department of Environmental Quality
PO Box 30473
Lansing, MI 48909
finnacle@michigan.gov<<mailto:finnacle@michigan.gov>>
517-284-5036

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Finnell, Emily \(DEQ\)](#)
Subject: Re: Draft Water Strategy Comments
Date: Monday, October 19, 2015 2:25:52 PM

all that is well and good but if we don't do something about enbridge line 5 now before 2016 arrives it maybe well too late and you kiss "PURE MICHIGAN" GOODBYE!

On Monday, October 19, 2015 10:36 AM, "Finnell, Emily (DEQ)" <Finnelle@michigan.gov> wrote:

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We appreciate your comments and interest in the current and future of management of Michigan's water resources.

Sincerely,
Emily Finnell
Office of the Great Lakes | MI Department of Environmental Quality
PO Box 30473
Lansing, MI 48909
finnelle@michigan.gov
517-284-5036

From: [Sally Petrella](#)
To: [mi-waterstrategy](#)
Subject: Re: my comments on the Water Strategy
Date: Thursday, August 27, 2015 2:46:47 PM
Attachments: [Water Strategy comments - Sally Petrella.docx](#)

Attached are my comments on the Michigan Water Strategy. Please ignore the last email I sent with no attachment.

Thank you for the opportunity to review it.

-Sally

On Thu, Aug 27, 2015 at 1:08 PM, Sally Petrella <spetrella@therouge.org> wrote:

Hi-

I reviewed the Michigan Water Strategy from my perspective as the Volunteer Monitoring Program Manager at Friends of the Rouge. Here are my comments.

P. 6-7 Recommendations and Measures of Success

--

Sally Petrella

Volunteer Monitoring Program Manager

Friends of the Rouge

4901 Evergreen Road KM Bldg

Dearborn, MI 48128

phone [313-792-9621](tel:313-792-9621)

fax [313-593-0231](tel:313-593-0231)

www.therouge.org

--

Sally Petrella

Volunteer Monitoring Program Manager

Friends of the Rouge

4901 Evergreen Road KM Bldg

Dearborn, MI 48128

phone 313-792-9621

fax 313-593-0231

www.therouge.org

From: [Steve Hamilton](#)
To: [Allan, Jon \(DEQ\)](#); [Finnell, Emily \(DEQ\)](#); [mi-waterstrategy](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Water Strategy Regional Roundtable Invitation
Date: Tuesday, June 30, 2015 5:57:53 PM

Hello Jon, Emily,

A few quick comments to follow up on today's meeting:

- 1) Thanks for developing a comprehensive and insightful report, and taking the time to come explain it to us; it is clearly an important initiative.

- 2) The Kalamazoo River Watershed Council serves as the umbrella group for the watershed and is interested in and enthusiastic about all of the areas addressed in the report. However it is worth noting that we are particularly experienced in some of the most challenging (and costly) problems of the main river channels—dam removals, contaminated sediment remediation, waterfront redevelopment, and urban non-point-source (storm water) runoff. We work a lot with state and feral agencies. We have also worked with the Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy on watershed conservation planning with emphasis on aquatic resources. More on KRWC is at kalamazooriver.org

- 3) In spite of the reassurances that it was thoroughly contemplated, I would still like to know that there has been an independent, expert assessment of the pros and cons of some kind of water user fee system. Sure it's politically complicated, but so are the problems we face without funds to deal with them, and an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure! Had we instituted something like this 50 years ago, we might not be facing all these costly problems we have today. I imagine a study could be commissioned for a modest investment, and who knows, it might surprise us!

- 4) A little detail - the NPDES is misidentified on page 44 (Nonpoint Source should be National).

- 5) As an aside, I'd like to mention something in light of a comment from someone else about acid pollution. In fact the acidity in Michigan precipitation has been markedly reduced, by more than 10 fold, since the 1980s. We can credit the Clean Air Act and its amendments for that. The mean pH is almost at natural pre-industrial levels now. This is one of the great unsung environmental success stories of our time, yet most people are unaware because acid precipitation was an invisible yet serious threat in the first place.

Best regards,

Steve Hamilton
(President of the Kalamazoo River Watershed Council)

On Jun 16, 2015, at 1:41 PM, Allan, Jon (DEQ) <AllanJ@michigan.gov> wrote:

Dear Water Strategy Roundtable Participant:

More than two years ago, the Governor called upon the Office of the Great

Lakes to lead an effort to develop a comprehensive water strategy for Michigan. On June 9, 2015, the OGL released the draft Water Strategy for public review.

The draft Strategy provides a roadmap to achieve a 30-year vision for the future of water use that enhances our economic opportunities around water while sustaining the ecological integrity of the resource and ensures that water resources are protected, valued and cared for by present and future generations.

The draft Strategy was developed in collaboration with an interagency steering committee and an external ad hoc advisory group that helped to inform the development of the draft through ongoing participation. The Strategy was also shaped by input received through an extensive engagement process involving community and regionally based conversations across the state, some of which you may have been a part of.

This release kicks off the beginning of an outreach process focused around further refinement of the draft and opportunities to collaborate on key recommendations. The OGL and its partner agencies are reconvening economic roundtable discussions in the ten prosperity regions across the state to discuss the draft and implementation of the Strategy. In addition, up to five Water Strategy Community Conversations will be hosted across Michigan to invite comment and discussion on the draft Strategy.

We would like to invite you, as one of a select and diverse group of interested parties, to participate in a Water Strategy Roundtable discussion in Kalamazoo, Michigan on Tuesday, June 30, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., at Western Michigan University, Fetzer Center, 2350 Business Ct., Kalamazoo, Michigan 49008. Similar meetings will be held in other regions of the state over the next six weeks. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the draft Water Strategy and opportunities for local and regional leadership and to accomplish key recommendations in the Strategy. In addition, participants will be asked to provide feedback on the draft Water Strategy and discuss connections to future issues and needs for your region related to water.

We have attached the Draft Water Strategy for your review and preparation for the meeting. Additional meeting materials will be provided prior to the meeting. Information about the development of the Strategy is available at www.michigan.gov/waterstrategy.

Please contact Ms. Kari Vaughn at 517-284-5035, or at vaughnk3@michigan.gov to indicate your interest in participating in this Roundtable discussion. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Ms. Emily Finnell, OGL, at 517-284-5036, or at finnelle@michigan.gov.

We look forward to your participation in these important discussions and working with you to realize a positive future for Michigan and its water resources.

Thank you.

Jon W. Allan, Director
Office of the Great Lakes

<Draft Water Strategy and Appendices 06-04-2015.pdf><Invite letter - Region 8
- Kzoo.pdf>

Stephen K. Hamilton, Professor, Kellogg Biological Station, Michigan State University,
3700 E. Gull Lake Dr., Hickory Corners, MI 49060. Tel. 269/671-2231.

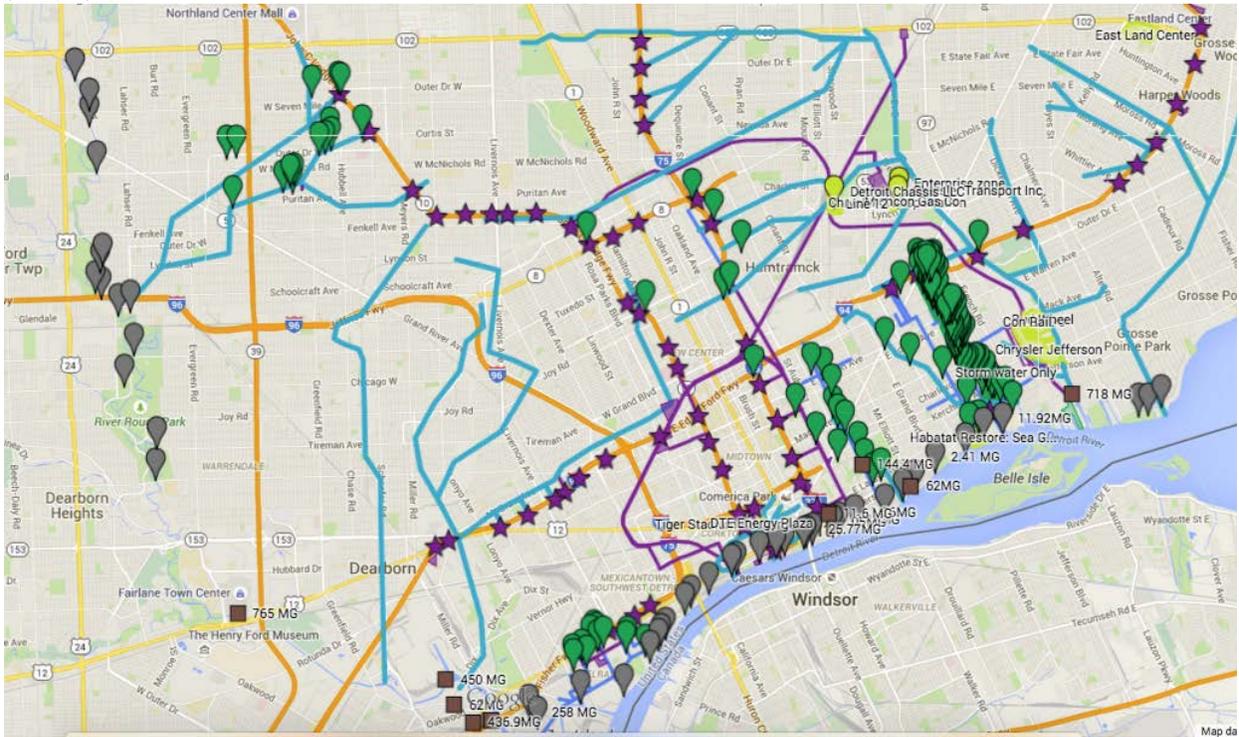
<http://kbs.msu.edu/people/faculty/hamilton>

From: [Stabile_Sal](#)
To: [mi-waterstrategy](#)
Cc: [info@detroitfuturecity.com](#); [Office of Councilman Scott Benson](#); [gwozniak@recoverypark.org](#); [mccormick@dwsd.org](#); [Schultz_James \(MDOT\)](#)
Subject: Recharge Urban Streams in Detroit / Flood Plan
Date: Monday, July 27, 2015 3:54:50 PM
Attachments: [Screen Shot 2015-07-27 at 3:29:31 PM.png](#)

Office of the Great Lakes
Fred A and Barbara M Erb Family Foundation

Do you remember the storm last year August 11, 2014? The one that closed our freeways for three days With your help and community support and Federal Transportation funding I have found, we can in time make that not happen again I have put together a plan for the city of Detroit that will take all of the freeway stormwater and remove it from the DWSD sewerage treatment grid The stormwater would be managed in place I have had a meeting with MDOT to develop a test of my concept for demonstration on the I94 rebuild project If the concept is proven it could be eligible for federal funding I will be at the

Salvatore Stabile



Stormwater Recharge Systems
Together we can protect our waters
100 Riverfront Dr Suite 2501
Detroit, MI 48226
[Redacted]

From: [Willi Water](#)
To: [mi-waterstrategy](#)
Subject: ***__ Clinton River - Red Run __***
Date: Wednesday, August 26, 2015 3:26:48 PM

Hello,

LBrooksPatterson and OaklandCounty need to clean up their act. Combined Sewer Overflow discharges into Warren Michigan via the open channel Red Run cause huge issues of health, flooding, and ugliness.

Red Run flows into Clinton River and on to Lake St Clair, creating a Delta of sediment deposition by Harley Ensign Marina

Need more info :
Check out the Red Run blog

People who think the Clinton River is clean, swim in it, etc do not truly know what happens via underground Stormwater contamination and Sewage overflow

Willi G. Gutmann

From: [khaya davidson](#)
To: [mi-waterstrategy](#)
Subject: Right to water
Date: Tuesday, August 11, 2015 8:09:56 AM

People have a right to quality, affordable water. I urge you to expand your State water plan to include a REAL PLAN to make water more affordable to the residents of ALL of Michigan's communities as soon as possible.

Thank you,
Khaya Davidson, Farmington Hills 48336

DRAFT FOR PUBLIC REVIEW - JUNE 4, 2015

sharper focus on water rates, affordability, and the ability to continue to fund aging infrastructure costs. There is currently no statewide assessment of shut-off practices or policies that relate to affordability and water access for human use.

Recommendations

Implement a communication strategy focused on messages that link the relationship between investments in water infrastructure and clean water as well as the benefits infrastructure provides for drinking water, recreation, cultural and economic opportunity.

Utilize pricing and funding strategies to support infrastructure improvements while allowing for water conservation.

Evaluate current community practices regarding providing water to financially distressed customers to ensure all citizens have affordable access to water for drinking and sanitation.

Invest in Water Infrastructure

One of the biggest challenges facing communities is aging, deteriorating infrastructure systems with more operational needs than financial resources to meet them. Poor infrastructure degrades the value of water, results in costly efforts to mitigate impacts, and creates or increases drag on the economy.

In a perfect world, users of the system would pay for the cost of service. Rates would consider operation and maintenance costs as well as long-term capital investment needs. Unfortunately, rates in Michigan are typically set by elected officials who have political difficulty charging rates necessary to maintain infrastructures.

Asset management planning, performed properly, would support municipalities' efforts to optimize future costs and collect revenues sufficient to operate and maintain the system. Since 2013, some large municipal wastewater treatment plants have been required to develop an asset management plan as part of their nonpoint source discharge elimination standard (NPDES) permit; however, this requirement doesn't apply to all water utilities. Outcome-based asset management planning that includes more efficient use of resources can result in cost efficiencies that can be used to address capital costs while keeping rates affordable.

Communities can realize cost efficiencies to manage water infrastructure systems and to meet the needs of the future by increasing efficiencies in the delivery and treatment of water through implementation of energy efficiency measures, the use of technologies and a combination of grey and green infrastructure. A more integrated systems approach can improve water management, reduce energy costs and result in savings for communities as opposed to investing in traditional methods which typically have higher capital investment costs.

Roger Colton

Blue.

Ribbon

Panel

Committee

to evaluate

water

affordability

int exp

dev. pla.

for dist. T

Strengthen & EXPAND

and develop including water affordability programs

DRAFT FOR PUBLIC REVIEW - JUNE 4, 2015

A customer's use of less water does not necessarily or directly equate to lower operational costs of infrastructure. There is still a substantial cost to have safe drinking water delivered at adequate quantities and pressures whenever the tap is opened and to have fire protection available at the curb within the reach of a standard fire hose in event of an emergency.

Michigan has a long experience and legal history of not putting a commodity price on water, thus keeping water a free resource, and an important element of the state's economic and social well-being and stability. During public outreach for the Water Strategy, many residents suggested either putting a fee on water for all or some groups of water users – in its simplest form, a per gallon charge for water as it comes from the environment. Some suggested that only some types of water users, like agriculture, water bottlers or industrial users should pay a per gallon fee for withdrawing water. Others suggested all users should pay a surcharge or a per gallon fee for the use of water, regardless of user or purpose. Given that Michigan's citizens and businesses withdraw more than 4.2 trillion gallons per year, equivalent to the amount of precipitation that falls on the U.S. per day, even a tiny surcharge or access charge would add up quickly. The economic logic may make sense in the abstract, but it does not currently fit the culture and history of water and water use in the state.

Conversely, some argued that adding a price to water, even as an access charge versus a price on water per se, would commodify the resource, when it has historically been a public good or a public trust resource. Maintaining the ability to manage and ensure the sustainability of the water resources of Michigan and the Great Lakes is of utmost value to the state and the region, and even though a revenue stream could be created from a volume or access charge on water, the values potentially compromised under this scenario are too great to lose. However, there is still a compelling and growing need for investments in water and water infrastructure and for administrative and programmatic support in order for the state to meet its long-term vision for healthy, functional systems and prosperity.

To address the gap between actual investment need and public perception of that need, Michigan should launch a public education campaign to improve residents' understanding of the economic, environmental and social benefits of clean water, linking the investments necessary to achieve the benefits. If the public wants clean beaches and good water quality – and they say they do – public support of water infrastructure investments is critical. While we do not seek to facilitate a volumetric surcharge on water access, if that is something the public would ultimately support, then it would add to the options for funding long-term infrastructure and desired outcomes.

Water rates have historically been low and water both plentiful and affordable in most Michigan communities. Detroit's recent water shutoffs, the loss of urban population in other communities, and an overall increase in domestic water conservation has put a

Amy Torres

From: peter bormuth [earthprayer@hotmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2015 9:57 AM
To: Amy Torres
Subject: RE: Draft Water Strategy Attached.

Amy

I read the entire draft this morning.

I have a number of comments but the most important one concerns Groundwater.

The Draft states that groundwater should be managed for human uses and environmental integrity.

Our groundwater in the lower Michigan basin is currently being threatened by two industry practices:

- 1) hydraulic fracturing (for oil or natural gas), and
- 2) underground waste disposal wells (for brines, fracking fluids and other oil well waste products).

With regard to the first issue, hydraulic fracturing, scientific evidence is emerging that fracking fluids can migrate into underground water reservoir's.

(see EPA Draft Investigation on Groundwater Contamination near Pavillion, Wyoming (EPA 600/R-00/000 December 2011) which concludes "that constituents associated with hydraulic fracturing have been released into the Wind River drinking water aquifer at depths above the current production zone." This proves that the EPA knows injected fluids can migrate upwards and that they have previously made mistakes with regard to impermeability of rock formations when issuing permits; see also Myers, *Ground Water*, (April 2012) POTENTIAL CONTAMINANT PATHWAYS FROM HYDRAULICALLY FRACTURED SHALE TO AQUIFERS. Shows that brines existing more than a 1000 meters above their source is evidence of upward movement from depth to surface and shows that the injection at pressure can cause contaminants to reach overlying formations by simple displacement of fluids from shale into the overburden and claims that advective transport (considered as simple particle velocity) will manifest if there is a significant vertical component to the regional hydraulic gradient; see also Weaver; Frappe; Cherry, *Geol. Soc. Am. Bull.* 107 (1995) – RECENT CROSS-FORMATIONAL FLUID FLOW AND MIXING IN THE SHALLOW MICHIGAN BASIN – This study documents upward migration of saline fluid into the overlying glacial sediments during the historic period since petroleum production began. The fracture intensification and increased permeability of the near surface layers above 1000 feet has been interpreted to reflect isostatic rebound following the retreat of the glaciers. The study area was on the edge of the Michigan basin in Ontario but the authors note a correlation with the Detroit River Group in central Michigan; see also Warner; Jackson; Darrah; Osborn; Down; Zhao; White; Vengosh. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, (May 2012) GEOCHEMICAL EVIDENCE FOR POSSIBLE NATURAL MIGRATION OF MARCELLUS FORMATION BRINE TO SHALLOW AQUIFERS IN PENNSYLVANIA. Describes the evidence for upward cross formational flow of Marcellus formation brine into shallow aquifers; see also Middleton; WHAT LIES BENEATH: THE THREAT FROM OILFIELD WASTE INJECTION WELLS, published May 18, 2006. Details the complaints to the Texas Railroad Commission of groundwater contamination in Texas because of oil waste injection wells).

With regard to the second issue, underground waste disposal wells, I have identified 19 wells in lower

Michigan that endanger our underground sources of water: WI Permit #30108, #30248, #30123, #36867, #31503, #36958, #30229, #40099 in Calhoun County, Michigan; WI Permit #36629, #42486, #37378 in Macomb County, Michigan; WI Permit #23252, #23701, #23011, #22661 in Saint Clair County, Michigan; and WI Permit #25224, and #20452 in Allegan County, Michigan; West Bay #22, Permit#: MI-075-2D-0009 in Jackson County and Haystead #9, Permit #. MI-075-SD-0010 in Jackson County. There may be more. Each well is permitted to inject waste to a geologically inappropriate strata (the Salina Group Anhydrite & Salt layers) that will convert to gypsum and dissolve and fracture allowing the injected liquid waste to migrate upwards into our underground water supplies. EPA Permit #MI-163-3G-A002, issued June 14, 2006, for the Sunoco Inkster Facility in Wayne County proves that this will happen. This permit authorized injection of water to dissolve the same Salina Group salt and anhydrite layers that are supposedly acting as barriers to flow in the above numbered wells.

Please pass these comments on to your committee.

Peter Bormuth

From: atorres@enterprisegroup.org
To: earthprayer@hotmail.com
Subject: FW: Draft Water Strategy Attached.
Date: Thu, 23 Jul 2015 21:45:02 +0000

From: Vaughn, Kari (DEQ) [<mailto:VaughnK3@michigan.gov>]
Sent: Wednesday, July 15, 2015 10:47 AM
To: Amy Torres
Subject: Draft Water Strategy Attached.

Good Morning Ms. Torres,

Please find the Draft Water Strategy attached, I apologize for it being missing from the original email. It is also available at the information link provided in the email as well.

From: [Finnell, Emily \(DEQ\)](#)
To: [mi-waterstrategy](#)
Subject: Roger Colton Written Comment
Date: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 1:24:01 PM
Attachments: [Roger Colton - Draft for Public Review - 6-4-15.pdf](#)

Emily Finnell
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