

Water Resources Division  
2015 Major Accomplishments

### Enbridge Settlement

Settled with Enbridge for 2010 Marshall oil spill – The state settled its interests with Enbridge, including natural resource damages stemming from the 2010 Kalamazoo River spill. The unusual agreement included a cash payment of \$5 million, and also provided \$70 million in restoration work to the river, including:

- \$30 million to restore or construct 300 acres of wetlands.
- \$18 million to remove Ceresco Dam.
- \$10 million to construct and improve five recreational and boating access sites.
- \$12 million to reimburse the state's costs in conducting and overseeing cleanup work.

The settlement brought Enbridge's total commitment to restoration of the Kalamazoo River to \$1.2 billion. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VdjAyZrJwo4>

### MiWaters

On August 17, 2015, WRD and DTMB launched MiWaters, a new online information system that provides users with a modernized electronic application, permitting, and reporting process. MiWaters is a comprehensive permitting and compliance database that replaced more than 25 software applications and databases used by the WRD, some of which were more than 30 years old. MiWaters includes National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System, Storm Water, Groundwater Discharge, Aquatic Nuisance Control, Part 41 Construction, and Land and Water Interface permits. It also includes electronic submission of permit-required reports and reporting of untreated or partially treated sanitary wastewater discharges. MiWaters allows the WRD to better serve and communicate with the regulated community. [www.michigan.gov/miwaters](http://www.michigan.gov/miwaters)

### Lake Erie Phosphorus Reduction Plan

Released Lake Erie phosphorus reduction plan – Governor Snyder in June signed an agreement with Ontario's premier and the Lieutenant Governor of Ohio to reduce by 40 percent phosphorus inputs to the Western Lake Erie Basin by 2025. The DEQ announced its plan in November, detailing strong reductions to date and recommitting to continuing its work to lead on limiting nutrients in the basin that contribute to harmful algal blooms. The plan included:

- Maintain the reductions achieved in discharges from the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department as a result of tightened permit limits.
- Modify the permit limits for the Wayne County Downriver Wastewater Treatment Plan to establish limits consistent with limits at the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department.
- Develop a specific plan to achieve the target reduction in the Maumee River basin, working in close partnership with Indiana and Ohio.
- Help develop a better understanding of harmful algal blooms' presence, timing and cause in Michigan waters, including the Great Lakes.
- Help develop a better understanding of the role of invasive mussels in causing Lake Erie algae blooms as well as the effects of potential invasive mussel controls.
- Understand the specifics of what has caused a 36 percent reduction in phosphorus from the River Raisin since 2008 and continue to reduce nutrient loads that can contribute to site-specific or seasonal water quality fluctuations.

### Real-Time Beach Monitoring

Expanded real-time beach monitoring – Michigan became the first state to monitor beaches using a rapid testing method that can quickly identify E. coli DNA in a beach's water sample. This process provides results the same day a sample is taken, allowing a rapid response to potential public health concerns. To implement the new testing process, the DEQ provided \$500,000 worth of laboratory equipment for 10 labs across the state to establish rapid beach testing capacity as well as \$443,000 in grants to local health departments to monitor 287 beaches (155 Great Lakes beaches and 132 inland lake beaches) across 26 counties.

### Water Use Advisory Council

Implemented many Water Use Advisory Council recommendations – The Water Use Advisory Council (WUAC) recommended to Director Dan Wyant approximately 69 improvements to the Water Use Program in December 2014. In 2015, the DEQ, DNR and MDARD developed an implementation plan and presented it to the WUAC. The agencies have made significant progress toward implementation, taking actions that address at least 23 of the recommendations. Notable actions include enhanced data collection in southwest Michigan, progress toward development of a regional model through a collaborative pilot project, and documentation of procedures and development of guidance documents.