

Water Use Advisory Council (WUAC) Meeting

Hosted by the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE)

Tuesday, October 14, 2025

1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Lee Walker Conference Room, Debroah A. Stabenow Building, (Formerly Constitution Hall)
525 West Allegan, Lansing, MI 48933

Remote Option Available Via Teams

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Or call in (audio only)

+1 248-509-0316, 14180586#United States, Troy

Phone Conference ID: 141 805 86#

Meeting Minutes

1. Welcome – Laura

Laura Campbell (Michigan Farm Bureau) called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. and confirmed quorum was present.

2. Roll Call

Laura Campbell facilitated roll call.

WUAC Members/Alternates Present at Stabenow Building

Laura Campbell (MI Farm Bureau, Co-Chair)

Bryan Burroughs (Trout Unlimited)

Dave Hamilton (TNC – Retired)

Dave Maturen (MLSA)

Pat Staskiewicz (AWWA)

Megan Napier (AKT Peerless)

Katy Lindstrom (Barr Engineering)

Rachel Proctor (Consumers Energy)

Sara Pearson (MGS)

Richard Norton (local Government)

An in-person quorum was present.

WUAC Members/Alternates Participating virtually

Frank Ettawageshik (United Tribes of MI)

Michael Frederick (Michigan Water Well Association)

Kelly Turner (Michigan Potato Industry Commission)

Non-members Present

EGLE Staff

Juneal Black (EGLE) (in person)

Simon Belisle (EGLE) (in person)

Trisha Hagerman (EGLE) (in person)

Claire Rose (EGLE) (in person)
Jim Milne (EGLE) (in person)
Mike Jugle (EGLE) (in person)
Andrew LeBaron (EGLE) (in person)
Garrett Link (EGLE) (virtual)
Katie Mika (EGLE) (virtual)
Sydney Ruhala (EGLE) (in person)
Megan Cameron (EGLE) (in person)
Jill Van Dyke (EGLE) (virtual)

Guests and Other Participants

Joanne Wisely (virtual)
David Lusch (virtual)
Rick Solle (virtual)
Todd Feenstra (virtual)
Brenden Kelley (virtual)
Steve Kohler (virtual)
Younsuk Dong (virtual)
Jeannine Schwehofer (virtual)
Angie Gradiz Menjivar (virtual)
Jeremiah Asher (virtual)
Helena Volzer (virtual)
Joel Henry (virtual)
Abigail Eaton (MDARD) (in person)
Jay Wesley (DNR) (virtual)

3. Approval of Minutes-Roll Call Vote Discussion

The minutes from the previous meeting were approved with no objections.

4. Approval of Agenda-Roll Call Vote Discussion

The proposed agenda was reviewed. No changes or additions were made, and the agenda was approved as presented.

5. Public Comment (Three Minute Limit)

No public comments were offered on agenda-related items.

6. Great Lakes Compact Council Updates

Simon Belisle from the EGLE Office of the Great Lakes provided an update on the Great Lakes–St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact. He explained that Michigan’s Office of the Great Lakes (OGL), in coordination with the Geologic Resources Management Division (GRMD), is reviewing a prior notice proposal from the Onondaga County Water Authority (OCWA) in New York. The request seeks to increase Lake Ontario withdrawals from 62.5 million gallons per day (MGD) to 93.5 MGD, with consumptive use rising from 6.25 to 17.5 MGD. The increase supports water demand for the proposed Micron semiconductor manufacturing facility in Oswego, New York.

Simon outlined that under Section 4.11 of the Compact, member states are required to review such proposals and provide comments addressing consistency with the Standard of Review and Decision-Making, which includes consideration of cumulative impacts, local

laws, and conservation measures. The Michigan review team plans to submit comments to New York by the October 27 deadline.

During discussion, members asked whether this proposal might set precedent for future large consumptive-use projects in other Great Lakes states. EGLE clarified that each application is reviewed individually, and approval of one project does not create automatic authorization for future proposals. The Alliance for the Great Lakes requested further clarification on the methodology used to calculate consumptive use. Members also asked whether the withdrawn water would be returned to the basin; EGLE confirmed that a portion would be consumptive and therefore not returned.

7. Committee Chairs Report

a. Conservation and Efficiency Committee

Kelly Turner of the Michigan Potato Industry Commission provided the Conservation and Efficiency Committee report. She shared that the committee met on October 2 to discuss ongoing projects and reviewed the work of Michigan State University (MSU) Extension educators funded through WUAC's 2020 recommendations. The committee will review the State Water Conservation and Efficiency Program Annual Assessment, as required by the Great Lakes Compact, prior to submission before Thanksgiving. Additionally, the committee will workshop on the final Alliance for Water Efficiency (AWE) report during the December meeting to identify recommendations for the 2026 WUAC Biennial Report.

- **Presentation by MSU Agricultural Irrigation Specialists**

Following Kelly's update, MSU Extension educators Brenden Kelley and Angie Gradiz Menjivar presented an overview of their first-year efforts to expand irrigation education and water-use efficiency across the state. They described how their positions, established through a partnership between EGLE, MDARD, and MSU, have enabled direct engagement with producers across fruit, vegetable, and field crop sectors. To date, they have delivered more than forty presentations and reached over two thousand producers statewide. Their preliminary needs assessment captured seventy-six survey responses, with most respondents identifying irrigation scheduling, automation, and uniformity testing as top priorities.

The presenters summarized their on-farm testing and training activities. Six center pivots were evaluated for irrigation uniformity; all required sectional corrections, and half required complete sprinkler-package replacement. They have also conducted five hands-on uniformity training sessions in partnership with local Conservation Districts, reaching approximately thirty-five participants. Their outreach includes fifteen published articles, three fact sheets, and one bulletin reaching more than thirty-four thousand individuals. They have introduced new bilingual resources, weekly crop water-use updates, and a monthly Water Use Digest with over fifteen hundred subscribers.

Members commended the educators for the tangible impact of their work, noting how it builds producer trust and demonstrates measurable water and energy savings. Discussion emphasized the value of linking water efficiency with energy conservation to motivate future system upgrades.

b. Data Collection Committee

Bryan Burroughs reported that the Data Collection Committee continues to coordinate with cumulative streamflow depletion studies and evaluate stream classification methodologies. The committee discussed the importance of long-term data preservation and transparency, particularly regarding tribal data sovereignty. EGLE and USGS are collaborating on the Hydrologic Enhancement for Michigan (HEMI) initiative to strengthen statewide data planning and network reliability.

c. Models Committee

Dave Hamilton reported that the Models Committee continues to refine site-specific modeling approaches and is incorporating feedback from recent field case studies to improve the Water Withdrawal Assessment Tool (WWAT) and Site-Specific Review (SSR) models. The committee will reconvene later in the year to align with findings from the HEMI program and upcoming WWAT modernization updates.

Todd Feenstra expressed his concerns about how long it took DEQ (now EGLE) staff to review a groundwater model that he submitted in support of an SSR and the communication between the model reviewers and the modeler. Dave Hamilton encouraged more communication between the model reviewer and the modeler and completing model reviews in a timely manner.

d. Implementation Committee

Laura Campbell provided the Implementation Committee update, noting continued work on prior WUAC recommendations. The Advancing Water Conservation and Efficiency project is nearing completion, with a final report expected in October. Two MSU Extension positions were filled in early 2025 to increase agricultural water-use efficiency outreach. The committee is also supporting EGLE and USGS in efforts to expand streamflow gaging and groundwater monitoring through the HEMI partnership.

8. EGLE Update

James Milne presented updates on Part 327 Water Use Program metrics. Between January and October 2025, 196 WWAT registrations and 125 SSR registrations were processed, with 69 percent of SSRs completed within the ten-business-day statutory timeframe. Four permits were requested, three approved and one under review—and twenty pre-screening reviews of new or increased public water supply withdrawals were completed for EGLE Drinking Water and Environmental Health Division. Compliance actions included 34 communications, 28 revised registrations, and 6 installation verifications.

a. WWAT Update

Hannah Arnett and Megan Cameron discussed progress on the WWAT modernization. Release 1 launched on September 23 with minor bugs under review; Release 2 is planned for January 2026 and will introduce modeling for semi-confined and layered aquifers.

b. HEMI Project

Sidney Ruhala and the EGLE team provided updates on the Hydrologic Enhancement for Michigan initiative. Two new stream gauges and three temperature sensors have been installed, and additional geophysical and airborne electromagnetic surveys are

scheduled for 2026. EGLE and USGS are developing new public-facing webpages and planning a webinar for county and local officials in January 2026.

c. Personnel Updates

Personnel updates included the addition of Claire Rose as Geologist 12 and Juneal Black as GGSS Secretary.

9. Future - Pat

a. 2025 Meeting Dates (at Deborah A. Stabenow Building, formerly known as Constitution Hall, unless others offer to host) (*Quorum critical meetings)

- December 9

b. Proposed 2026 dates

- February 10
- April 14
- June 9
- *August 11
- *September 8
- *October 13
- *November 10
- December 8 (tentative)

Pat Staskiewicz reviewed remaining 2025 and proposed 2026 meeting dates. The Council confirmed its next meeting for December 9, 2025, at Deborah A. Stabenow Building, with quorum deemed critical.

c. Formats

d. Quorum

10. Open Comments (Three Minute Limit)

No additional public comments were offered during this period.

11. Motion to Adjourn

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Pat Staskiewicz at 3:15 p.m.