

## **Water Use Advisory Council (WUAC) Meeting**

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

**Tuesday, June 10, 2025**

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

Lee Walker Conference Room, North Atrium, Constitution Hall  
525 West Allegan, Lansing, MI 48933

Remote Option Available Via Teams

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

**Or call in (audio only)**

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**Phone Conference ID: 301 489 663#**

### **Meeting Minutes**

#### **1. Welcome**

Laura Campbell called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. and confirmed quorum.

#### **2. Roll Call**

Laura Campbell facilitated roll call.

#### **WUAC Members In-Person**

Laura Campbell, Michigan Farm Bureau, Co-Chair  
Bryan Burroughs, Michigan Trout Unlimited  
Doug Needham, Michigan Aggregates Association  
Dave Hamilton, The Nature Conservancy  
Kelly Turner, Michigan Potato Industry Commission  
Pat Staskiewicz, Michigan American Water Works Association  
Dave Maturen, Michigan Lakes and Streams Association  
Megan Tinsley, Michigan Environmental Council  
Kathleen Lindstrom, Barr Consulting  
Adam Wygant, EGLE

**An in-person quorum was present.**

#### **WUAC Members Virtual**

Frank Ettawageshik, United Tribes of Michigan  
Jay Wesley, DNR  
Elizabeth Morrisseau, AG  
Jay Eccleton, Michigan Golf Course Owners Association  
Steve Kohler, Kalamazoo River Watershed Council

Megan Napier, AKT Peerless

**WUAC Members Not In-Attendance**

Emily Finnell, Office of the Great Lakes

Abigail Eaton, MDARD

Sara Pearson, Michigan Geological Survey

Rachel Proctor, Consumers Energy

Buddy Sebastian, Michigan Groundwater Association

Jason Walther, Walther Farms

Kyle Rorah, Ducks Unlimited

Richard Norton, University of Michigan – Ann Arbor

**WUAC Non-Members**

Joel Henry (HDR)

Katie Lench

Melissa Grasman (JetCo Solutions)

Todd Feenstra

Jeannine Schwehofer (MSU Extension)

Howard Reeves (USGS)

Younsuk Dong

Joanne Wisely

Lyndon Kelley

Kelsey Campana

Khalid Haji Omar

Austen York (Consumers Energy)

Tom Zimnicki (AGL)

Jeremiah Asher

David Lusch

Lena Pappas, ELGE

Ann Larson, EGLE

Simon Belisle, EGLE

Garrett Link, EGLE

Sydney Ruhala, EGLE

Tariku Negassa, EGLE

Michael Jugle, EGLE

Marian Maier, EGLE

Hannah Arnett, EGLE

Jill VanDyke, EGLE

Trisha Hagerman, EGLE

Megan Cameron, EGLE

James Milne, EGLE

Lynn McNamara, EGLE

**3. Approval of Minutes-Roll Call Vote Discussion**

One correction was noted by Kelly Turner regarding a gender pronoun. The minutes from the previous meeting were approved with that amendment and 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)**

Frank Ettawageshik invited the Council to hold the August 12 meeting at the Gun Lake Tribe facilities. He proposed a facility tour in the morning followed by a meeting in the afternoon, with lunch provided (at individual cost). The council supported the idea. EGLE will send out a survey to confirm attendance and provide lodging information. A working lunch was suggested for efficiency.

**6. Committee Chairs Report**

**a. Conservation and Efficiency Committee**

Jeannine Schwehofer (Associate Director of Agriculture and Agri Business-MSU Extension) provided an update on irrigation education efforts. Two educators were hired in 2024 and are focused on outreach and assessment. Angie Grattas in May of 2024 and Brendan Kelly in August of 2024. They work with the rest of the irrigation team who are in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources in Bio Systems AG Engineering. A needs assessment has been conducted, and results are being used to shape winter programming. They're also writing weekly updates for irrigation management, scheduling, bulletins and they've shared articles on timely irrigation scheduling tools in the new MSU irrigation app. They've also been working on updating the website. Events are scheduled throughout summer and fall. Jeannine also described various local outreach efforts.

- July 22nd, Farmer Field Day at the West Central Research Center.
- August 1st, a summer irrigation workshop at Kellogg Biological Station.
- August 7<sup>th</sup>, Potato Field Day
- August 19<sup>th</sup>, Newaygo County Farm Field Day
- September 10th the Blueberry Field Day at the Trevor Nichols Center Research
- December 10<sup>th</sup>, Great Lakes Expo

Jeannine confirmed she will send a list of events.

**b. Data Collection Committee**

Howard Reeves led the update on data collection initiatives. The committee is currently reviewing active projects. Although a formal meeting was not held recently, the group plans to reconvene in July to continue progress.

Frank Ettawageshik raised concerns about the loss of tribal and federal datasets, citing examples where critical data became inaccessible due to agency transitions or lack of preservation efforts. The council discussed potential solutions, including improved coordination with USDA and EPA, establishing permanent state-hosted repositories, and increasing awareness of at-risk datasets.

Howard noted that new stream temperature data will soon be released by USGS. This dataset incorporates contributions from multiple organizations and includes both high- and low-quality data, flagged accordingly. The data may be helpful for diverse applications including modeling, planning, and ecological assessment. with varying levels of quality, which may be useful for multiple stakeholder groups.

**c. Models Committee**

Dave Hamilton shared updates on modeling efforts. He reported continued development of the Michigan Hydrologic Framework (MHF), with updates expected later this year. He also noted that the WRI Aqueduct model is not well-suited to Michigan's water context. The SSR Technical Issues Workgroup has been working on how to apply modeling in site-specific reviews and may develop custom tools as needed. An update was provided on transitional probability mapping; Phase 2 is complete, and validation work is ongoing.

**d. Implementation Strategies Committee**

No new updates were shared during this meeting. The committee will provide a report during the August session.

**7. Legislative Report Recommendations Outreach Plan**

Laura Campbell reported that although the state budget process is moving slowly, engagement continues. The team is in touch with legislative sponsors and prepared to testify in support of council-related funding priorities. Optimism remains high about securing continued resources.

## 8. EGLE Update

### a. WWAT Update

James Milne (EGLE) presented program metrics. In 2025, EGLE has issued 1 permit and has 2 more under review. There have been 125 auto-pass registrations and 67 site-specific review (SSR) requests. Of the SSRs submitted, 9 out of 11 have been completed within the target 10-day window. James highlighted the need for continued efficiency in processing SSRs and mentioned that EGLE is tracking these metrics closely to identify areas for improvement.

James and Jay Wesley, DNR Fisheries Division, also discussed the proposed Prairie River outreach initiative. DNR and EGLE received feedback from stakeholders concerned with localized stream temperature classifications. Jay emphasized the importance of clear communication during these efforts and mentioned that EGLE is developing a new public-facing webpage to provide greater transparency on classification progress and updates.

Sydney Ruhala (EGLE) reported that 86 wells have been identified for inclusion in the groundwater monitoring network. She noted that this monitoring effort will improve understanding of groundwater availability and support long-term water resource management across the state.

Megan Cameron (EGLE) demonstrated enhancements coming to the Water Withdrawal Assessment Tool (WWAT). These updates include improved navigation, a new layout, and more accessible report formats. User testing is currently underway, and the revised tool is expected to launch later this year.

## 9. Future

### a. 2025 Meeting Dates (at Con Hall unless others offer to host) (\*Quorum critical meetings)

- August 12
  - The next meeting is scheduled for August 12 at the Gun Lake Tribe facilities, with hybrid participation available via Microsoft Teams.
- October 14
- December 9

### b. Formats

### c. Quorum

#### **10. Open Comments (Three Minute Limit)**

During the open comment period, Frank Ettawageshik noted the importance of incorporating traditional ecological knowledge into the Council's efforts.

Todd Feenstra commented on the future role of the Council, emphasizing that it should focus on providing recommendations and supporting agency implementation. He encouraged the Council to continue its collaborative approach to shaping Michigan's water use policy.

#### **11. Motion to Adjourn**

Meeting was adjourned by Pat Staskiewicz at 3:04 p.m.

DRAFT