

## **Report for 2003IN113B: Hoosier Water Summit**

There are no reported publications resulting from this project.

Report Follows

## Hoosier Water Summit

### **Statement of critical regional or state water problem**

We all know the importance of adequate supplies of water for households, communities and industries. Most also realize the necessity of cleaner water for industrial production, drinking water and more robust eco-systems. But what do we know about the "state of Indiana's water resources"? Has water quality been getting better? If so, how much better? How is that measured? Is water quality only measured by chemical concentrations or also by some biological indices? Where do we still have impaired waters? What is causing the impairment? Can we change that impaired status? Are there alternative methods to meet our water quality objectives? If so, what are the trade-offs? Indiana has not had a significant conference concerning water resources in some ten years.

While government agencies (federal, state and local) and academics have collected massive amounts of data and performed substantial analysis of the water quality causes and consequences of our activities, there has not been an adequate format to communicate this information and knowledge to the general public. This symposium will bring together the various constituencies to illustrate what we know and how that information can be useful in assisting local decision makers in their attempts understand the current water quality situation, with a format to discuss future implications of improving the quality of Hoosier water, promoting economic development and complying with federal mandates.

The focus will be on the implications of the data and analysis for real world local decision-makers as they grapple with a variety of water issues. These issues include drinking water safety, POTW upgrades, combined storm/sewer systems, industrial sources of water pollution, nonpoint sources of pollution, land use questions, water quality implications for recreation and tourism and ecological integrity.

### **Statement of results/benefits**

The summit will be a combination of presentations and discussion groups to assist in understanding how local decision makers can utilize the best scientific information in their deliberations and how the scientific community can look ahead to future information needs. Technical researchers and decision makers will discuss the background for water quality decisions, the status of the water quality indicators (chemical and biological), the future constraints and how Indiana can satisfy the demands of Hoosier citizens for clean water, economic growth and a myriad of other goods and services.

**Audience:** local policy makers (elected or appointed officials from government, economic development agencies, community groups); government agency personnel, scientific community,

- . County commissioners
- . Surveyors, city engineers
- . Local health department officials
- . Mayors
- . City water and sanitation administrators
- . Indiana SWCD's
- . IDNR, IDEM

- . Farm Bureau, state and local
- . Water Resources Research Center (associated researchers)
- . IN Dept of Commerce
- . IN Commissioner of Ag

**Expected deliverables**

Along with a committee from Purdue and the State of Indiana, Dr. Lovejoy will develop the agenda and arrange for the conference to be held in Indianapolis. This effort will produce a significant summit and opportunity for individuals from the environmental community to interact and exchange ideas. We will use focus sessions, a research poster session and general talks to engage the widest array of individuals. The goal of the meeting is to resolve tension of the implementation of TMDLs, and water usage issues. All presentations and underlying data sets will be compiled onto a searchable CD to further the dissemination of the information and allow for other researchers and policymakers to examine the logic behind researchers' conclusions. These CDs will be provided to all attendees to the Hoosier Water Summit and additional copies will be available for those unable to attend and along with abstracts and key papers will be made available at our website.