

Update on the Indiana Water Stakeholder Input Workshops

DNR Division of Water



Executive Order 25-63

STATE OF INDIANA

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT INDIANAPOLIS

EXECUTIVE ORDER 25-63

FOR: ENSURING FUTURE ECONOMIC PROSPERITY AND
OPPORTUNITY FOR HOOSIERS BY THE DEVELOPMENT OF A
STATEWIDE WATER INVENTORY AND MANAGEMENT PLAN

TO ALL WHOM THESE PRESENTS MAY COME, GREETINGS.

WHEREAS, water is an indispensable resource, critical not only for the health and safety of all Hoosiers, but also for the ecological balance, agricultural sustainability, and economic vitality of the State of Indiana;

WHEREAS, the State of Indiana is privileged to have a generally abundant water supply, yet regional disparities persist, with ample resources concentrated in Northern Indiana and constraints affecting Central and Southern regions, necessitating a tailored approach to water resource planning and

EO 25-63: Guiding Principles

- Builds upon 2018 Water Infrastructure Task Force, IGA SB4 (2019) and IFA's regional water studies
- Focuses on water supply needs and priorities at a regional scale
- Supported by data and accepted scientific practices
- Works within existing statutory authorities
- Provides a transparent process for stakeholder input

WATER INFRASTRUCTURE TASK FORCE



Indiana Legislative Services Agency
200 W. Washington Street, Suite 301
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

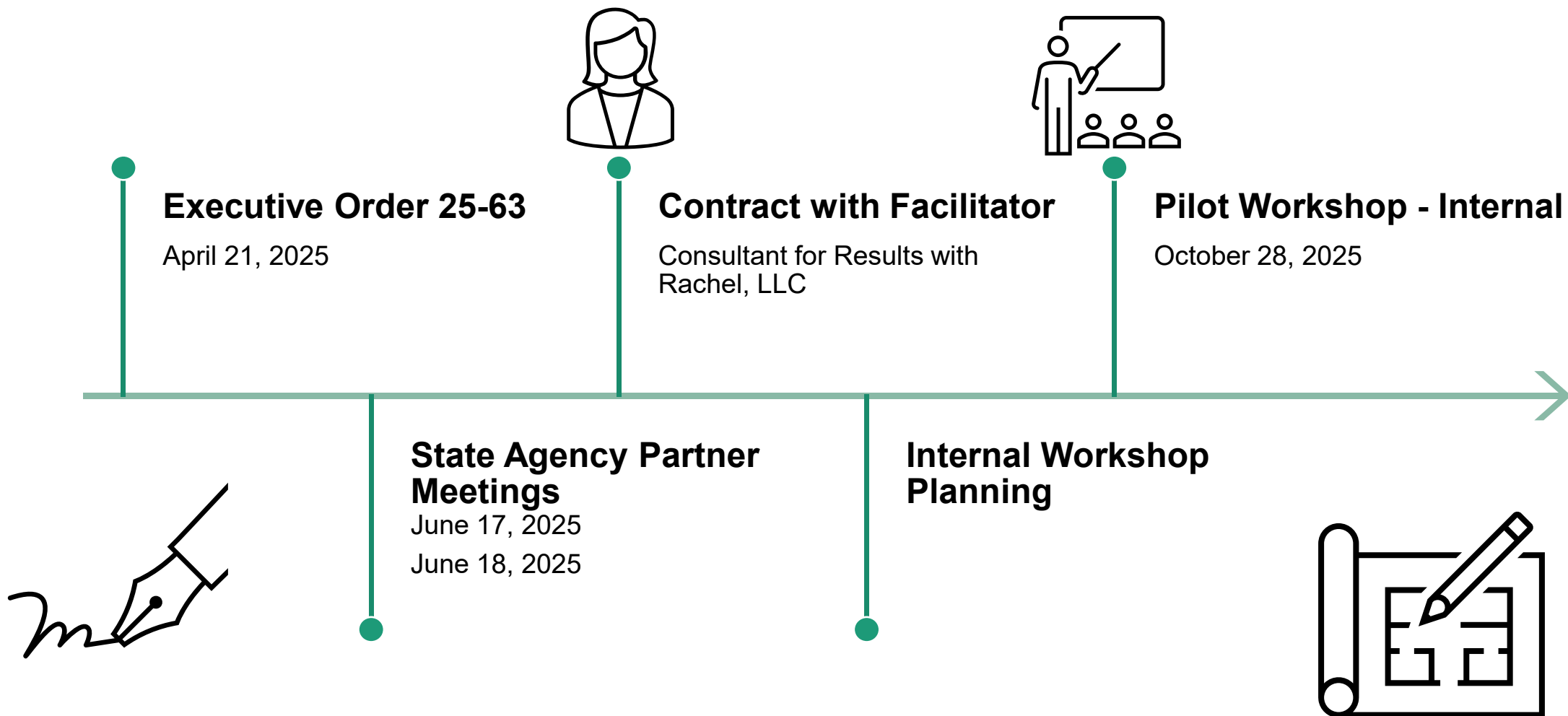
Friday November 09, 2018

EO 25-63: Directives

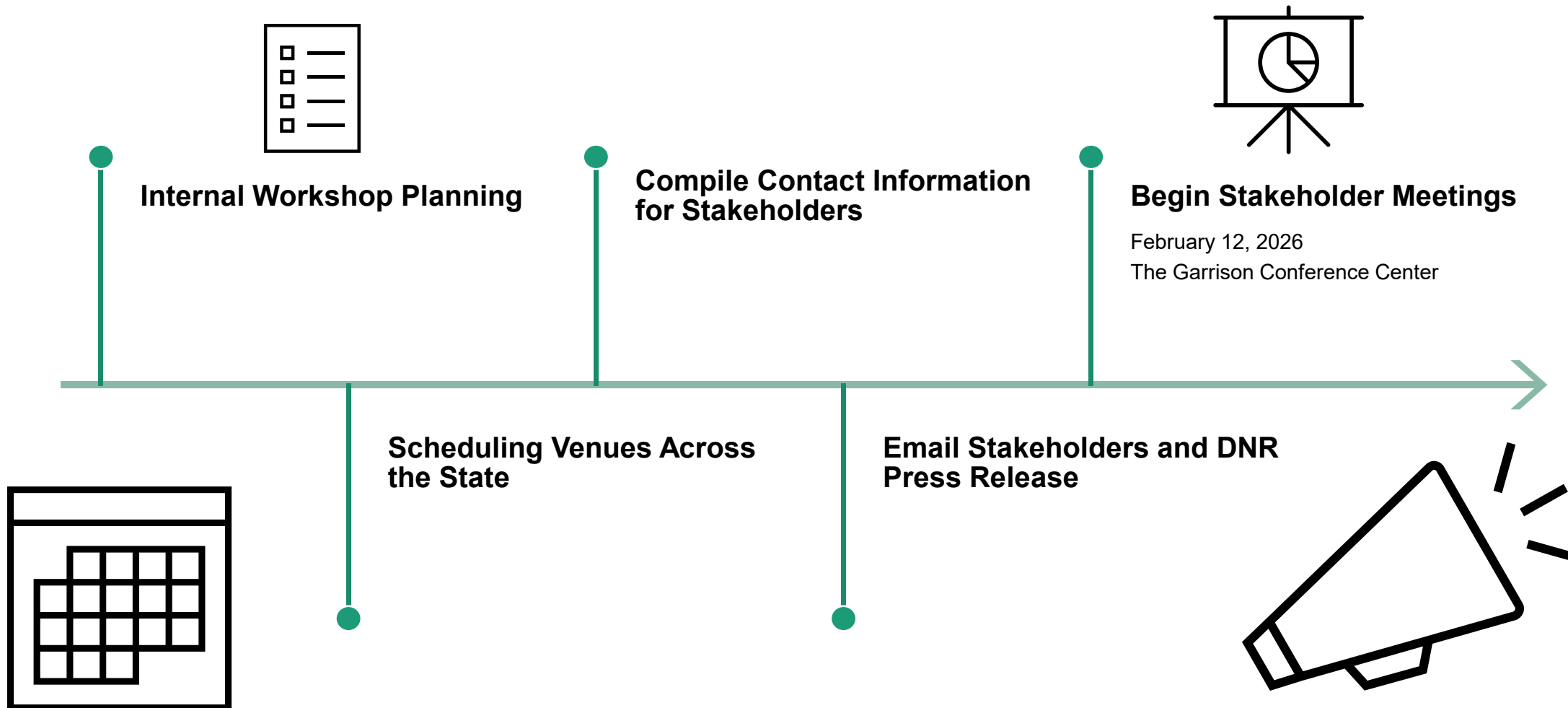
1. Inventory current usage, availability of surface and groundwater resources and forecasting of future demand.
2. Develop a statewide water planning framework at a regional scale.
3. Develop recommendations for enhancement and optimization of Indiana's water resource monitoring networks.
4. Create a centralized, publicly accessible, on-line water data platform.

The inventory shall be completed by **Oct. 31, 2026**, with a report provided to the Governor and Legislative Council by **Dec. 31, 2026**.

Timeline



Timeline



State Agency Partner Meetings

Met in June 2025 to discuss the order and its objectives

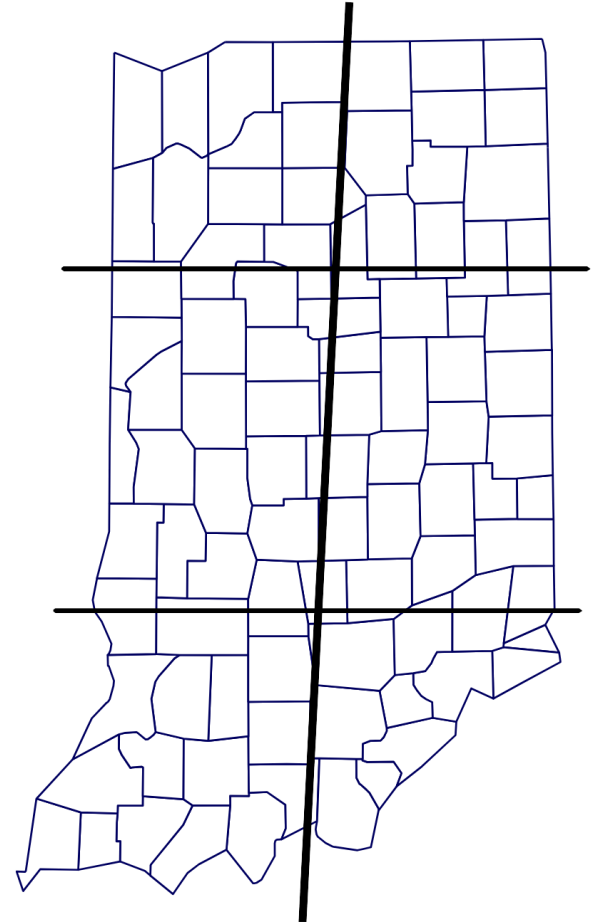
Represented Agencies

- Indiana Department Of Transportation (INDOT)
- Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC)
- Indiana Office of Technology-Indiana Geographic Information Office (IOT-IGIO)
- Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA)
- Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
- Indiana Finance Authority (IFA)
- Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM)



Workshop Planning

- Planning began in Late August 2025
- Initially decided to address Directives 2-4
- 6 workshops spread out across the state
- Interactive workshops



Pilot Workshop

- Pilot Workshop at the DNR Division of Water Annual Meeting
- Run through the presentation, feed back exercises, and technology used



Pilot Workshop

- Proof of concept
 - Determine what engagement is appropriate and feasible in a meeting setting to achieve the EO goals
- Pilot taught us we needed to simplify things....
 - Survey123 was complicated
 - Using a series of Survey123s was tricky
- Mentimeter made things simpler
- Survey123 still the best option for collecting GIS data
- Made appropriate updates and continued preparations for the meetings



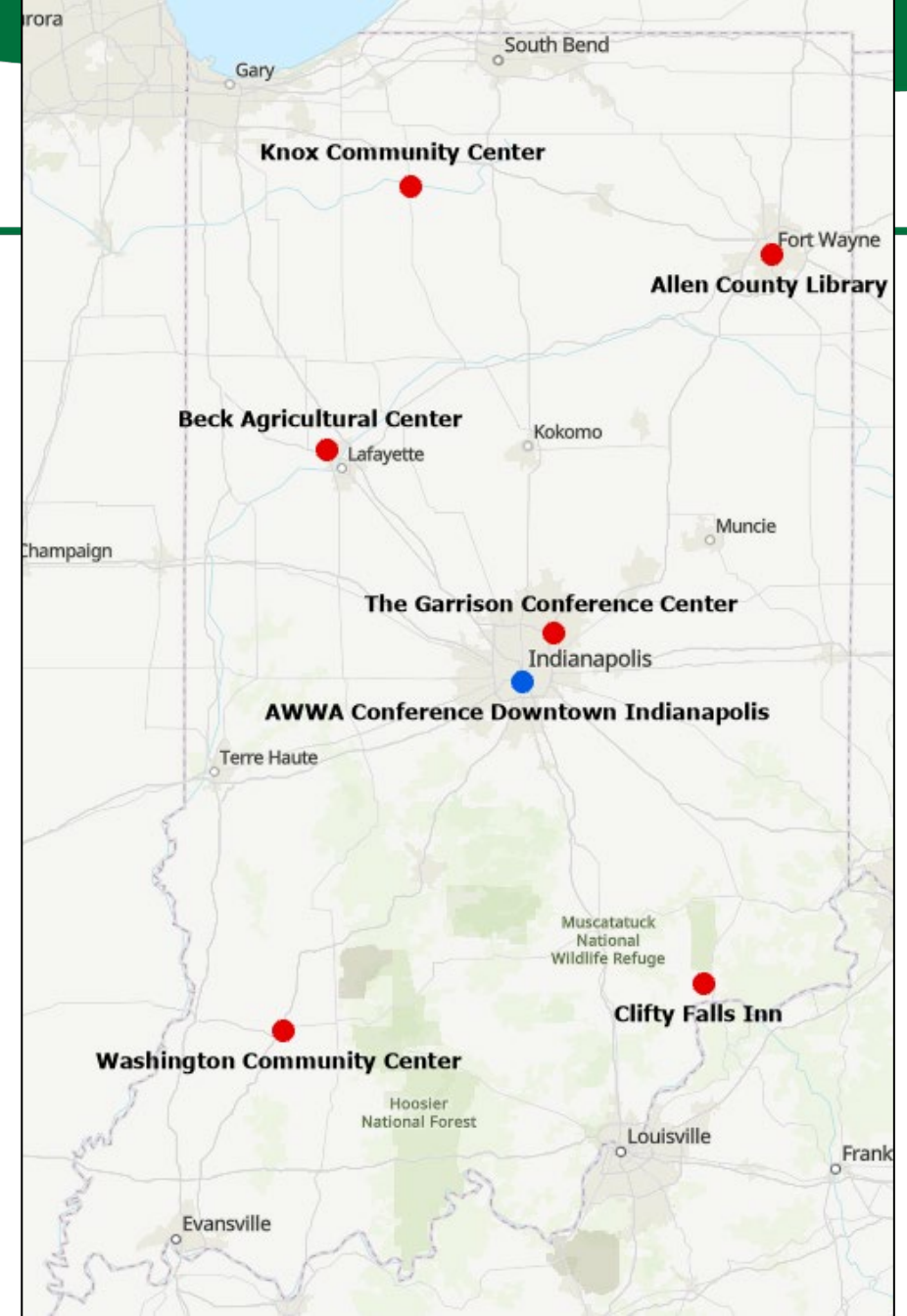
Stakeholder Meetings

- Thanks to The Nature Conservancy for funding!
- Meeting locations were scheduled across the state
- Invites to participate in the meetings were sent out to water stakeholder groups
- Indiana DNR sent out a press release to let people know about the meetings too



Stakeholder Meetings

- The Garrison Conference Center (Feb 12)
- Clifty Inn (Feb 24)
- Washington Community Center (Feb 26)
- AWWA Conference in Indianapolis (March 25)
- Allen County Library (Apr 7)
- Beck Agricultural Center (Apr 16)
- Knox Community Center (May 12)
- Virtual (May 19)

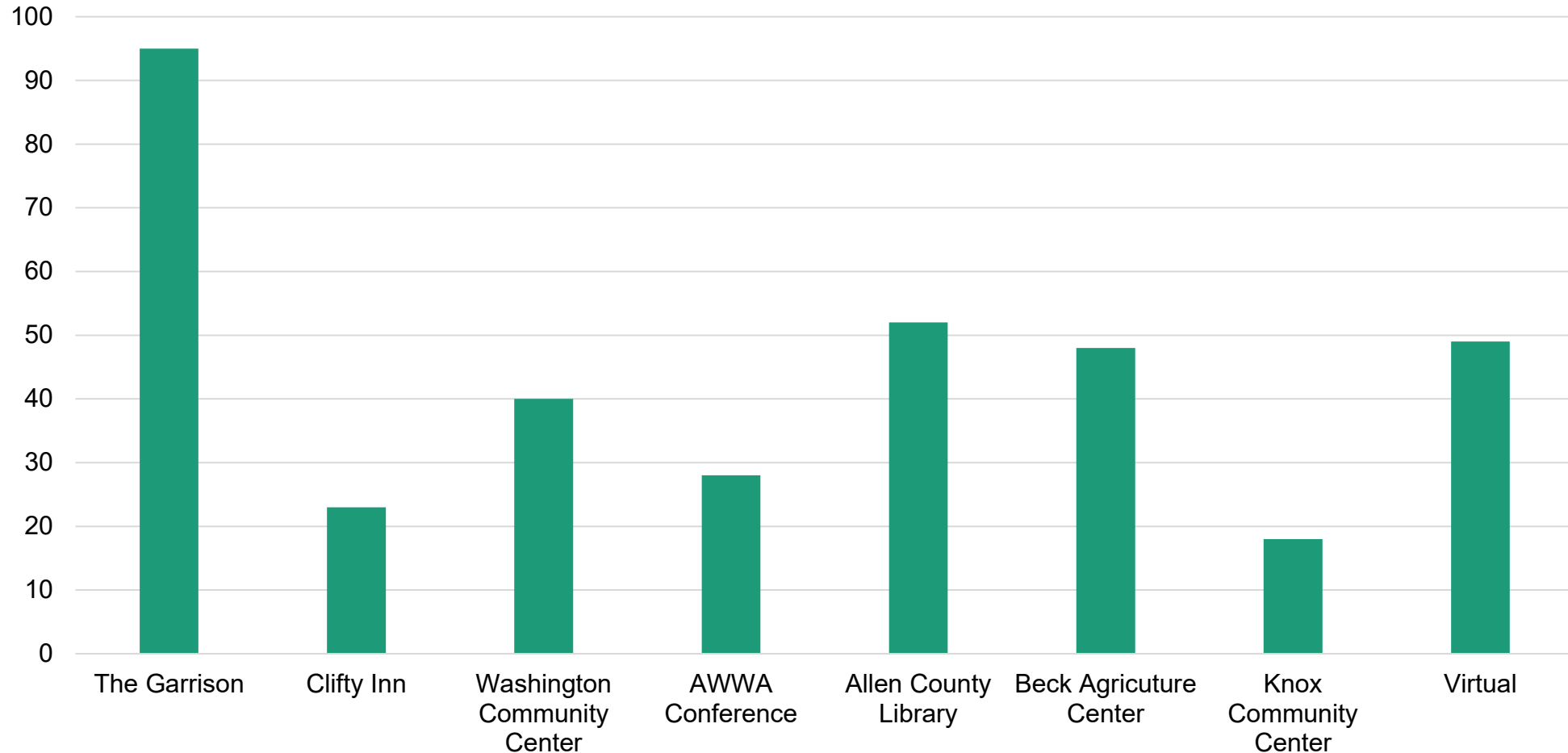


Ready to Welcome Stakeholders!

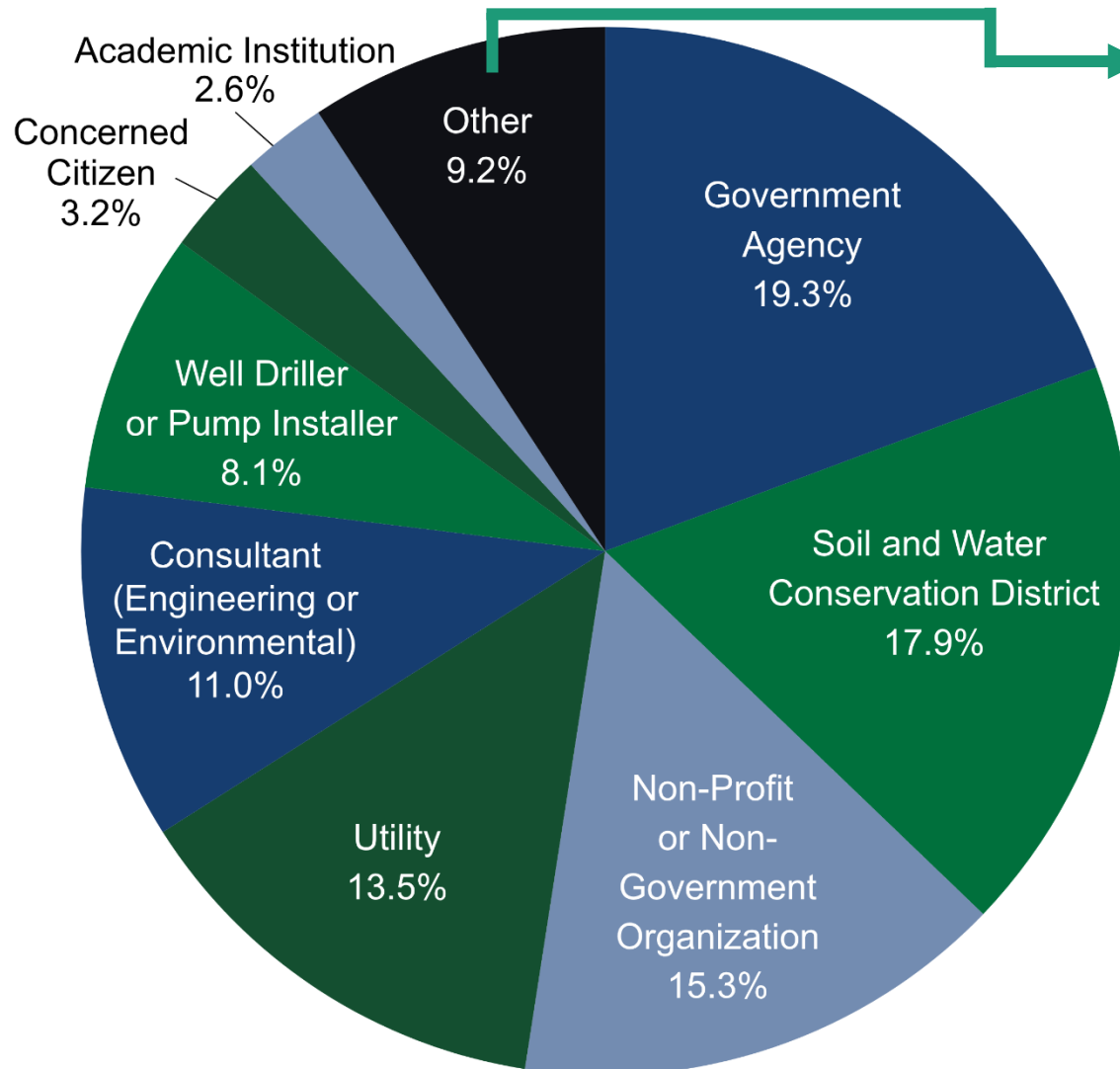


Stakeholder Meetings

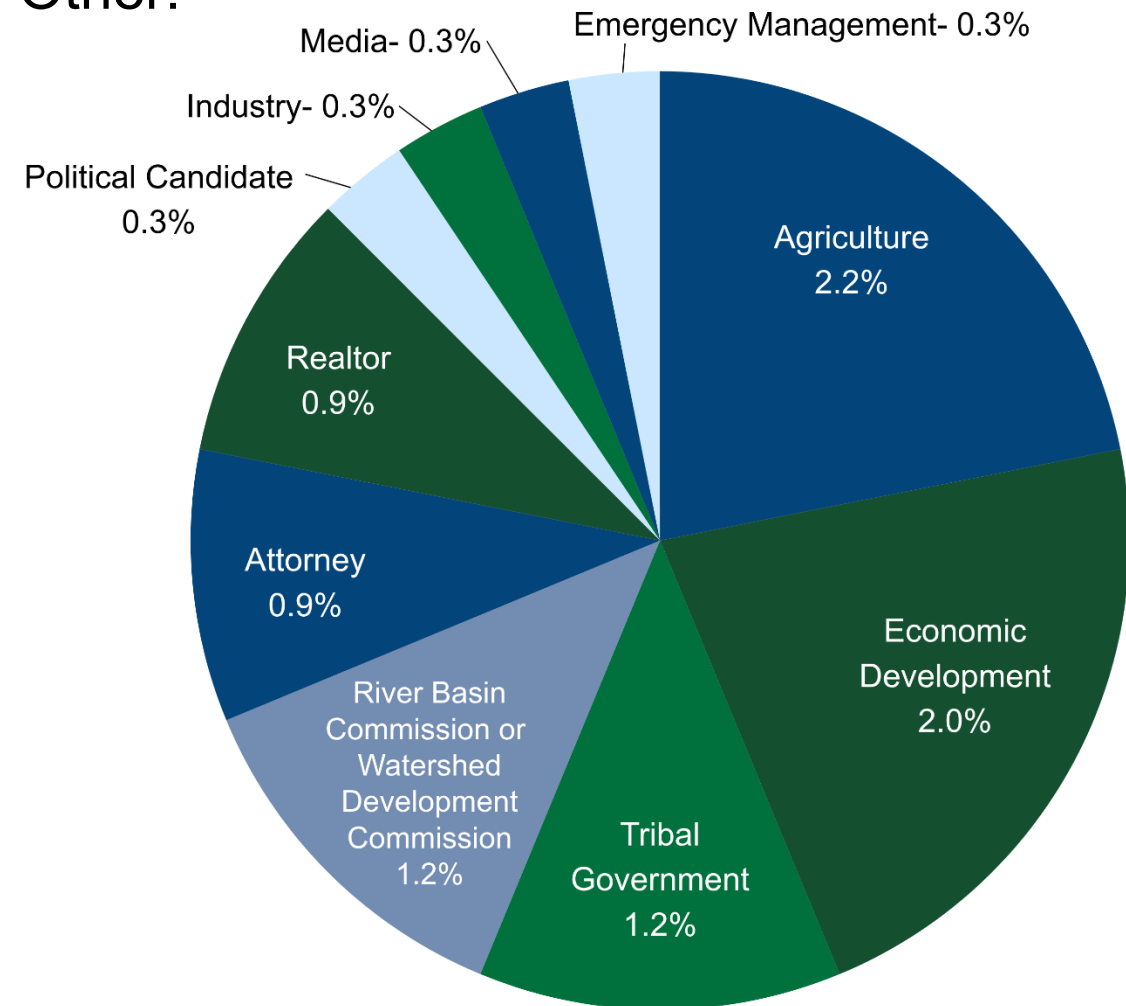
Attendance Numbers



Stakeholder Sectors

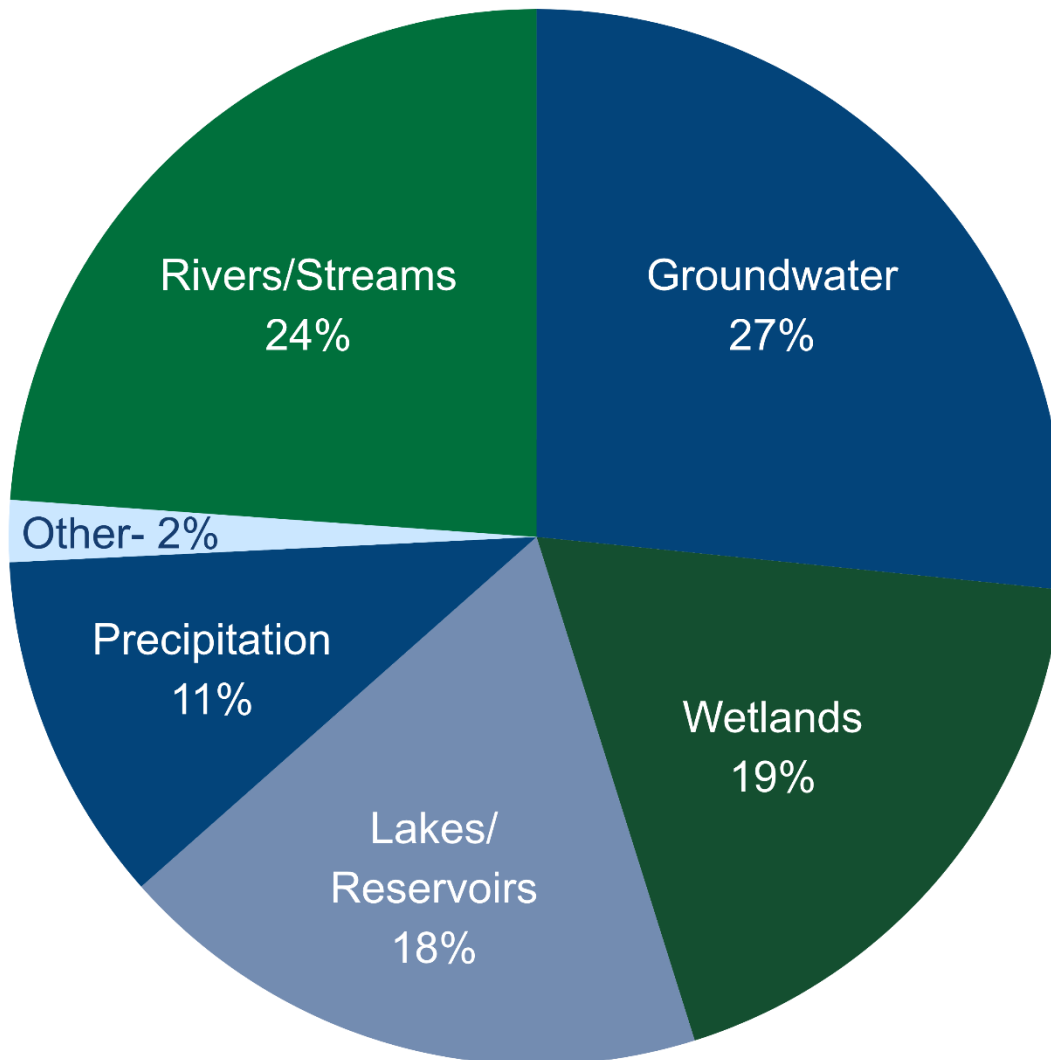


Other:



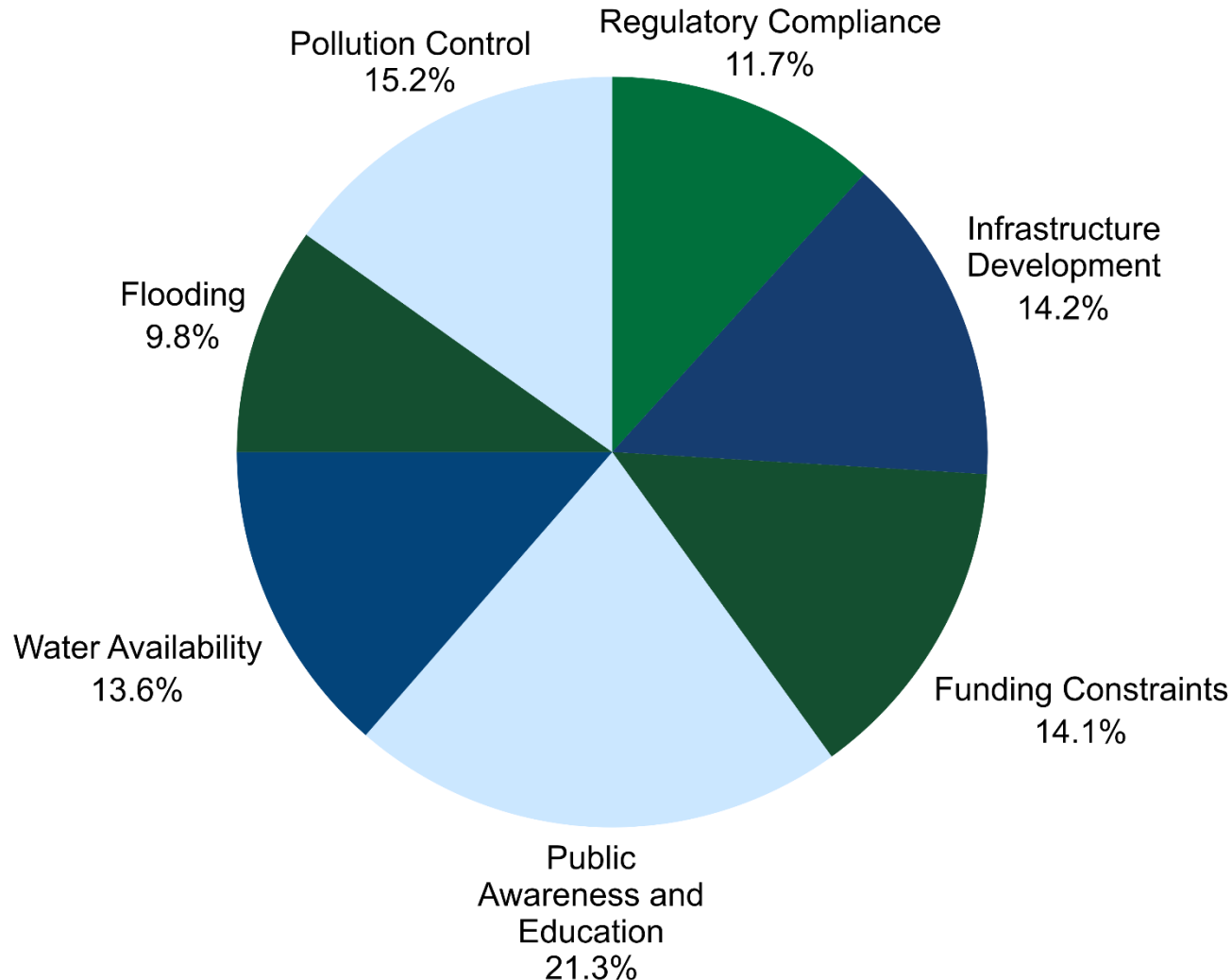
Stakeholder Demographics

Types of Water
Resources
Stakeholders
Work With



Stakeholder Challenges

“Public Awareness and Education” is the most common challenge for stakeholders



EO 25-63: Directive 1

- Inventory current usage, availability of surface and groundwater resources and forecasting of future demand.
- Develop a statewide water planning framework at a regional scale.
- Develop recommendations for enhancement and optimization of Indiana's water resource monitoring networks.
- Create a centralized, publicly accessible, on-line water data platform.

Directive 1: Current & Future Inventory

- Synthesis of the regional water studies funded by IFA
- Inventory of current and future (50-yr projection) water availability
- Separate from this stakeholder engagement process
- More information:
 - <https://www.in.gov/ifa/regional-water-studies/>
- Southwest study is now available online as of August 18, 2026



Directive 2: Water Planning Framework

- Inventory current usage, availability of surface and groundwater resources and forecasting of future demand.
- **Develop a statewide water planning framework at a regional scale.**
- Develop recommendations for enhancement and optimization of Indiana's water resource monitoring networks.
- Create a centralized, publicly accessible, on-line water data platform



Directive 2: Planning Regions

The Indiana Water Resource



**2018 Water Infrastructure Taskforce
Proposed Collaboration Regions**



IFA Utility Meeting Regions



IFA Regional Water Studies



- What are the boundaries?
- Review of existing Indiana regional maps from the water sector – past and present

**American Water Works Association
AWWA Regions**



NOAA Climate Divisions



**Senate Bill 4 (2025)
Interbasin Transfer Basins**



**River Basin Commissions,
Watershed Development Commission,
and Drinking Water Collaborative**



Planning Region Activity



Examples of Feedback

USE DOTS TO VOTE FOR: Indiana Finance Authority Utility Meeting Regions



Utilities are
\$ driven, but
water is much
more than
commodity ✓✓✓

Too focused
on specific
interest
group ✓✓✓

I ignores
water ✓✓✓
Basins ✓

We prefer
Watershed bound-
aries ✓

Too
Separated,
especially in
South ✓

Despite obvious
issues w/ geopolitical
boundaries, there is
some adherence to
botanical/habitat
realities. ✓✓

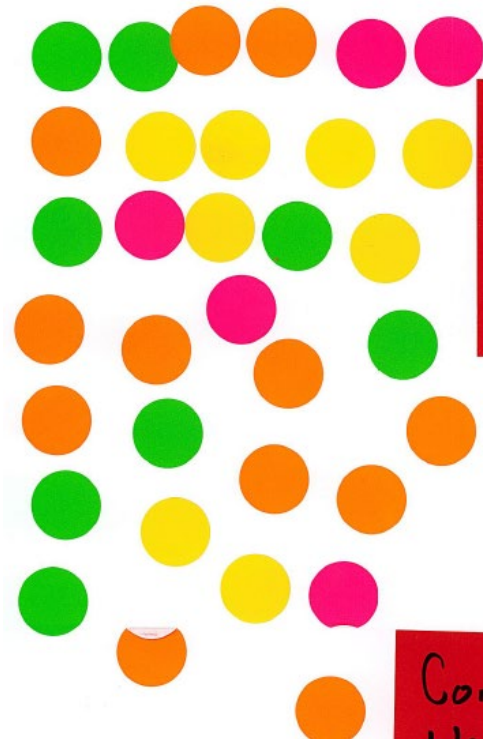
Considers ✓
both stormwater
& drinking water,
presumably their
relationship
Loosely Watershed based

Appropriate
hybrid of
Counties +
geographic regions?

IF IN decides
to be divided
by County, this one
makes the most
sense ✓✓

USE DOTS TO VOTE FOR: Indiana Finance Authority Utility Meeting Regions

USE DOTS TO VOTE FOR: Senate Bill 4 (2025) Interbasin Transfer Basins



What do
aquifer layers
look like? ✓✓✓

Requires Local
units of
Government +
RBC's to
Collaborate
across watersheds ✓

Soils +
Can tours
match for
management decisions ✓✓

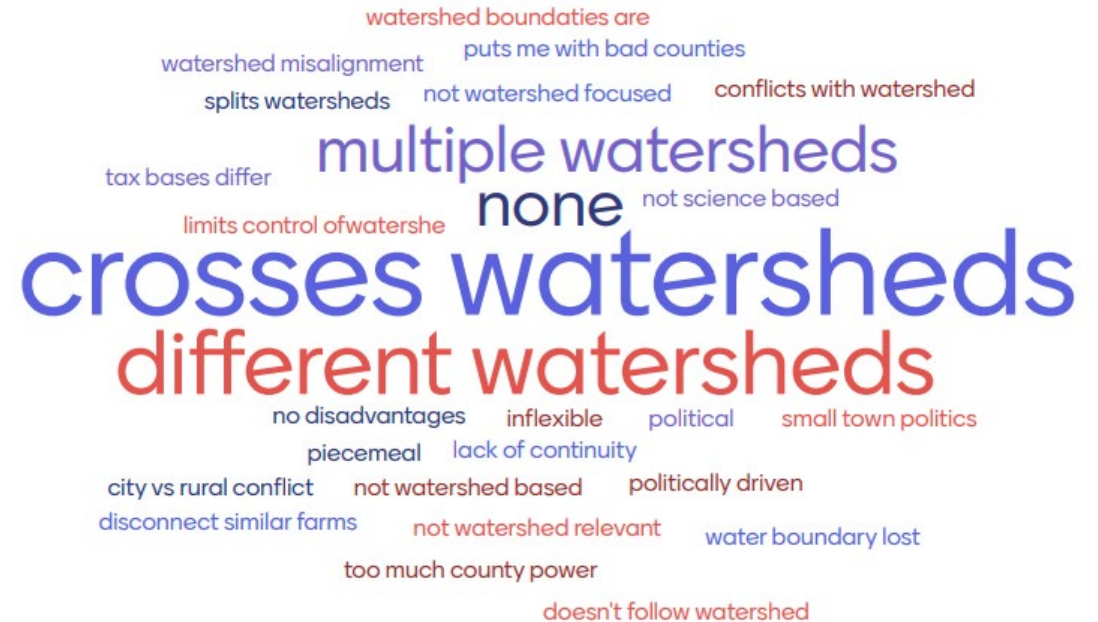
Combines
Water To
Lake MS
and Erie
in NE ✓✓

Accommodates
River Basin
Commissions

USE DOTS TO VOTE FOR: Senate Bill 4 (2025) Interbasin Transfer Basins

Examples of Feedback

IDNR - EO11-77, Published in 1980
The Indiana Water Resource



Examples of cons presented on Mentimeter

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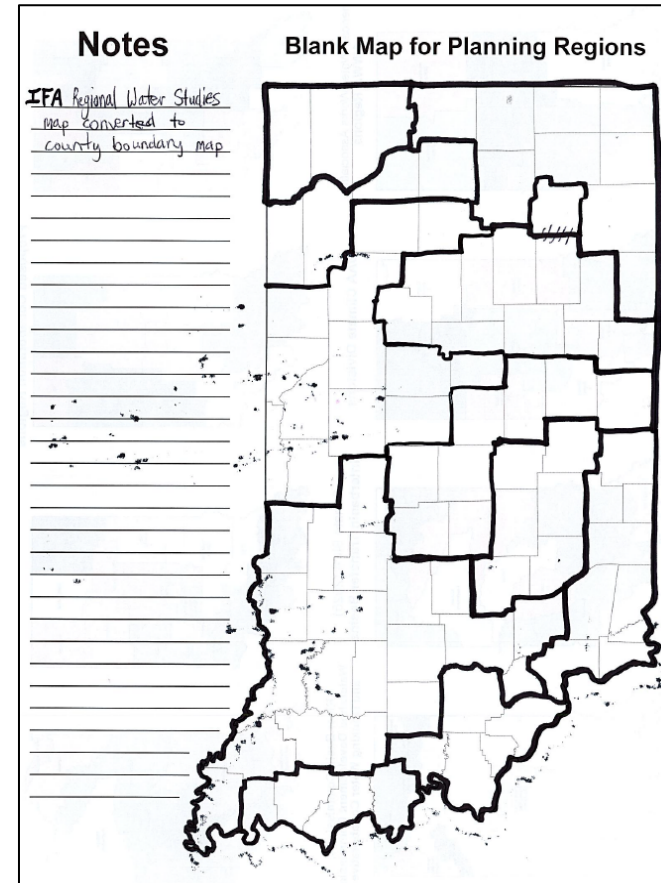
Water Planning Framework

- Stakeholder feedback from the maps included:
 - Some people liked the maps that are watershed-based – they said that water is studied this way and doesn't care about political boundaries
 - Some people liked the maps that are county based – easier for management purposes
 - Concerns about regions being too large, too small, or too variable in size to easily manage
 - Concerns about regions that divide water users from water sources
 - Like or dislike that some of the provided maps are associated with specific organizations (American Water Works Association or Climate Office)

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Water Planning Framework

Participants were also invited to provide their own ideas for dividing the state into regional water planning regions



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Directive 3: Monitoring Needs

- Inventory current usage, availability of surface and groundwater resources and forecasting of future demand.
- Develop a statewide water planning framework at a regional scale.
- **Develop recommendations for enhancement and optimization of Indiana's water resource monitoring networks.**
- Create a centralized, publicly accessible, on-line water data platform



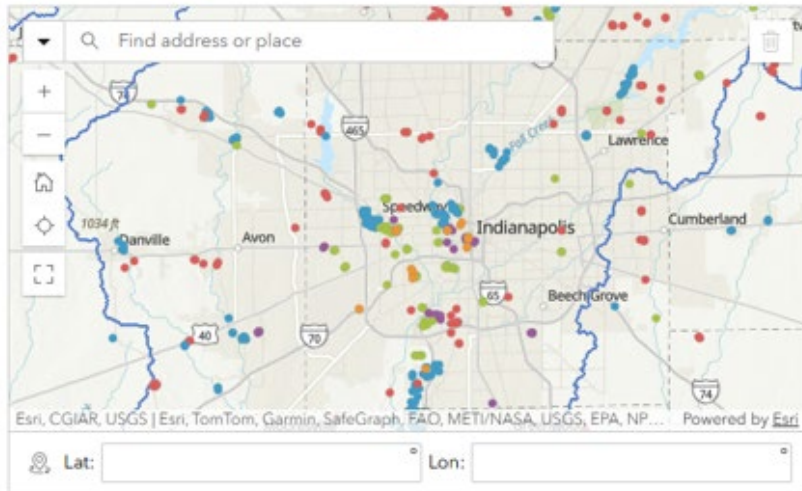
Proposed Monitoring Locations

Drop A Point

Drop a point where you think monitoring is needed.

- Tap the map to activate (if on a mobile device).
- Navigate to the area of interest.
- Tap to drop a point. (Only 1 point can be submitted at a time)

The points already shown are significant water users.



If you do not have a specific location, but would like to recommend a general area. Please provide a description of the area where monitoring is needed.

1000

- Survey123 App
- Collect Stakeholder recommendations for monitoring locations across the state
- Select location on map or write a description of the area the Stakeholder wanted monitored

Proposed Monitoring Locations

Type of Monitoring Gage

-Please select-

- For each proposed location additional information was collected:
 - Type of gage (stream, groundwater, lake)
 - Purpose (recreation, agriculture/irrigation, water supply monitoring, etc.)

Purpose(s)
Why is monitoring important at this location? (Select as many as needed)

☐ Recreation

☐ Public Health

☐ Flood Forecasting

☐ Drought Preparedness

☐ Ecology

☐ Agriculture/Irrigation

☐ Water Supply Monitoring

☐ Data and Decision Making

☐ Change in Weather Patterns

☐ Surface Water Quality

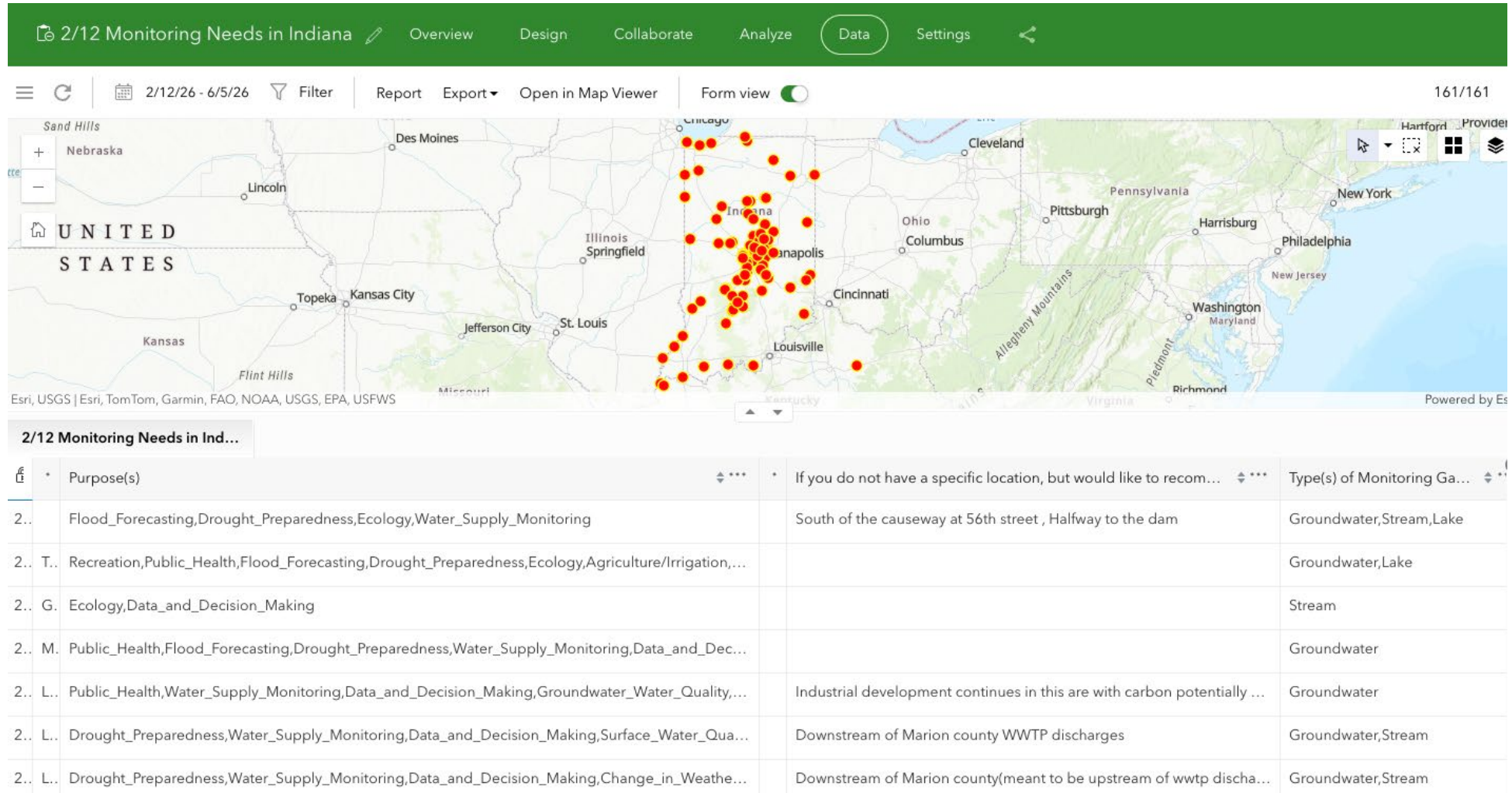
☐ Groundwater Water Quality

☐ Economic Development

☐ Other

Submit and Add Another Location

Proposed Monitoring Locations

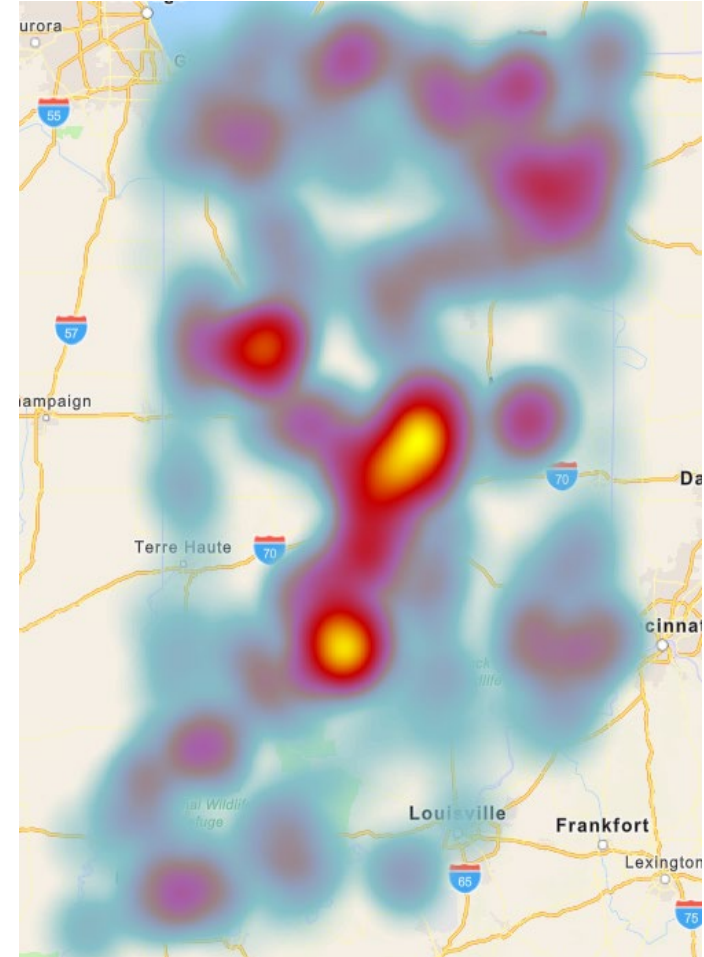
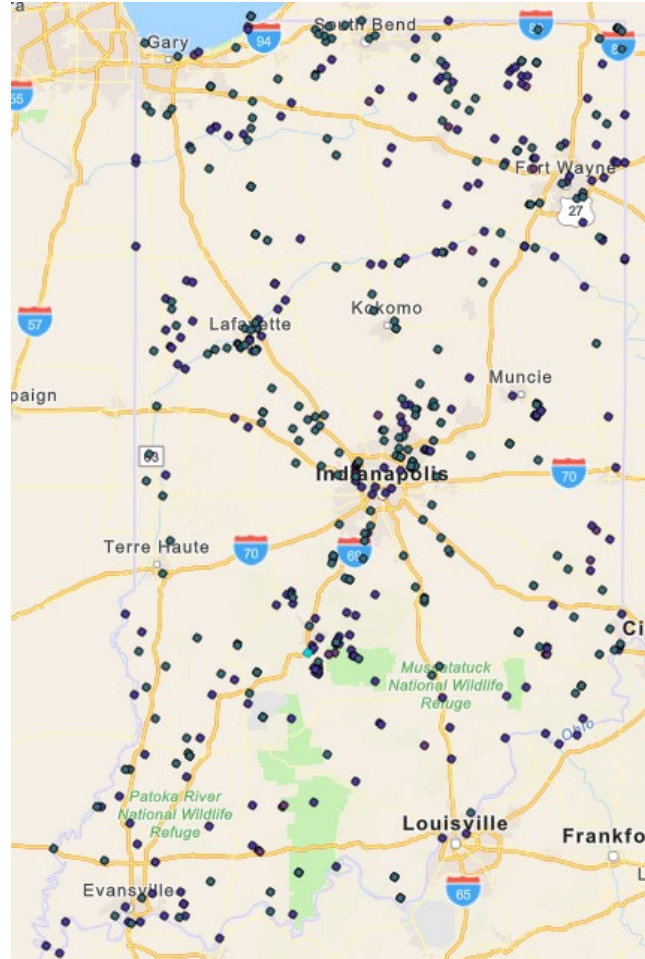


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Proposed Monitoring Locations

All Types of Monitoring

- Overall, 622 sites identified
- Nearly 100 additional areas for monitoring described

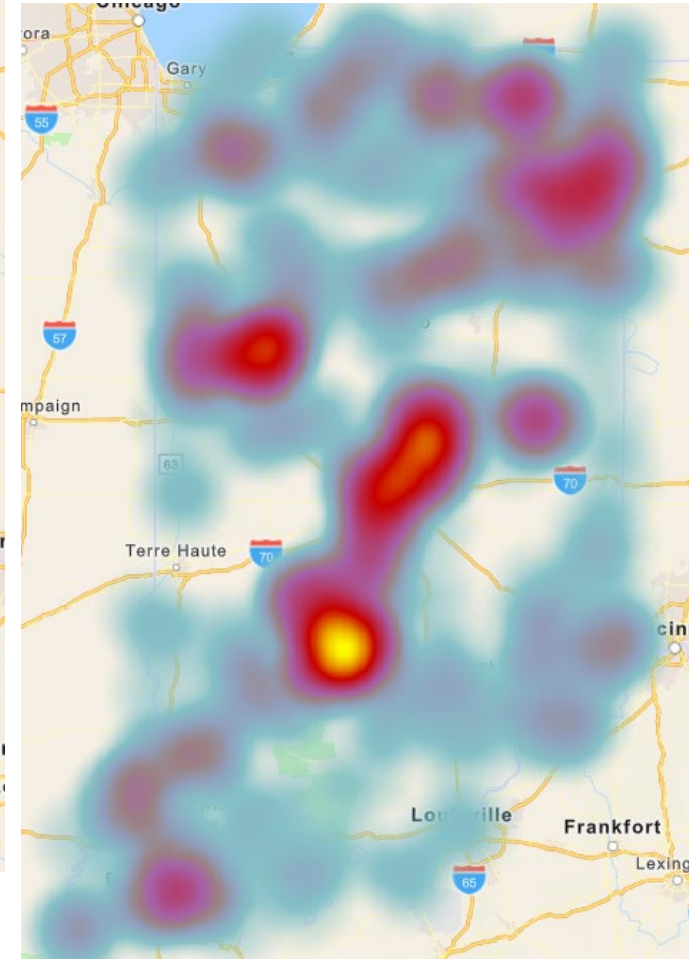
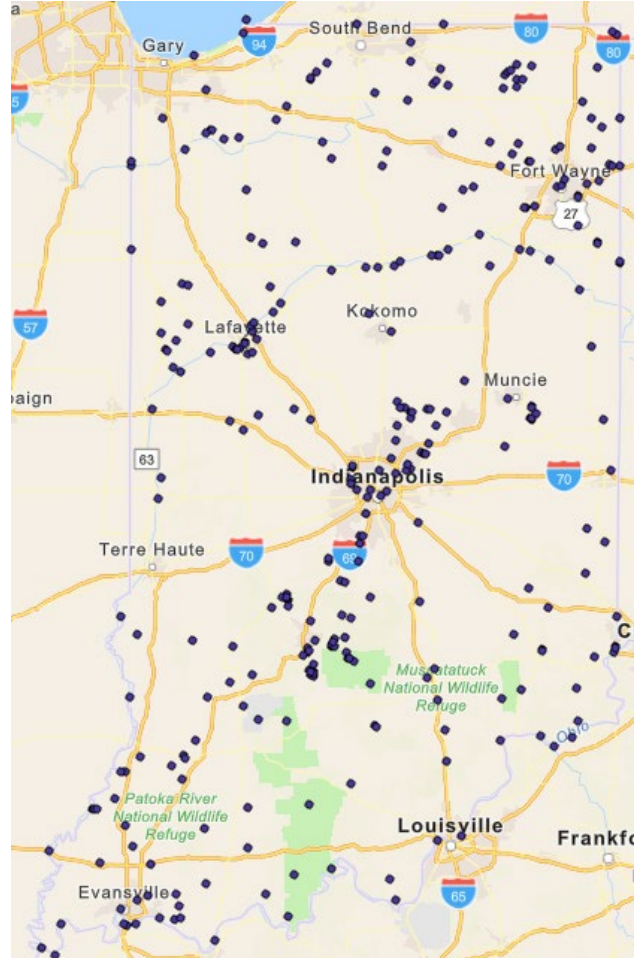


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Proposed Monitoring Locations

Streams

- 329 sites identified
- Purpose
 - 53% for Surface Water Quality
 - 46% for Water Supply Monitoring
 - 42% for Flood Forecasting

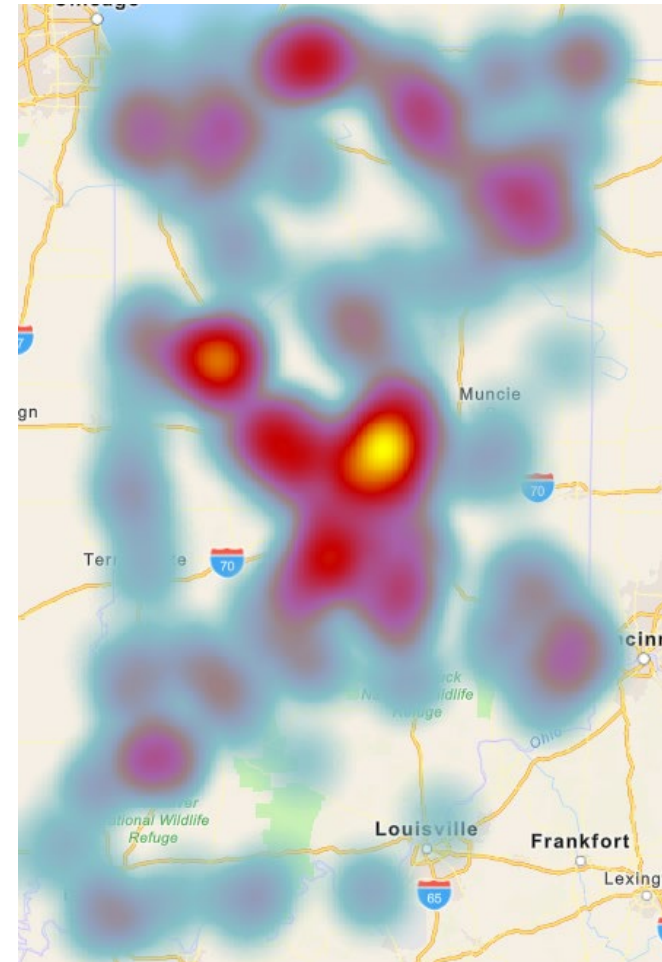
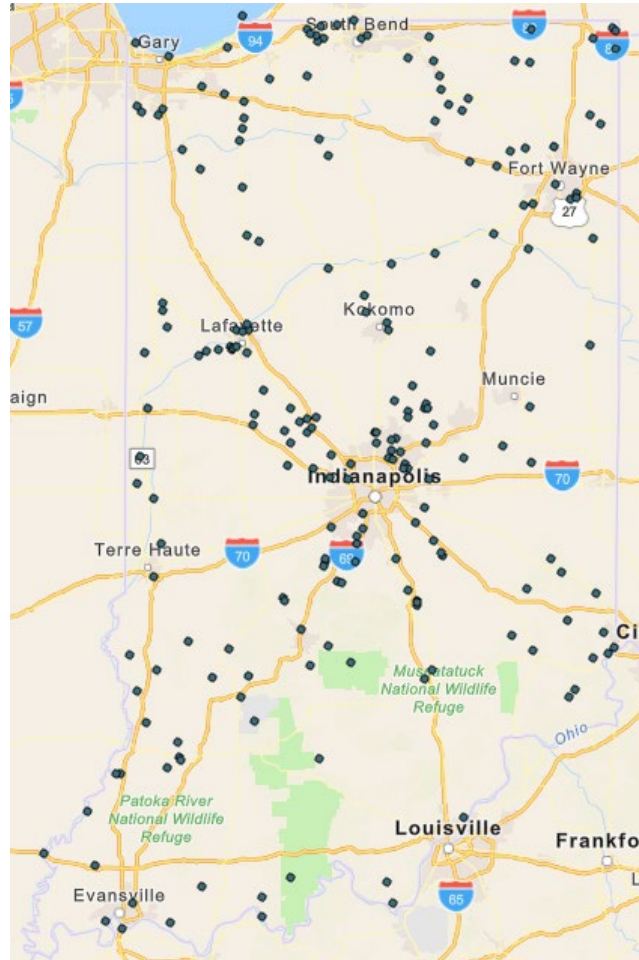


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Proposed Monitoring Locations

Groundwater

- 221 points identified
- Purpose
 - 86% for Data and Decision Making
 - 78% for Water Supply Monitoring
 - 60% for Public Health

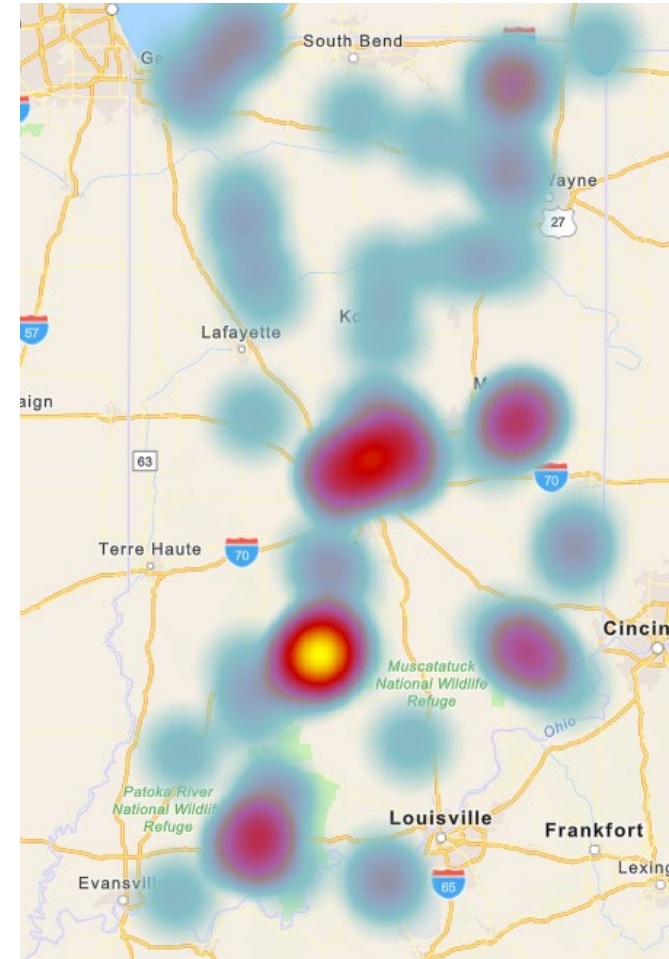
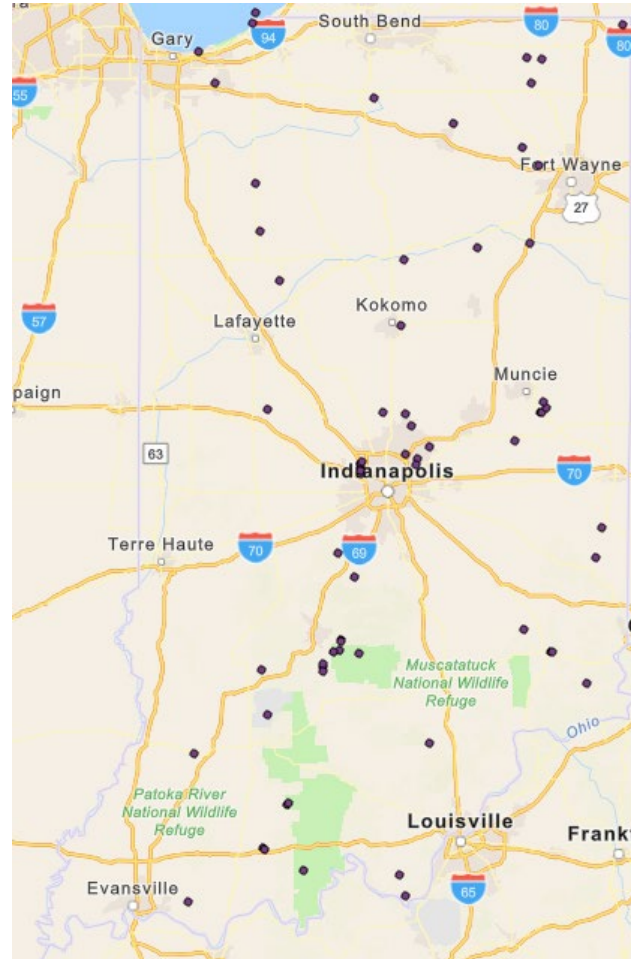


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Proposed Monitoring Locations

Lakes

- 72 points identified
- Purpose
 - 67% for Water Supply Monitoring
 - 64% for Surface Water Quality
 - 51% for Recreation and Public Health



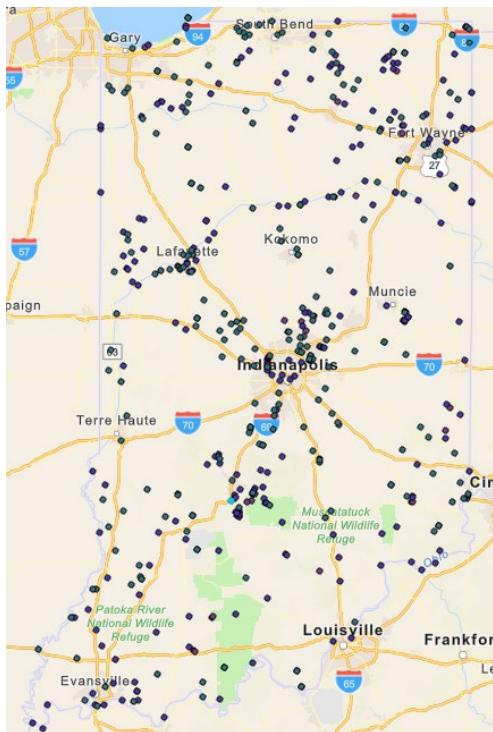
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Proposed Monitoring Locations

Integrate stakeholder feedback with prior studies for optimal prioritization of monitoring locations



Indiana Stream and Lake Gage Optimization Study
Silver Jackets
Project Report

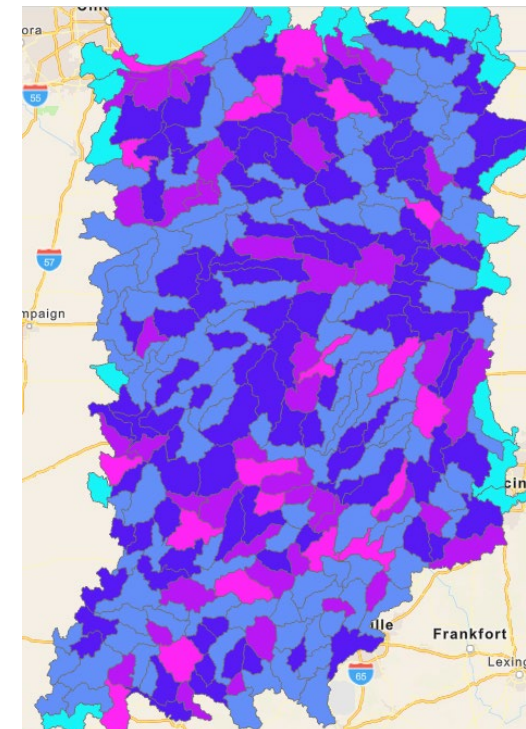


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Table 2: Proposed monitoring network expansion by water study region

Region	Proposed Groundwater Wells	Proposed Surface Water Gages	Proposed Lake/Reservoir Gages
Central	25	1	0
Kankakee	10	0	2
Lake Michigan	1	0	0
North Central	39	1	0
Northeast	17	1	6
Ohio River	4	0	0
Southeast Central	22	2	0
Southeast	14	3	0
Southwest	19	7	0
Wabash Headwaters	33	3	1
Total	184	18	9

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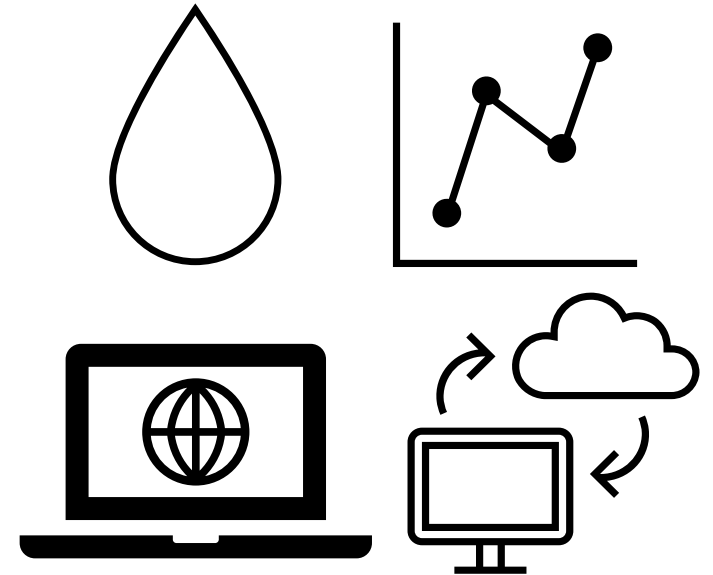


Indiana's Water Monitoring Network
A Strategic Path Forward

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Directive 4: Online Data Platform

- Inventory current usage, availability of surface and groundwater resources and forecasting of future demand.
- Develop a statewide water planning framework at a regional scale.
- Develop recommendations for enhancement and optimization of Indiana's water resource monitoring networks.
- **Create a centralized, publicly accessible, on-line water data platform.**



Water Data Platform

1. What questions do you have regarding the water resources in Indiana?

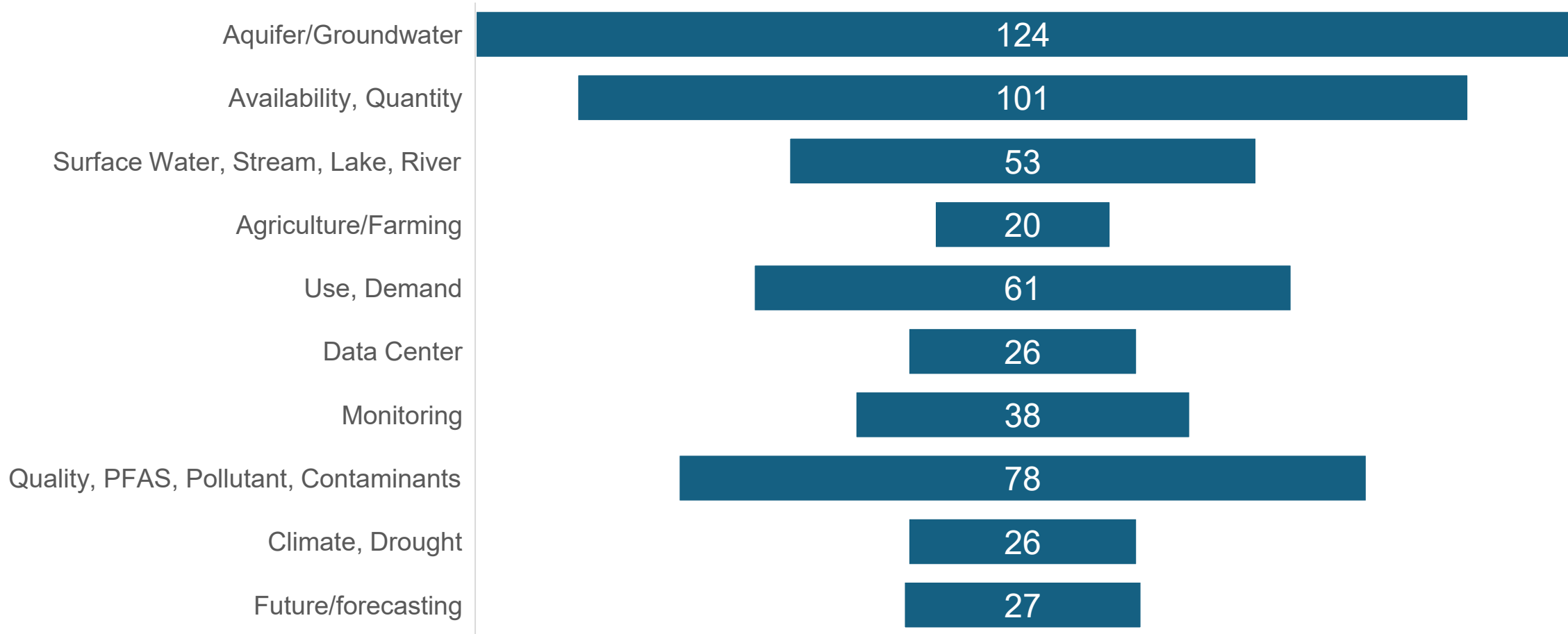
- 400+ Questions Submitted
- Top themes are related to Aquifers/Groundwater and Water Availability



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Water Data Platform



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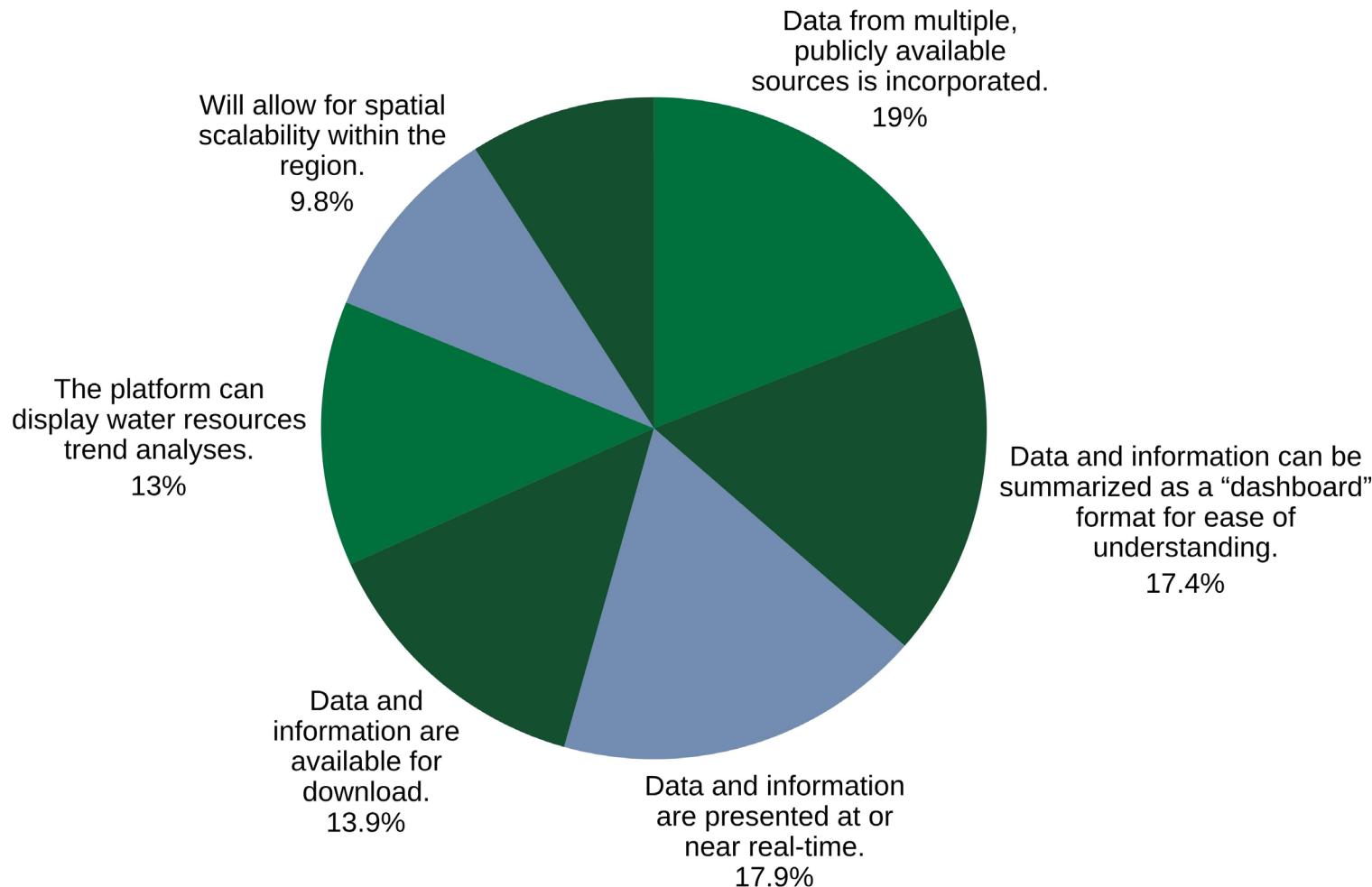
2. Data or information needed

- Water Availability
- Aquifers: capacity, recharge, boundaries
- Current and forecasted water use
- Climate forecasts
- Drought information
- Water quality: nutrients, PFAS



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Water Data Platform



3. What functions are most important for an online platform?

Top 3 :

1. Data from multiple, publicly available sources
2. Real-time data and information
3. Easy to use dashboard

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4. What suggestions do you have to improve communication and understanding of water management in Indiana?

Outreach and Education was the top theme

- Education for legislators/lawmakers
- Public engagement and involvement initiatives
- Outreach to K12 schools and universities
- Fact sheets
- Publish yearly reports
- Community meetings
- Better marketing - “Pure Michigan” commercials for Indiana

*Draft results – subject to change for final reporting

Moving Forward



The inventory shall be completed by **Oct. 31, 2026** with a report provided to the Governor and Legislative Council by **Dec. 31, 2026**



Thank you. Questions?