



NORTHWESTERN INDIANA REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Together We Make The Difference

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RESOLUTION 12-13

A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTHWESTERN INDIANA REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION TO ENCOURAGE THE INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT TO DEVELOP A TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOAD STUDY OF THE DEEP RIVER-PORTAGE BURNS WATERWAY WATERSHED

WHEREAS, the 2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan includes a goal of reduced flooding risk and improved water quality; and

WHEREAS, the 2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan has identified watershed management as a significant implementation strategy to protect and restore our region's aquatic resources; and

WHEREAS, 81 miles of stream within the Deep River-Portage Burns Waterway watershed in Northwest Indiana are on the 2008 Indiana 303(d) List of Impaired Waterbodies as not meeting state water quality standards and not supporting designated uses; and

WHEREAS, listed impairments of the Deep River-Portage Burns Waterway watershed include chloride, cyanide, dissolved oxygen, *E. coli*, impaired biotic communities, and siltation; and

WHEREAS, the recently completed Northwestern Indiana Watershed Management Framework identified updating and implementing the 2002 Deep River-Turkey Creek Watershed Management Plan as a high priority; and

WHEREAS, the Clean Water Act requires each state to develop a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for all waterbodies on the 303(d) List of Impaired Waters and to prioritize those waters to maximize resources; and

WHEREAS, the stated purpose of Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) TMDL Program is to assess streams, rivers, and lakes that are considered impaired and to develop reports that identify the causes of the impairment, and the reductions of pollutants needed to improve water quality, and the actions needed to improve water quality; and

WHEREAS, TMDL nonpoint source load allocation reductions are implemented through voluntary actions and a wide variety of state, local and federal programs which may be regulatory, non-regulatory or incentive-based programs such as Clean Water Act Section 319 Program grant funds; and

WHEREAS, development of a TMDL would leverage state and local resources to support an update of the 2002 Deep River-Turkey Creek Watershed Management Plan and future implementation; and

WHEREAS, NIRPC is the designated Section 208 Water Quality Management Planning Agency for Northwest Indiana under the Clean Water Act; and

WHEREAS, the Clean Water Act requires public involvement in developing TMDLs; and

WHEREAS, the IDEM staff has indicated that support from local stakeholders is important to the likelihood the state will prioritize and schedule of TMDL development for the Deep River-Portage Burns Waterway watershed in the near term; and

WHEREAS, NIRPC has obtained prior support of individual municipalities and stakeholders in the Deep-River Portage Burns Waterway for the update and implementation of the 2002 Deep River-Turkey Creek Watershed Management Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Environmental Management Policy Committee has recommended that the Commission encourage the Indiana Department of Environmental Management to prioritize and fast-track the development of a Total Maximum Daily Load study of the Deep River-Portage Burns Waterway watershed.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission hereby requests the Indiana Department of Environmental Management to prioritize and fast-track the development of a Total Maximum Daily Load study for the Deep River-Portage Burns Waterway watershed that considers chloride, dissolved oxygen, *E. coli*, nutrients, siltation, and impaired biotic communities; and

THEREFORE, BE IT ALSO RESOLVED that the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission will encourage and local governments and jurisdictions within the Deep River-Portage Burns Waterway watershed to participate in the TMDL study development, to contribute to the watershed plan update, and to implement voluntary pollutant reduction activities into their programs and projects.

Duly adopted by the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission this 17th day of May, 2012.



Geof R. Benson, Chairman

ATTEST:



Blair E. Milo, Secretary