

APPENDIX

**Synthesis of action steps to maintain and enhance services identified by
workshop participants (derived from feedback forms)**

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Water Flow Regulation / Flood Control

- ✓ Conservation and Restoration
 - Keep forested buffer along existing agricultural and industrial land along current river systems.
 - Reforest riparian areas (particularly in light of ash tree loss)
 - Look to “greening” along the Little Calumet River branch and the Kankakee, including removing invasives.
 - Restructure Kankakee River banks (i.e. reduce slope, vegetate shorelines, remove invasives, reduce sand erosion)
 - Promote wetland restoration of the Great Marsh.
 - Restore the Kankakee River floodplain.

- ✓ Land Use Planning
 - Encourage county and local governments to mandate green infrastructure for new developments.
 - Increase use of pervious pavements where possible.
 - Encourage two-stage ditch replacement for existing ditches.
 - Avoid building in floodplains.
 - Encourage drainage boards to avoid damaging riparian corridors.
 - Encourage municipal comprehensive plans to create setbacks and prevent floodplain development.
 - Reduce or eliminate flood insurance costs by more use of green infrastructure to reduce storm water flow.
 - Encourage Porter County Commissioners to tax for flood control based on land use not solely lot size.

- ✓ Working Landscapes
 - Convert former wetlands now in agriculture back to wetlands.
 - Enhance agricultural best management practices, particularly within the Kankakee watershed (e.g. promote winter cover crops, reduce soil erosion).
 - Remove small dams that would maintain or improve water flow and stability.

Water Purification

- ✓ Conservation and restoration
 - Acquire forested lands on glacial moraines.
 - Plant trees near riparian corridors.
 - Protect and restore wetlands.

- ✓ Monitoring and maintenance
 - Foster continuous improvement in water quality, with emphasis on removal of heavy metals, such as mercury and PCBs.
 - Expand monitoring of bacteria, chemical, and water temperature levels.
 - Mandate municipal water quality testing for sewers and storm drains.

- ✓ Land Use Planning
 - Enhance regulations that help reduce aquatic invasives that are negatively impacting Lake Michigan.
 - Expand education on septic systems.

- Improve wastewater infrastructure.
- Incorporate green infrastructure into stormwater (MS4) and CSO control plans.
- Encourage programs and incentives to use agricultural best management practices, in particular near Deer Creek in Lake County.
- Implement policies and outreach campaigns to better manage lawn care and chemical disposal.

Groundwater Recharge

- ✓ Protect and restore wetlands and maintain constructed systems (e.g. retention ponds).
- ✓ Expand monitoring of groundwater recharge and discharge areas in an effort to promote key parts of the groundwater system.
- ✓ Eliminate tiled agricultural fields, where appropriate, to enhance groundwater recharge.
- ✓ Educate County Drainage Boards and advocate for enforcement of State Drainage Code.
- ✓ Implement property tax credits for landowners of recharge areas.
- ✓ Increase taxes on urban areas, tiled farm fields, and farms that cannot exist without ditches and pumps.
- ✓ Channel water to natural areas that can absorb stormwater.
- ✓ Maintain urban tree canopy.

Carbon Storage

- ✓ Protect forests and plant trees.
- ✓ Protect and re-establish wetlands.
- ✓ Enlarge, restore, and connect natural areas.
- ✓ Encourage carbon trading on the Chicago Mercantile Exchange.

Air Purification

- ✓ Protect forested lands on glacial moraines.
- ✓ Maintain and enhance urban tree canopy (to both sequester pollutants and reduce local air temperatures), in particular in most heavily populated census tracts.
- ✓ Increase general public education on effects of air pollutants on people, especially kids and seniors.
- ✓ Implement stricter air pollution regulations.
- ✓ Encourage cleaner industry to replace current polluters.
- ✓ Improve monitoring of stack emissions and improved on board emission systems.
- ✓ Encourage more IDEM testing and eliminate industrial 24-hour averaging for air discharges.

Recreation and Ecotourism

- ✓ Enlarge, protect, and restore current natural areas.
- ✓ Connect natural areas to increase value of current natural areas.
- ✓ Encourage municipal comprehensive plans to identify natural resource protection and recreation/ecotourism projects.
- ✓ Expand protection of West Branch Little Calumet River.
- ✓ Expand public access for Little Calumet East Branch for fishing and paddle sports.
- ✓ Expand year-round youth job training in recreation and ecotourism.
- ✓ Expand recreation workshops, particularly family camping and boating.
- ✓ Market Indiana Dunes as a multi-day experience.
- ✓ Ensure that National Lakeshore is truly branded and recognized as a National Park.
- ✓ Encourage Lake County Tourism to join the 9-county consortium on blueways and water trails.
- ✓ Establish /bike lane going between Veterans Parks and Stoney Run County Park.
- ✓ Encourage the National Park Service to promote completing the Marquette corridor trail to downtown Gary for urban access.
- ✓ Implement revised US 421 trail corridor proposal with access to Red Mill Park in LaPorte County.
- ✓ Continue to promote development and facilities for Kankakee Water Trail and Lake Michigan Trail.