

RESOLUTION 16-10

A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTHWESTERN INDIANA REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION ADOPTING THE DEEP RIVER-PORTAGE BURNS WATERWAY WATERSHED RESTORATION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN

WHEREAS, the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission(NIRPC) is the designated Council of Governments and the Metropolitan Planning Organization for Lake, Porter and LaPorte Counties; and

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

WHEREAS, transportation, land use, and water quality and quantity are inextricably linked by the hydrologic cycle; 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, a watershed approach provides a flexible framework for managing water resource quality and quantity within specific drainage areas; and

WHEREAS, successful watershed planning processes work by using a series of cooperative, iterative steps to characterize existing conditions, identify and prioritize problems, define management objectives, develop protection or restoration strategies, and implement selected actions as necessary; and

WHEREAS, in May of 2012 the NIRPC Commission approved Resolution 12-13 requesting the Indiana Department of Environmental Management to support the Deep River-Portage Burns Waterway Initiative through data collection and development of the Total Maximum Daily Load document for the watershed; and

WHEREAS, in 2012 NIRPC applied for and received a Section 319 Watershed Grant in the amount of \$455,550 from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management, funded through the United States Environmental Protection Agency; and

WHEREAS, NIRPC entered into a Grant Agreement in September 2013 for the purposes of developing and implementing a Watershed Management Plan for the Deep River-Portage Burns Waterway; and

WHEREAS, the document has been designed to meet the Indiana Department of Environmental Management Watershed Management Plan Checklist of comprehensive requirements necessary for an approvable Watershed Management Plan; and

WHEREAS, NIRPC staff has engaged with local government officials, state, and federal officials, stakeholders, and the general public throughout the development of the plan consistent with the above referenced; and

WHEREAS, the Deep River-Portage Burns Waterway Watershed Restoration and Management Plan has been released for a 30-day public comment period per the requirements of the 2014 Public Participation Plan; and

WHEREAS, NIRPC will further be engaging with local government, state, and federal officials, and stakeholders to develop eligibility criteria for projects and programs to be funded under the implementation portion of the grant;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission hereby adopts *The Deep River-Portage Burns Waterway Watershed Restoration and Management Plan* and authorizes its dissemination, use by the local governments, businesses, industries, watershed groups, and citizens of the region.

Duly adopted by the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission this twenty-first day of April, 2016.


James G. Ton
Chairperson

ATTEST:

Geof R. Benson
Secretary