

Indiana's Water Monitoring Council

Presented by

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Forming a Water Monitoring Council for Indiana

- Started w/a small group of water resource professionals interested in developing a council for Indiana (Nov 2007)
- Looked at how water monitoring councils developed in other states
- Used an approach similar to that used in Maryland

Turkey Run Retreat

Invited 50 stakeholders to a 2-day retreat

- Representatives for the two major volunteer monitoring organizations in the state
- State, local, federal agencies
- Local watershed initiatives
- Statewide non-profits
- Academia
- Consultants
- Industry



Retreat Action Items

- Participants developed and prioritized a long wish list of their most critical needs
- Most important projects, our “next steps”
 - Identify options for a viable council structure
 - Produce a communication strategy
 - Compile a digital “rolodex”
 - Develop a statewide data clearinghouse for monitoring information

Forming a Water Monitoring Council for Indiana

- Interim Planning Team + volunteers from retreat
 - Drafted charter and bylaws
 - Established standing committees to work on the council's first action items
 - Developed the InWMC web page and began marketing the council
- Focused on keeping the momentum
 - Needed projects the InWMC could show success with very quickly

Communications Committee

Projects

- Website Development
- Development of “marketing” pieces
- Handles all InWMC communications
- Building Contacts Information (“rolodex”)



The screenshot shows the homepage of the Indiana Water Monitoring Council (InWMC). The header features the organization's name and a tagline: "Maximizing resources through improved communication, coordination, data sharing, and collaboration." Below the header is a navigation menu with links for Home, About Us, Membership, Projects, Events, Resources, and Contact Us. A login section is also present, with fields for E-mail and Password, and a "Remember me" checkbox. The main content area is titled "InWMC - Welcome" and contains a paragraph about the council's mission, a list of bullet points, and a photograph of a river. The footer includes the copyright notice and a note about the website software used.

Indiana Water Monitoring Council

Maximizing resources through improved communication, coordination, data sharing, and collaboration.

InWMC – Welcome

The Indiana Water Monitoring Council (InWMC) serves as a broad-based, state-wide body to enhance the communication, collaboration and coordination of professionals, organizations, and individuals involved in water monitoring within Indiana. Founded in 2008, the InWMC:

- Provides a forum for communication among groups that are monitoring
- Promotes sharing monitoring [information](#) including data, and effective procedures and protocols for sample collection
- Facilitates the development of collaborative monitoring strategies

The InWMC addresses the full range of water resources, including ground and surface waters, physical, chemical and biological components, and associated wetland resources within Indiana.

Currently, the InWMC sponsors two standing committees that meet throughout the year; [Communications](#) and [Data Clearinghouse](#). Future plans include expanding to include [workgroups](#) and holding Annual Meetings to promote the exchange of information within Indiana's water monitoring community.

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<http://www.inwmc.org>

Data Clearinghouse Committee

<https://engineering.purdue.edu/~inwater/>

The screenshot shows the Indiana Water Monitoring Inventory website. At the top, there is a header with the title "Indiana Water Monitoring Inventory" and a subtitle "A central hub for water monitoring locations of Indiana streams, lakes, and groundwater." Below the header is a navigation menu with links for "Introduction", "Fact Sheet", "Video Instructions", "Provide Feedback", "Monitoring Protocols", "FAQs", "Newsletters", and "Contact Us".

The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column features a map of Indiana with numerous blue pins indicating monitoring locations. The right column is titled "View Monitoring Locations" and contains a search interface. It includes a "Display All" and "Download All" button, a search criteria section, and a list of parameter types with checkboxes.

View Monitoring Locations

To view all monitoring locations, select:

To refine your search, use the criteria below to select locations:

1. Agency Type:

Agency/Organizations:

2. Location Name:

Type any part of a river or name of monitoring location (e.g., "Wabash").

3. Parameter Type: clicking more than one parameter will result in monitoring locations that include any of the parameter types checked.

<input type="checkbox"/> All	<input type="checkbox"/> Habitat
<input type="checkbox"/> Aquatic Plants/Algal Biomass	<input type="checkbox"/> Lake Clarity
<input type="checkbox"/> Bacteriology/Microbiology	<input type="checkbox"/> Macroinvertebrates
<input type="checkbox"/> Fish	<input type="checkbox"/> Metals
<input type="checkbox"/> Flow/Stage	<input type="checkbox"/> Nutrients
<input type="checkbox"/> General Chemistry	<input type="checkbox"/> Organics/Pesticides
<input type="checkbox"/> Groundwater Level	<input type="checkbox"/> Radiological
<input type="checkbox"/> Groundwater Quality	

4. Hydrologic Unit Code: HUC09 HUC10 HUC12

Enter Your Monitoring Locations

You are encouraged to share locations of your monitoring data – here's how:

This block shows a blurred, darker version of the website interface, likely representing a different view or a secondary instance of the data clearinghouse. It contains the same elements as the top block, including the map and search filters, but they are less distinct due to the blurring and lower contrast.

The InWMC is Born!

- First meeting of membership (May 2008)
- Charter adopted; draft bylaws returned for revision
 - Interim board was elected
 - Everyone in attendance became charter members
- Bylaws adopted and Interim Board became official Board of Directors (Dec, 2008)

Forming a Water Monitoring Council for Indiana

- Second meeting of the membership was a work session
- Members asked to help identify new projects *and* help implement them
 - Research, Education, Outreach Compilation Committee
 - Technical Resources Compilation Committee
 - Data Clearinghouse Committee
 - Coordination and Collaboration Committee

Financial Challenges

- No significant financial obstacles to date
- Moving forward with sweat equity for now
- Will eventually need a source of funding to continue our work
 - No membership fees (yet)
 - Grants?
 - Legislative support?

Institutional Challenges

- So far, no significant issues
 - InWMC still very young
 - Continues to be all-inclusive, non-political
 - A benign entity → All of the state and federal agencies involved are charter members, involved from the beginning
 - Diversity built into the board structure minimizes (hopefully) the possibility of politicization

Organizational Challenges

- Disagreement regarding the organizational structure the council should take
 - Not-for-profit entity
 - Access to grant funding
 - Might elevate the formality for the state, federal agencies involved, especially w/regard to funding
 - Operate under the wing of a sponsoring organization
 - Support for day-to-day operations
 - Might give sponsoring organization disproportionate authority w/regard to Council activities

Going Forward

- It was decided that the Council should have its own identity
- Will incorporate this year
- Focusing on keeping the momentum
 - Continue building on early successes and identifying new projects to benefit members
 - Planning a fall symposium
- Looking for ways to build and sustain our membership