

2024 Illinois State Water Plan Annual Update

Summary of Recommendations										Previous Update: 10/21/2024
SWP Contact - Wes Cattoor wes.cattoor@illinois.gov										Current Update: 1/7/2025
Task	Task Contact	Est. % Comp.	Est. Date Comp.	Description of Status	Funding Needs	Restrictions / Obstructions	Priority			
Water Quality										Updated 10/16/2024
Jeff Edstrom – Jeffrey.edstrom@illinois.gov										
1	Support Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy implementation	IDOA	50%	ongoing	The Illinois EPA and other partners in the Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy fully support implementation of the Strategy. The Strategy continues to be guided by Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, Illinois Department of Agriculture, and University of Illinois Extension, with input and feedback from the Policy Working Group and several other stakeholder groups and councils. The most recent Biennial Report (2023) details the actions of the public agencies and stakeholders to					
2	The state should support and advocate for a doubling of state and federal agency Green Infrastructure and water quality programs (e.g., GIGO and Section 319 NPS). Program projects should be prioritized where the highest water quality benefits can be achieved, especially if located in disadvantaged communities.	IEPA, Christine Davis, christine.davis@illinois.gov	30%	ongoing	The Illinois EPA supports increasing funding for nonpoint source pollution reduction and flood prevention by trying to maximize federal grant awards to Illinois and including a Green Project Reserve (GPR) requirement whereby Illinois EPA utilizes not less than 10% of Capitalization Grant funds to provide continued support for projects or project components focused on "green infrastructure, water or energy efficiency improvements or other environmentally innovative activities". The Illinois EPA funds between \$3 and \$4 million annually for the 319 NonPoint Source program, and this amount represents the third highest level of funding among all states and is set by the federal government. This also translates to approximately 2.5 million per year in local match. The Green Infrastructure Grant Opportunity (GIGO) program is focused on supporting infrastructure that manages stormwater in a way that preserves, restores, mimics, or enhances natural hydrology. Projects funded during that time have resulted in average pollutant load reductions of approximately 7,500 pounds of phosphorus, 21,000 pounds of nitrogen, and 7,500 tons of sediment over that time. BMPs lifespans are roughly 10 years, so those are multiplied over time. The state has funded about \$19 million worth of green infrastructure projects through IGIG and GIGO with about \$4 million in local match. Environmental justice The Federal Nonpoint Source Program is requiring a focus on outreach to underserved communities. The Illinois NPS Program is developing a new section for the program report with a focus on environmental justice issues.					
3	Support voluntary nutrient reduction programs and focus on underserved communities	IEPA, Jeff Edstrom, jeffrey.edstrom@illinois.gov	35%	ongoing						
4	State funds should be provided for the continued operation of USGS "Super Gages" to provide the data necessary to determine if interim and long-term goals of Illinois' Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy are being realized.	IEPA, Trevor Sample, trevor.sample@illinois.gov	50%	ongoing	IEPA recently secured federal funding for the next five years from the Gulf Hypoxia Program funds. IEPA is providing \$256,000 over the next two years to maintain gauges on streams that flow to the Mississippi River. There are plans to continue supporting these gauges for at least the three years following and seek additional funding at the conclusion of the current funding cycle.					
5	Illinois should continue to conduct and expand Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) monitoring and safety notification efforts and integrate this monitoring through participation in USGS's 10-year "Next Generation Water Observing System" in the Illinois River Basin.	IEPA, Alexalexandra Terlep, alexalexandra.terlep@illinois.gov, Nicole Vidales, nicole.vidales@illinois.gov	20%	ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •HAB Unit staff continue to undergo training to expand understanding of algal ecology, taxonomy, and identification techniques. •Illinois EPA has created a Cyanobacteria Bloom Dashboard webpage/portal to update the public on reported bloom locations across Illinois and provide educational information about HABs and Agency contact information. •HAB Unit staff dispensed HAB sampling kits to FOS and GWS and are working to train staff to respond to a potential HAB and conduct follow up sampling. •Working to enhance Agency coordination and communication resulting in more efficient response to bloom events. •Acquire staff and train on existing Agency Programs. Once trained, begin to investigate ongoing external efforts and technologies, and possible intersections with Agency monitoring and response efforts. 					
6	PFAS and contaminant monitoring in fish	Jewel Brandt, IEPA jewel.brandt@illinois.gov	99%	End of October 2024	The Illinois EPA, Illinois DNR, and Illinois Department of Public Health began statewide monitoring for PFAS in fish tissue in 2023 as part of a fish tissue analysis					
7	State funds should be provided to expand the ambient groundwater monitoring network to assess the overall conditions of statewide groundwater resource quality (i.e., ambient conditions) for focus or intensive evaluation of chronic or emerging conditions (e.g., Nitrate Trend Network, Chromium 6 project, Chloride Trend Network, VOC Trend Network, Statewide PFAS Network and pesticides).	Anthony Dulka, anthony.dulka@illinois.gov, IEPA, Alan Fuhrmann, alan.fuhrmann@illinois.gov, IEPA	40%	ongoing	The Illinois EPA operates an Ambient Groundwater Monitoring Network consisting of approximately 360 Community Water Supply (CWS) wells. This Ambient Groundwater Monitoring program was developed as a random stratified network to represent all active CWS wells. The goal of this network is to represent the detection of pesticides and other chemical contamination in the entire population of CWS wells across the state and to monitor the conditions of the different aquifers to assess the chemical composition and overall quality of the water over time. The wells are distributed throughout a fixed network of 17 three-week periods and have been sampled every other year since 1996. However, no Ambient Groundwater monitoring was conducted and 2020, and much of the downstate network wells (lower 2/3 of the state) were not sampled in 2022 and 2024. The well samples are analyzed for inorganic chemicals (IOC) and volatile organic/aromatic compounds (VOC) every two years, and they are sampled for synthetic organic compounds (SOC) every four years.					
8	Protect and Restore Upper MS River	Dave Glover, Dave.Glover@illinois.gov and Rick Pohlman, Rick.Pohlman@illinois.gov	0%							

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9 Outreach for proper well abandonment and water supply protection for public and private wells	IDPH	0%		<p>The Illinois Water Well Construction Code requires the owner of a water well, boring or monitoring well to properly seal the well within 30 days after it is abandoned and no longer used to supply water. If a well or boring is in such a state of disrepair that it has the potential for transmitting contaminants into the groundwater or otherwise threatens the public health or safety, it also must be sealed. The Groundwater Protection Act mandates that where an abandoned well is found to contaminate another potable water well, the owner of the abandoned well is responsible for providing a safe and sufficient supply of water to the owner of the well that has been contaminated. The basic concept in sealing an abandoned well is restoring the geological conditions that existed before the well was drilled. Therefore, the particular method for sealing a well depends on the type of water well and the local geological features.</p> <p>A licensed water well driller must seal an abandoned well. A homeowner may seal his or her own well if a written request is made to the local health department or to the Illinois Department of Public Health describing procedures and materials, all of which must comply with the well code. The local health department or the Department's nearest regional office must be notified at least 48 hours prior to the start of the work to seal such wells and, after the sealing is finished, a completed sealing form must be submitted to the local health department or the Department's central office in Springfield. Most dug or bored wells can be sealed by filling them with clean clay. Drilled wells are somewhat more complex to seal and require pea gravel or limestone chips (fill material) and neat cement grout, or any bentonite product manufactured for water well sealing (sealing material). The depth, geology and construction of the particular abandoned well to be sealed determine the appropriate levels at which these materials must be placed. For all types of wells, the well casing must be removed at least two feet below the final grade.</p> <p>IDPH's fact sheet, Abandoned Wells provides the legal requirements of properly sealing abandoned wells in Illinois. http://www.idph.state.il.us/envhealth/factsheets/abndwlsFS.htm University of Illinois Extension online publication on Water Quality has a section on Sealing Abandoned Wells explains the risks of abandoned wells, as well as the guidelines on sealing them. https://extension.illinois.edu/sites/default/files/water_quality_2022web.pdf</p>			
10 Support underserved small public water system infrastructure improvements	IDNR-OWR	30%		<p>The Illinois EPA currently provides some limited technical assistance support for underserved community water systems. The IEPA SRF drinking water loan program has been providing technical assistance to public water supply systems since 2019 through a contract with the Illinois Rural Water Association. The effort is paid for by using a portion of the annual federal capitalization grant. Focusing a portion of available funding towards technical assistance, direct funding for planning and investigative actions, capacity development activities, or any similar assistance increases the technical, financial, and managerial capacity of drinking water, wastewater or stormwater systems and should be encouraged by all State agencies. This recommendation will require a multi-year effort to establish additional/new long-term financial support tools necessary to fully implement this recommendation.</p> <p>See the Long-Term Funding Recommendations for "Technical and financial support for underserved communities using the Local Assistance Program" for additional information</p>			
11 The state should investigate the development of an assistance program for the regionalization of small public water systems.	IEPA, Nidhan Singh, nidhan.singh@illinois.gov	30%					
12 The state should provide technical assistance or funding for capacity development for small public water systems to develop long term technical, financial, and managerial resiliency.	IEPA, Nidhan Singh, nidhan.singh@illinois.gov	50%					
13 Expand stream and groundwater monitoring to test for emerging WQ issues	ISWS	10%		Central to the Illinois EPA's monitoring program is the assessment of lakes and streams. For the 2020/2022 reporting the IEPA monitored 18,508 stream miles and 159,510 lake acres for impairments of designated uses. The Illinois EPA also deploys its monitoring personnel and other resources in a way tailored to the project or			
14 Water Quality Outreach and Education through IWIC	ISWS	10%		The Prairie Research Institute at the UofI houses the Illinois Integrated Water Information Center (IWIC). The stakeholders involved in the effort are working to establish and fund this center to be a library of water science-based information and technology accessible by Illinois' decision makers, program managers,			
Climate Change Dave Kristovich - dkristo@illinois.edu							Updated 1/30/2025
1 Expand climate monitoring sites in sensitive areas - suburban, urban and agricultural areas	jatkins@illinois.edu	10%	after 6/2024	Plan developed, seeking funding for it	continuous, state	IL Legislature not yet supporting	
2 Develop web-based climate toolkits	heistand@illinois.edu	10%	after 6/2024	Plan developed, seeking funding for it	continuous, state	IL Legislature not yet supporting	
3 Develop detailed local climate models	heistand@illinois.edu	10%	after 6/2024	Plan developed, seeking funding for it	continuous, state	IL Legislature not yet supporting	
4 Research and develop online tools to illustrate concurrent climate events	dkristo@illinois.edu	10%	after 6/2025	research plan developed, seeking funding for it.	5-year, state	IL Legislature not yet supporting	
5 Research and provide climate impact information to urban and fringe areas	dkristo@illinois.edu	20%	after 6/2025	research on convective storm climate impact on urban areas is underway under NSF funding;	continuous, state	NSF funds limited to one climate impact.	
6 Research and develop online tools to illustrate how agricultural practices affect crops and climate	dkristo@illinois.edu	0%	after 6/2025	no progress	continuous, state	IL Legislature not yet supporting	
7 Update existing rainfall data	twford@illinois.edu	10%	completed	Continuously done	continuous, state		
8 Model future climate change related rainfall data	heistand@illinois.edu	90%	12/31/2024	ISWS is about 9/10 done with research and report. Contract was extended until 12/31/24 and final review is currently occurring. Publication will occur in early 2025.	Funded		
9 Research effects of changing seasonal rainfall impacts on river systems		0%		no progress			
10 Evaluate impacts and provide information about flash droughts	twford@illinois.edu	0%		no progress			
11 Research and outreach about rapid melt events	dkristo@illinois.edu	0%	uncertain	no progress, seeking funding sources	3 to 5-year, state	IL Legislature not yet supporting	
Integrated Water Management Loren Wobig - loren.wobig@illinois.gov							Updated 1/23/2025
1 Establish the Integrated Water Information Center (IWIC)	Loren Wobig loren.wobig@illinois.gov	15%		Proposed legislation is in the Senate Appropriations.			2

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2	Loren Wobig loren.wobig@illinois.gov	70%		Determine if funding should come to single source or each agency seek funding			1	
3	Loren Wobig loren.wobig@illinois.gov	5%		IDNR recently hired an Administrative Assistant 2 to work on this in Lake Michigan Programs. Program working to develop water system improvement plan status in each allocation community			3	
4	Rick Pohlman rick.pohlman@illinois.gov	0%		Confirm with Steve and Rick to see who will lead this			5	
5	Loren Wobig loren.wobig@illinois.gov	0%		Loren to discuss with GOMB about how to proceed with this			6	
6	Steve Altman steve.altman@illinois.gov	15%		With this SWP recommendation in mind, the Illinois Environmental Council's Resilient Illinois Revolving Loan Fund Act instigated conversations between FEMA, IEMA, IDNR, IEPA and now the Illinois Finance Authority leading toward the development of a state stormwater revolving loan fund program (without legislation) and the necessary regeneration and expansion of the IMAG team. Loren to follow up with Ethan on this progress			7	
7	Loren Wobig loren.wobig@illinois.gov	100%		Economically distressed Communities as defined by 17Ill. Adm. Code 3025.36 Distressed Communities' Definition and Criteria			4	
Long Term Funding Nidhan Singh - Nidhan.Singh@Illinois.gov								Updated 9/27/2024
1	IDNR	10%		A Water Resources state fund was specifically established in statute in 2024 as part of the Carbon Sequestration Act. A legislative proposal has been drafted to potentially direct existing revenue streams into the Water Resources Fund for Water Resources purposes.				
2	Loren Wobig loren.wobig@illinois.gov	20%		Illinois Finance Authority has received authority to proceed. Program framework is required.				
3	IDNR	10%		A Water Resources state fund was specifically established in statute in 2024 as part of the Carbon Sequestration Act. A legislative proposal has been drafted to potentially direct existing revenue streams into the Water Resources Fund for Water Resources purposes.				
4	Nidhan Singh Nidhan.Singh@Illinois.gov	0%	ongoing	The Illinois EPA supports greater use of Asset Management systems and Fiscal Sustainability Plans. The Illinois EPA routinely encourages communities/water systems by awarding extra points during the SRF evaluation process. Other States have mandated the use of Asset Management systems to qualify for SRF loans or simply as part of normal operations. That authority doesn't exist in Illinois at this time.	TBD	Lack of state-wide legislation that would require AM and Fiscal Sustainability plans; IEPA can only encourage applicants. Small communities lack the financial/human resources to adequately produce such plans.		
5	Nidhan Singh Nidhan.Singh@Illinois.gov	50%	ongoing	IEPA SRF drinking water loan program has been providing technical assistance to public water supply systems since 2019 through a contract with the Illinois Rural Water Association. The effort is paid for by using a portion of the annual federal capitalization grant. Focusing a portion of available funding towards technical assistance, direct funding for planning and investigative actions, capacity development activities, or any similar assistance increases the technical, financial, and	TBD	IEPA SRF is currently partnering with USEPA and IRWA to provide technical and financial assistance		
6	Nidhan Singh Nidhan.Singh@Illinois.gov	20%	ongoing	The Illinois EPA prioritizes improving data management, data analysis and reporting. A recent example is the Bureau of Water's ongoing improvements to data management and analysis for surface water evaluations. The Bureau of Water is working with contractors to consolidate data storage and streamline data analysis through a re-designed data storage process and automating preliminary analysis. BOW has reduced duplicated efforts across three regional offices and HQ. Surface water assessments which once took multiple staff 4-5 months to complete, can now be completed in a matter of hours. The automation process produces draft assessments which are reviewed by our team of lake, stream, Lake Michigan, and Chicago Area Waterway biologists. BOW is also working with contractors to develop computer code to automate the QA/QC process which can take 4-5 months when done manually. Once the code is developed, tested and proven, BOW will	TBD	Currently an ongoing effort; within the SRF program, loan database is heavily utilized in consolidating and organizing loan recipient data.		
7	IDNR	0%						
8	IDNR	5%		A legislative proposal has been drafted to potentially generate new revenue streams into the Water Resources Fund for Water Resources purposes.				
Water Sustainability Wei Han - Wei.Han2@Illinois.gov								Updated 1/3/2025
1	Wei Han wei.han2@illinois.gov	20%	12/31/2025	OWR staff has reviewed federal definition of underserved communities and are currently evaluating tools to determine underserved or disadvantaged community status. (4-15-2024) It is recommended that Economically Distressed Communities as defined by 17Ill. Adm. Code 3025.36 Distressed Communities' Definition and	\$0	OWR Staff Availability	1	
2	Wei Han wei.han2@illinois.gov	100%	6/30/2025	Website is available public review in Beta form. (10-11-24) The Illinois Water Vista website will be updated with recent CMAP's water demand forecast for the 7 counties in northeastern Illinois. (1-3-2025) CMAP has updated 2025 water demand forecast. Beta version of web page has been released for 6 months for publis	\$250,000	ISWS availability	2	
3	Wei Han wei.han2@illinois.gov	50%	6/30/2025	5 of 10 regions implemented, intending initiating #6 this year. The 5 planned regions cover 93% Illinois population. From population point of view, this task is 93% completed. (7-1-2024) Heartlands Conservancy has expressed interest in water supply planning for American Bottom Region, which has not conducted planning yet.	\$36,000 annually/region	Funding and staffing levels	3	
4	Wei Han wei.han2@illinois.gov	20%	6/30/2027	Planned contractual work for State Fiscal Years 2025-2027 with ISWS. Study will be focused on impact of evaporation on water availability. (10-11-2024) The proposal received from ISWS for next WSP technical support contract include a comprehensive literature review on lake evaporation analysis. Lake evaporation for the climate regions in Illinois will be estimated using the selected approach base on the literature review. The task is expected to be completed by the end of next ISWS contract (mid-2027). (1-2-2025) OWR continued reviewing and evaluating ISWS proposal which includes evaporation impact study. New contract is expected to be executed before March 2025.	Estimated \$125,000	Staffing availability at the IL State Water Survey	5	
5	Wei Han wei.han2@illinois.gov	25%	12/31/2030	Need to determine all parties to be involved in this evaluation. A 1991 report made by Illinois Instream Flow Protection Committee to the governor and Illinois General Assembly has been reviewed. The committee was formed through legislation to study instream use conflict within Illinois and identify a program for the	tbd	Participant Availability	4	
6	Wei Han wei.han2@illinois.gov	5%	12/31/2030	Need to evaluate when this can be completed. It is also determined that each water supply planning region needs to have its own Drought Response Plan. (10-5-2023) In September 2023, OWR participated Midwest DEWS Drought Planning Discussion organized by Midwest Dews/NIDIS, where Missouri and Iowa updated	tbd	OWR Staff Availability	6	
7	Walt Kelly wkelly@illinois.edu	5%	6/30/2025	Coordination with USGS to install metering in Mason Co. (1-3-2025) Need to update ISWS contact for this task. Could be the same person for Task 6 of Water Use Laws and Regulations section.	\$50,000	Funding in FY24-25	7	

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Lake Michigan							
Meg Kelly - meg.kelly@illinois.gov							
Updated 10/18/2024							
1	Outreach about Lake MI programs using the Local Assistance Program russell.g.flinchum@illinois.gov	60%	12/31/2024	Sent out a survey to all permitted Lake Michigan water allocates about ongoing Water Improvement Planning work.			1
2	Improve water allocation reporting russell.g.flinchum@illinois.gov	5%	ongoing	Russell met with IL section of AWWA who are in charge of the water audit software that water and public works operators use for monthly/yearly audit reporting for water usage, meter replacement, pipe replacement, leakage detection, production price of water. IDNR is trying to focus on trend analysis and a non-revenue water loss and to make reporting easier for permittees. OWR wants to work with ISWS to develop portal.	Funding is there but don't have personnel	Staff capacity	
3	Update Rules regarding water loss and conservation russell.g.flinchum@illinois.gov	0%	ongoing	House bill 3046 that would repeal the prohibition on water re-use and using grey water for commercial enterprise.			
4	Expand Lake MI programs and prioritize services to underserved communities russell.g.flinchum@illinois.gov	50%		Trying to find and steer funding from grant opportunities, EPA funding, mesh lead pipe replacement with some of their gen infrastructure replacement. Hopefully partnership w Chicago - interested in outreach.			1
5	Implement water allocation review fees to fund Lake MI Water Allocation Programs russell.g.flinchum@illinois.gov	30%		Sent a white paper to send to Governors Staff about requirements, roadblocks, and positive contributions of a Lake Michigan Water Allocation fee that is a possibility for legislative session next year.		Not viewed favorably by communities	
6	Establish workgroup for Lake MI water diversion russell.g.flinchum@illinois.gov	20%		Working closely with the ISAWWA and partner communities regarding water conservation. IDNR is joining the City of Chicago Water management Lake Michigan advisory group. Chicago has 120 water allocation partners so they move the needle a lot in terms of water conservation, pricing structures, pipe replacement. Lots of communities take lead from City of Chicago. Good for reporting, conservation, getting into communities doors. Will be presenting at their Feb meeting. Getting in door w City of Chicago - espec now w distributing to new communities like Joliet.			
7	Strengthen coastal resiliency with regional management meg.kelly@illinois.gov	25%	Ongoing	Continued engagement with the Shoreline Management Working Group; continued partnership with the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Cities Initiative and their Resilient Coastal Projects Initiative to complete the North Shore Resilience Plan (due later this fall); continued participation in USACE Great Lakes Coastal Resilience Study; participated in and supported community input meetings for the South Shore Resiliency Plan.		Staff capacity	
8	Promote coastal tourism and recreation meg.kelly@illinois.gov	15%	Ongoing	CMP provides competitive grants that include improving access and recreation to Lake Michigan. In September, CMP awarded and finalized 16 grant agreements a total of \$1.1 million. CMP staff participated in several outreach events that promoted coastal recreation and education, including participation at the State Fair in August, and outreach event at Illinois Beach State Park and Rainbow Beach in September.		Staff capacity	
9	Protect and restore coastal habitats meg.kelly@illinois.gov	5%	Ongoing	Various ongoing projects and initiatives. Monitoring continues with the Illinois Natural History Survey for the rubble ridge underwater breakwater project at Illinois Beach State Park. CMP submitted LOIs for three projects for NOAA's 2025 BIL Habitat Restoration competition; one project has been invited for a full proposal - CMP is providing technical support to develop the application for \$5.7M in restoration funds; currently working to develop an advisory group for CMP's Coastal Clean Waters program to inform priority projects to improve water quality in the coastal zone.		Staff capacity	
10	Evaluate feasibility of alternative energy in Lake MI and define acceptable locations loren.wobjg@illinois.gov	90%				Need to understand who is responsible for organizing the workgroup, moving this forward	
Flood Damage Mitigation							
Terra McParland - terra.mcparland.@illinois.gov							
Updated 1/6/2025							
1	Update rainfall data by modeling future/seasonal data changes Glenn Heistand heistand@illinois.edu	90%	12/31/2024	ISWS is about 9/10 done with research and report. Contract was extended until 12/31/24 and final review is currently occurring. Publication will occur in early 2025.	Funded		1
2	Develop a hydraulic model database Terra McParland Terra.McParland@illinois.gov	13%	12/31/2026	Work began FY24 to develop the database and that contract is complete. New contract being finalized for FY25 through FY27 for work to continue.	FY25 - \$25,000, FY26 - \$35,000, FY27 - \$40,000 then \$10,000 annually	Funding required past FY24	4
3	Generate 2-D hydraulic modeling for targeted areas in the state Zachary Krug Zachary.Krug@illinois.gov	0%	12/31/2030	Ongoing discussions. ISWS is coordinating with FEMA/IEMA and other partners to provide support.	UNK	Funding availability for new program	15
4	Develop dynamic inundation mapping for targeted areas in the state Terra McParland Terra.McParland@illinois.gov	23%	12/31/2030	FY23/FY24 work is complete for ISWS to provide technical GIS support. New contract being developed for FY25 through FY27 for work to continue. Coordination is ongoing and test location is complete. IL River mapping to be completed first.	\$20,000 annually	OWR GIS staffing availability and funding past FY24	3
5	Perform structural damage assessments for targeted areas in the state Terra McParland Terra.McParland@illinois.gov	20%	12/31/2030	ISWS Contract signed for SAFR uploads/maintenance thru FY24. Uploaded - Middle MS Ph 1&2, Middle Fork, East Peoria. Upload partial - Illinois River. New FY24 projects - Des Plaines River Ph 1, Lower Rock River. Future FY25 projects - Des Plaines River Ph 2, Upper Rock River. New scope being developed for FY25/FY27 for ISWS work to continue.	\$60,000 annually	OWR GIS/survey staffing availability and funding past FY24	2
6	Identify 2 underserved communities per year that require flood planning assistance Terra McParland Terra.McParland@illinois.gov	0%	12/31/2024	None.	FY24 - \$4,000	Waiting for Int. Man. to develop criteria. OWR staffing availability.	6
7	Develop a pilot urban flood warning system Terra McParland Terra.McParland@illinois.gov	75%	12/31/2024	USGS included a pilot urban flood warning system project as part of the NGWOS for the Illinois River. The project was installed in Harwood Heights, IL. Project is up and running thru end of NGWOS (2029). Next step is to develop a How To guide to share for other communities that want to employ a similar warning system.	\$25,000 annually	Need to determine who will pay for and maintain sensors. If state agency, funding reqd.	5
8	Develop GIS-based database of existing flood protective infrastructure and future needs Zachary Krug Zachary.Krug@illinois.gov	0%	12/31/2030		TBD annual	Need staffing/funding for new program.	7
9	Develop outreach tool to help find flood impact funding opportunities Zachary Krug Zachary.Krug@illinois.gov	5%	12/31/2030		TBD one time	Need staffing/funding to develop tool	8
10	Assess infrastructure and identify future needs for underserved communities as a pilot program Zachary Krug Zachary.Krug@illinois.gov	0%	12/31/2030		TBD annual	Need Item 6 completed. Need staffing/funding for new program.	11
11	Develop project design for underserved community's flood mitigation plan as a pilot program Terra McParland Terra.McParland@illinois.gov	0%	12/31/2025	None.	\$200,000 annually	Need Item 10 completed. Need more staffing for OWR Design group.	12

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12	Provide funding for construction of the flood protection project for underserved communities as a pilot	Terra McParland Terra.McParland@illinois.gov	0%	12/31/2027	None.	\$2-5,000,000 annually	Need item 11 completed. Need capital funding and for staffing new program.	13
13	Encourage watershed level planning efforts	Terra McParland Terra.McParland@illinois.gov	0%	12/31/2026		\$200,000 annually	Need funding for new grant program and staffing	10
14	Adopt statewide building codes	Terra McParland Terra.McParland@illinois.gov	50%	12/31/2028	Statewide Building codes will be in effect starting 1/1/25. Energy Codes are adopted but not Green Codes.		Need partner support and maybe legislation passed.	14
15	Encourage natural and nature-based flood prevention measures	Terra McParland Terra.McParland@illinois.gov	0%	12/31/2030	None.	\$100,000 annually	Staffing to develop outreach materials, Local Assistance program to be funded, WR-SRF to be established	9
Aquatic & Riparian Habitat Brian Metzke - Brian.metzke@illinois.gov								Updated 1/27/2025
1	Develop and implement watershed BMPs that benefit habitat	Brian Metzke Brian.Metzke@illinois.gov	0%	tbd	Resource needs under development.	unknown	Staff availability. Funding. Agency coordination.	
2	Enhance incentives for the implementation of watershed BMPs on private lands and provide outreach	Brian Metzke Brian.Metzke@illinois.gov	0%	tbd	Resource needs under development.	unknown	Staff availability. Funding.	
3	Create multi-beneficial floodplains in underserved communities	Brian Metzke Brian.Metzke@illinois.gov	10%	tbd	Template plan developed by American Rivers (with IDNR input). No lead agency or staff identified for plan development. No grant mechanism identified.	\$300,000 for plan development. Unknown funding.	Staff availability. Funding.	
4	Support Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy	Brian Metzke Brian.Metzke@illinois.gov	10%	tbd	Legislation to fund activities related to NLRS introduced.	unknown	Legislative process.	
5	Enhance hydrologic and hydraulic connectivity	Brian Metzke Brian.Metzke@illinois.gov	0%	tbd	Resource needs under development.	unknown	Staff availability. Funding.	
6	Enhance landscape connectivity	Brian Metzke Brian.Metzke@illinois.gov	0%	tbd	Resource needs under development.	unknown	Staff availability. Funding. Flood laws.	
7	Establish and maintain stream and groundwater base flows criteria	Brian Metzke Brian.Metzke@illinois.gov	0%	tbd	Resource needs under development.	unknown	Staff availability. Funding.	
8	Install more stream gauges to measure flow and water quality	Brian Metzke Brian.Metzke@illinois.gov	0%	tbd	Resource needs under development.	unknown	Staff availability. Funding. Requires study to identify monitoring needs.	
9	Install more biological monitoring programs	Brian Metzke Brian.Metzke@illinois.gov	0%	tbd	Resource need identified. Implementation requires funding.	\$6,820,000 annually	Staff availability. Funding. Requires study to identify monitoring needs.	
10	Expand CTAP wetland monitoring	Brian Metzke Brian.Metzke@illinois.gov	0%	tbd	CTAP sunseting. Requires new monitoring program. Resource needs under development.	~\$450,000 annually	Staff availability. Funding.	
11	Expand CTAP stream monitoring	Brian Metzke Brian.Metzke@illinois.gov	0%	tbd	CTAP sunseting. Requires new monitoring program. Resource needs under development.	~\$250,000 annually	Staff availability. Funding.	
12	Monitor and control invasive species	Brian Metzke Brian.Metzke@illinois.gov	0%	tbd	Resource need identified. Implementation requires funding.	\$6,250,000 annually	Staff availability. Funding.	
13	Interagency monitoring data database	Brian Metzke Brian.Metzke@illinois.gov	0%	tbd	Resource need identified. Implementation requires funding.	\$600,000 to develop database	Staff availability. Inter-agency coordination	
14	Develop flow standards for all public waters including climate change impacts	Brian Metzke Brian.Metzke@illinois.gov	0%	tbd	Resource needs under development.	\$500,000	Staff availability. Funding.	
15	Develop biological indices in underrepresented habitats and biota	Brian Metzke Brian.Metzke@illinois.gov	0%	tbd	Resource needs under development.	\$1,250,000	Staff availability. Funding.	
16	Develop policy guidelines to obtain adequate compensation for injured aquatic resources	Brian Metzke Brian.Metzke@illinois.gov	0%	tbd	Resource needs under development.	unknown	Staff availability. Funding.	
17	Develop assessment approach and collect data to compensate for injured aquatic resources	Brian Metzke Brian.Metzke@illinois.gov	0%	tbd	Resource needs under development.	unknown	Staff availability. Funding.	
18	Incorporate climate change flow standards into private water use regulations	Brian Metzke Brian.Metzke@illinois.gov	0%	tbd	Resource needs under development.	unknown	Staff availability. Funding. Requires recommendation 14 complete.	
19	Enact Aquatic Habitat Stamp on licenses to fund habitat protection	Brian Metzke Brian.Metzke@illinois.gov	50%	tbd	Passed by IL House, but stalled in Senate.	n/a	Legislative process.	
20	Establish authority to regulate isolated wetlands	Brian Metzke Brian.Metzke@illinois.gov	10%	tbd	Proposed legislation (Illinois HB5386 and SB771; Wetland Protection Act) would protect wetlands not regulated by federal Clean Water Act. Proposal identifies that the SWPTF may be consulted during development of Administrative Rules.	n/a	Staff availability. Legislative process.	
Water Use Laws & Regulations Steve Altman - steve.altman@illinois.gov								Updated 10/17/2024
1	Review Water Use Act for success and modify as needed	Wei Han	7%	12/31/2030	OWR is looking to hold public outreach event to gain feedback regarding on potential modifications to the language	N/A		
2	Propose legislation to regulate water reuse	Steve Altman	100%	3/7/2023	HB 3046 has passed out of committee (3/7/2023). Since recommendation dealt with introduction of legislation, the status was marked as complete. Staff will monitor progress with this bill.	Check with EPA	Appropriation for EPA would be needed	

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Task	Task Contact	Est. % Comp.	Est. Date Comp.	Description of Status	Funding Needs	Restrictions / Obstructions	Priority	
3	Propose legislation for water diversions outside of IL	Steve Altman	0%					
4	Authorize groundwater management districts	Wei Han	5%	12/31/2030	With IDNR funding, an initial groundwater governance survey was conducted by CMAP and IISG. This work should be continued to come up with recommendations for Illinois groundwater governance options when funding is available. (01-03-2024) In November 2023, Mahomet Aquifer Consortium (MAC) made a proposal for a			
5	Resolve water use conflicts caused by prolonged drought	Wei Han	0%	12/31/2030	This task could be completed with updating State Drought Preparedness and Response Plan. (10-5-2023) In September 2023, OWR participated Midwest DEWS Drought Planning Discussion organized by Midwest Dews/NIDIS, where Missouri and Iowa updated status on their state drought plans. (4-15-2024) Drought			
6	Meter high capacity well water use	Wei Han	5%	12/31/2030	ISWS has hired personnel to increase Agricultural water reporting. Increased reporting is said to be up 25%	tbd		
7	Establish authority to regulate isolated wetlands	EPA	20%		SB 771 passed committee but did not make it to vote yet. Could come up for vote in veto session.	N/A		
Navigation								
Brian McCoy - Brian.McCoy@illinois.gov								Updated 1/13/2025
1	Maintain and upgrade IMTS infrastructure	Brian McCoy Brian.McCoy@illinois.gov	0%	TBD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing: Illinois 2023 Competitive Freight Program \$203 million, up to 30% of funding can go to intermodal (rail, water) projects (over \$15 million per year for FY23-FY26). 6 of 7 marine projects awarded, total of 13 projects awarded since 2018 amounting in over \$31 Mil federal funds awarded. Numerous port infrastructure-eligible discretionary federal grants available from the BIL through FY2025 		1	
2	Maintain and upgrade port infrastructure on Lake Michigan and inland waterways.	Brian McCoy Brian.McCoy@illinois.gov	0%	TBD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) 2024, Authorization 12/3/2024: Inland Waterways Non-Fed match is going from 35% to 25%. Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP) 205 Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Released: Application Deadline is April 30, 2025, \$450 million available. 2024 PIDP Illinois Awards: 1) Hennepin, IL Barge Terminal and Soybean Logistics Asset Project (\$38,582,711); 700-foot loading dock, conveyor systems, and storage systems for soybean products. 2) Hardin Illinois River Terminal Elevator Project (\$9,000,000); construction of two new storage bins, loadout conveyor belt, river cell loading tower, 11 mooring dolphins, replace scale house, and road improvements. * full list of awarded projects see this press release link: https://www.maritime.dot.gov/sites/marad.dot.gov/files/2024-11/PIDP%202024%20Project%20Descriptions.pdf IDOT Hosted in Partnership with MARAD, a Grant Application Workshop in Chicago on Nov 20-21, 2024. February 2024 IDOT State Planning and Research Program call for projects; 18 marine plans/studies awarded since 2018 IL State Freight Plan Published Fall 2023. IL Long Range Transportation Plan Update is underway Port Facilities Capital Investment Grant Program 13 of 23 Projects Awarded 2021 	Need a consistent annual appropriation to support IMTS capital needs.	2	
3	Maintain and upgrade locks and dams	Brian McCoy Brian.McCoy@illinois.gov	0%	TBD	<p>The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Navigation and Ecosystem Sustainability Program (NESP) is a long-term program of ecosystem restoration and navigation improvements for the Upper Mississippi River System (UMRS). NESP will improve system capacity and reduce commercial traffic delays through the construction of seven new 1,200-foot locks, mooring cells, and switch boat implementation. https://www.mvr.usace.army.mil/Missions/Navigation/NESP.aspx</p> <p>Annual Funding appropriated for Funding for Lagrange (Lock 8), Brand Road.</p> <p>\$732mil funded for L&D 25 to construct 1200' Chamber, in 65% review stage</p>	Backlog of Maintenance for Upper Mississippi and Illinois River = \$1.6 Bill as of FY21	Given recent funding with IJJA, lock and dam projects are underway. However, funding for Lock and Dam maintenance, expansion, and replacement projects are limited. Annual appropriations provide some	3
4	Upgrade bridge alignment and clearance issues	Brian McCoy Brian.McCoy@illinois.gov	0%	TBD	<p>Include policies for the Bureau of Bridges and Structures, Bureau of Local Roads and Streets, and Bureau of Design and Environment to implement policies to include adequate container on barge clearance in plans for new bridges over navigable waterways.</p>		Further Investigation and significant infrastructure investment will be needed to regain the swing gate operation of the bridges. Coordination with the BNSF and USACE is needed.	4
5	Adopt technology to streamline operations to save costs	Brian McCoy Brian.McCoy@illinois.gov	0%	TBD	ILWW Transportation Study RFP in late 2024. The project will provide an updated IMTS Directory and Multi-Modal Rates and Charges Data Resource that includes barge transportation cost information. The study will also complete a marine system needs assessment.		5	
6	Support USACE channel maintenance dredging programs	Brian McCoy Brian.McCoy@illinois.gov	0%	Ongoing	<p>Ongoing: Annual dredging operations are fully utilized due to low water events and long-term programmed channel maintenance projects. USACE is completing the construction of channel structures to help maintain channel depth. Low water events back up barge traffic, increase difficulty navigating river bends, increase fuel consumption, and increase frequency of barge groundings. Consideration of channel depth increase to 12ft to mitigate annual fall low water events.</p> <p>Continued monitoring and encouragement of USACE dredging efforts.</p> <p>Continued push for more cohesive reservoir and water resource management.</p> <p>Become involved in the LMR and Missouri River studies that are in progress.</p> <p>Channel Patrol: https://www.mvs.usace.army.mil/Missions/Navigation/Surveys/Channel-Patrol/</p> <p>Dredge Surveys: https://www.mvs.usace.army.mil/Missions/Navigation/Surveys/Dredge.aspx</p>		6	
7	Utilize dredged material in infrastructure projects	BJ Murray BJ.Murray@illinois.gov	100%	Study Published 11/30/2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2024 WRDA: Dredged material as a national goal, requiring at least 70% of suitable dredged material to be used for purposes such as ecosystem restoration and coastal protection. Completed Beneficial Use of Dredge Material Study. (DEC 2022) Ongoing efforts to communicate to public and private stakeholders to consider the material each time a project is programmed. Maintain efforts to continue to provide sufficient storage locations for dredge material. IMTS Website updates Fall of 2024 to include an interactive map with a BUDM sites layer and site contact information. 		Complete	

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8 Protect the IMTS environment	Brian McCoy Brian.McCoy@Illinois.gov	0%	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2024 IL EPA awarded \$93 million from the US EPA Clean Ports Program: with a large portion of the funds being awarded to IL International Port District Equipment. IDOT has policies built into the planning and design phase to review a project's environmental compliance. Each project must meet environmental requirements before proceeding. IMTS staff serves on the Rivers of Illinois Coordinating Council and collaborates with regional and national environmental advocacy groups. FY23 IDOT funded the Resiliency Improvement Plan FY24 IDOT funded the Illinois International Port District Infrastructure Sustainability & Climate Resiliency Plan 			7	
9 Navigation Outreach and Education using IWIC	Brian McCoy Brian.McCoy@Illinois.gov	0%	TBD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20 Port Districts authorized to operate designated areas in Illinois. 2 PDs exist only with legislation. Rock Island Port District was established with the passing of legislation on 6/7/2023. 6/30/2023 the Governor Signed IL Waterways Ports Commission Act. 			8	
10 Establish IDOT Marine Transportation Section	BJ Murray BJ.Murray@Illinois.gov	100%	10/1/2022	Brian McCoy onboarded to the IMTS section			Complete	
Erosion & Sedimentation								Updated
Brian Rennecker - brian.rennecker@illinois.gov								12/22/2022
1 Reinvigorate the Soil Erosion and Water Quality Advisory Committee (SEWQAC)		0%						
2 Expand soil and water conservation program coordination		0%						
3 Educate industry leaders, invest in STAR program		0%						
4 Update and expand the Illinois Urban Manual program	Christine Davis	15%	Ongoing	The Association of Illinois Soil & Water Conservation Districts (AISWCD) houses and has the central role in continuing development of the manual. The process of manual maintenance and development is funded primarily by Section 319 and Section 604b grants provided by the IEPA. The IUM Update Partnership continues to update the manual through development of new and updated practice standards and specifications related to soil erosion sediment control, stormwater management, water quality and green infrastructure. Updating is ongoing and continuous and the IEPA expects to continue it's support for the IUM manual.				
5 Target elementary and higher education with programs about soil erosion & sedimentation		0%						
6 Establish credentialing and apprenticeship program to train workers for this field		0%						
7 Statewide erosion/sedimentation survey and BMP recommendations		0%						
8 Expand staffing to assist local planning and implementation		0%						
9 Prioritize resources by targeting underserved areas and those with greatest need		0%						
10 Expand funding to install conservation practices in areas where valid complaint has been filed		0%						
11 Identify and monitor marginal land use		0%						
12 Expand outreach efforts about success of infield and edge-of-field practices		0%						
13 Establish Watershed Councils to reduce nutrient levels		0%						
14 Establish Watershed Protection grant program		0%						
15 Identify and secure federal funding for soil erosion and sedimentation reduction efforts		0%						
16 Expand funding of SESC inspection program to allow more participation		0%						
17 Enroll more land into the CREP program		0%						
18 Develop new and expand existing incentives to encourage participation in soil conservation practices		0%						
19 Expand research to outline conservation economics and BMPs		0%						
20 Update IUM to include new technology and maintain accuracy		0%						
21 Expand funding to support the NLRS programs		0%						
22 Expand groundwater monitoring of nutrient loss strategies		0%						
23 Initiate conservation management program		0%						
24 Expand IDOA staffing to assist in conservation efforts		0%						
25 Establish IDOA outreach/educational position		0%						
Data Management								Updated

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N							
Laura Keefer - lkeefe@illinois.edu							
1	Assess streamgauge network ability to meet current and future water data needs for everyone	Laura Keefer - lkeefe@illinois.edu	0%		Developing a proposal & determine funding needs		7/6/2023
2	Create working group to explore feasibility of Streamgaging Data Collaborative to secure funding for data	Laura Keefer - lkeefe@illinois.edu	0%		Not started		
3	Develop central location to view data using IWIC	Loren Wobig loren.wobig@illinois.gov	15%	0	Proposed legislation is in the Senate Appropriations.	0	0
Y							
Recreation							
Michael McClelland - Michael.McClelland@illinois.gov							
1	Enact Aquatic Conservation Stamp on licenses to fund ANS management		0%		Legislation was initiated in spring of 2020 and did not pass, has not been prioritized in subsequent years		Updated 1/3/2025
2	Create invasive species education center as part of the Brandon Road Interbasin Project		0%		Awaiting further plans of the Brandon Road Interbasin Project to be established		
3	Maintain and improve state waterbody access and focus on underserved locations		0%		DJ/WB boating access projects are ongoing through the Wildlife and Sportfish Restoration Program. Waiting on additional information to get % completion.		
4	Expand funding for BADD program to create boat access to public waterbodies with underserved focus		0%				
5	Increase angling opportunities on private property with focus on underserved locations		0%		The Division of Fisheries implements Cooperative Fisheries Management agreements with private county and municipal entities that guarantee public access as part of the agreements. Waiting on additional information to get % completion.		
6	Develop mobile app with multitude of angling information		0%		The Division of Fisheries is currently updating the ifishillinois website and division database as a precursor to a mobile app. Updated website launch is scheduled for June 2025 and database is scheduled for July 2025.		
7	Outreach about waterway access laws & regulations		0%		Digital mapping for waterbody public access delineation will be initiated in 2025.		
8	Develop a webpage and mobile app focused on low-head dam safety and navigation	Wes Cattoor wes.cattoor@illinois.gov	10%		The IDNR OWR has developed a draft GIS based website for dam safety. This could be a start since it will include all dams on public water		
9	Develop a new program to allow access for non-motorized boating on private property		0%				