

2022 Illinois State Water Plan

Summary of Recommendations

Previous Update: 10/15/2023

SWP Contact - Wes Cattoor wes.cattoor@illinois.gov

Current Update: 1/9/2024

Task	Task Contact	Est. % Comp.	Est. Date Comp.	Description of Status	Funding Needs	Restrictions / Obstructions	Priority	
<p><u>Water Quality</u> Jeff Edstrom – Jeffrey.edstrom@illinois.gov</p>								
1	Support Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy implementation	IDOA	50%	ongoing	<p>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 (2021) details the actions of the public agencies and stakeholders to address nutrient reduction in Illinois. The 2023 Biennial Report is under development and the Illinois EPA anticipates releasing the 2023 Biennial Report in December 2023. The biennial reports demonstrate the continued implementation of the strategy across agriculture, point source, and urban stormwater sectors. Some highlights from the 2021 Biennial Report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Agriculture partner organizations reported more than 130 full-time staff members engaged in activities related to implementing the strategy. •Between 2019 and 2020, agriculture sector partners reported spending almost \$27 million implementing the strategy, outside of state and federal cost-share program funds. •The Nutrient Research Education Council, a public-private partnership that ensures a sustainable source of funding for nutrient research and education programs, invested \$6.9 million in 59 projects. •During 2019 and 2020, more than 1,020 outreach events focused on nutrient loss reached over 72,000 attendees. •1.4 million acres of cover crops were planted in 2019, representing a 135% increase from 2011. •In 2019 and 2020, over \$200.2 million was invested in a dozen projects to reduce nutrient loss through treatment plant improvements. •Treatment facilities have developed and submitted 71 nutrient 2011. <p>Conditions at the end of 2022</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Point Source sector reduced total phosphorus loads by 6.2 million pounds compared to the 2011 baseline loads. This represents a 34% reduction, surpassing the NLRs interim goal of 25% reduction by 2025. •Of the 211 major municipal facilities, 101 had an annual average total phosphorus concentration of 1.0 mg/L, with 46 of those at or below 0.5 mg/L in their discharge. •82 facilities have total phosphorus limits included in their National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits. •67 major municipal facilities are currently developing Nutrient Assessment Reduction Plans (NARP), while another 89 are developing a NARP as part of a watershed group. 			Updated 1/9/2024
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	15%	ongoing	<p>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. 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 areas have a lower match requirement for GIGO. IEPA released a GIGO NOFO for \$10 million in late 2023 and received over 40 applications for projects. Another NOFO for \$5 million will be released later this year. IEPA uses criteria that provides additional points for projects located within or working with Environmental Justice areas for Watershed Management Section 319, 604 and GIGO Notice of Funding Opportunities. It also has a new GIS-based app that shows the location of EJ areas in relation to streams and lakes and identifies whether and for what those water bodies are impaired. The IEPA supports green infrastructure and water quality programs by awarding additional application review points for projects located within or working with Environmental Justice areas for Watershed Management Section NOFOs. The FY22 BIL supplemental CWSRF Capitalization Grant includes a Green Project Reserve (GPR) requirement whereby Illinois EPA must utilize not less than 10% of the BIL supplemental 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". Over \$20 million in GPR funds were expended between June 2021 and December 2021. The Illinois EPA has identified the projects which contain components qualifying for the GPR that are likely to receive funding during FY2023. The Illinois EPA will identify the final list of projects and the amount of GPR components funded in the Annual Report.</p>			
3	Support voluntary nutrient reduction programs and focus on underserved communities		15%					
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	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.			

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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	20%	ongoing	HAB Unit staff continues to undergo training to expand Illinois's understanding of algal ecology, taxonomy, and identification techniques. The Illinois EPA has created a HAB Dashboard webpage/portal for the public to update HAB locations and reference results from response sampling across Illinois, and to provide important information to help educate the public about HABs and provide contact information in the case of a suspected HAB event. The Illinois EPA HAB Unit also is increasing its monitoring and warning activities by collecting 332 samples in 2020, 1034 samples in 2021, and 1333 samples in 2022.			
6	PFAS and contaminant monitoring in fish	IEPA	75%	ongoing	The Illinois EPA, Illinois DNR, and Illinois Department of Public Health began statewide monitoring for PFAS in fish tissue in 2023 as part of their fish tissue analysis program. The IEPA laboratory undertakes analysis on fish tissue samples as workload allows and as fish tissue samples are provided by IDNR. IEPA laboratory uses Method 1633 to analyze for 16 PFAS analytes as well as PCBs. Under normal circumstances, 2 years of results from the same species/same waterbody are required to determine if meal advice is warranted for PFAS contamination. IEPA and IDNR plan to collect and analyze about 250 composite samples per year from the network of waterbodies on a 3-5 year rotation. The IEPA laboratories are certified to conduct analysis on fish tissue and are working on certification for drinking water samples. The goal is to gain drinking water certification by 1st Quarter of calendar year 2024 with certification for other water samples to follow.			
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).	IEPA	35%	ongoing	<p>The Illinois EPA operates an Ambient Groundwater Monitoring Network consisting of approximately 350 Community Water Supply (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. The network wells have been sampled within a fixed three-week time frame every other year since 1996. Samples are analyzed for inorganic chemicals, synthetic organic pesticides, and volatile organic/aromatic compounds. Additionally, all community water systems are required to monitor their finished water to determine compliance with various drinking water standards. These results are provided to the Illinois EPA and exceedances of drinking water standards self-reported. Since October 1985, the Illinois EPA's Surface Water Section (SWS) has operated a pesticide monitoring subnetwork to screen for toxic organic substances. The pesticide monitoring subnetwork originally consisted of 30 Ambient Water Quality Monitoring Network stations that were adjusted annually, however, to provide more information for 305(b)/303(d) designated use assessments, the emphasis of this program shifted in 2007 to ambient sites associated with or near public water supply intakes and was decreased to 6 sites. In 2008, the number of sites increased to 20 and in 2021, an additional site was added for pesticide collection, bringing the total to 21 sites. Pesticide sampling is conducted at these 21 sites, nine times per year. A list of pesticides sampled can be found in the 2015-2020 Illinois Water Monitoring Strategy, Appendix A (ILLINOIS WATER MONITORING STRATEGY).</p> <p>During the past several years Illinois EPA monitoring resources were focused on sampling and analysis at all community water systems for the presence of PFAS contaminants. The Illinois EPA collected 1711 samples of finished water at 1428 water system entry points at 1017 Community Water Supplies. Of the detections at or above the minimum reporting level (MRL), PFAS were detected in 149 of 1,428 entry points (about 10 percent). The highest concentrations detected were 150 ng/L (PFOS) and 140 ng/L (perfluorohexanesulfonic acid) at one CWS location which has been shut down and a different source of water has been provided to the consumers. Although PFAS detections were more common in CWS systems using surface-water sources (about 35 percent, 30 of 85) and mixed sources (50 percent, 5 of 10) compared to those using groundwater sources (about 9 percent, 114 of 1,333), a greater range of PFAS concentrations were observed in groundwater CWS systems (2 to 150 ng/L) than in surfacewater CWS systems (2 to 15 ng/L).</p> <p>The Illinois EPA continues to monitor for PFAS. The Illinois EPA is phasing in monitoring for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •All major municipal and industrial dischargers •Industrial minors with certain SIC codes •Other facilities that have the potential for discharging wastewater containing PFAS <p>If PFAS found, the discharger will be required to develop BMPs and working with the facility, the Illinois EPA will try to find the source of the PFAS. The Illinois EPA</p>			
8	Protect and Restore Upper MS River		0%					
9	Outreach for proper well abandonment and water supply protection for public and private wells	IDPH	0%					
10	Support underserved small public water system infrastructure improvements	IDNR-OWR	30%		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			
11	The state should investigate the development of an assistance program for the regionalization of small public water systems.	IEPA	30%		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.			
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	50%		See the Long-Term Funding Recommendations for "Technical and financial support for underserved communities using the Local Assistance Program" for additional information			
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 program. Over the past several years much of the Illinois EPA monitoring resources have been directed towards emerging contaminants to determine the presence and prevalence of PFAS compounds in community water supplies across Illinois. The PFAS monitoring also included the participation of the Illinois DPH and numerous local agencies and officials. This effort has provided Illinois with data on PFAS in surface and groundwater across the state and the data and scale of the project are included on the Illinois EPA's PFAS Sampling Network webpage.			
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, emergency managers, community officials, home and business owners, and the public.			

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Climate Change Dave Kristovich - dkristo@illinois.edu								Updated 10/12/2023
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 6/2024	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	10%	after 6/2024	Plan developed, seeking funding for it	continuous, state	IL Legislature not yet supporting		
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 1/8/2024
1	Establish the Integrated Water Information Center (IWIC) Loren Wobig loren.wobig@illinois.gov	15%		Draft legislation has been developed for Spring 2024 GA Session working with Uof I/PRI. Next step is to evaluate structure and operations			2	
2	Fund and support State Water Plan Task Force Loren Wobig loren.wobig@illinois.gov	15%		Draft legislation has been developed for Spring 2024 GA Session - DNR identified Senator Ellman as potential sponsor			1	
3	Prioritize funding for water system improvements to underserved communities Loren Wobig loren.wobig@illinois.gov	5%		IDNR recently hired an Administrative Assistant 2 to work on this in Lake Michigan Programs			3	
4	Reestablish Local Assistance Program to guide underserved communities Loren Wobig loren.wobig@illinois.gov	0%		IEC plans to develop a bill for Spring 2024 Session			5	
5	Develop consistent funding criteria for all agencies Loren Wobig loren.wobig@illinois.gov	0%		no update			6	
6	Expand IMAG collaboration for increased efficiency and consistent funding Loren Wobig loren.wobig@illinois.gov	15%		With this SWP recommendation in mind, the Illinois Environmental Council has introduced the Resilient Illinois Revolving Loan Fund Act that in essence, drives the necessary regeneration and expansion of the IMAG team.			7	
7	Develop methodology for identifying and prioritizing underserved communities for water resource needs Loren Wobig loren.wobig@illinois.gov	25%		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 1/4/2024
1	Dedicated funding for water resource management planning IDNR	0%						
2	Establish new Water Resources State Revolving Fund (WRSRF) IDNR	0%		OWR has begun some activity on the task				
3	Establish strategic fund for critical long-term issues IDNR	0%						
4	If receiving state or federal funding, the state should require existing public water supply, wastewater treatment, and stormwater management providers to utilize asset management to review and identify the system cost of service. IEPA	0%		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.				

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5	Technical and financial support for underserved communities using the Local Assistance Program	IEPA	0%	<p>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.</p> <p>A new five year contract was just signed with Rural Water to provide 3-4 key services to assist communities including developing an asset management system and performing a rate analysis. The primary purpose of these services is to assist the communities in becoming "loan ready".</p> <p>The State Revolving Loan Program issued more than \$571 million in water infrastructure loans to local governments and water districts for the fourth quarter of Fiscal Year 2023 (April - June 2023). The Illinois EPA State Revolving Fund (SRF) Program provides low-interest loans which fund wastewater, stormwater, and drinking water projects. More than \$53 million in loan forgiveness was also provided to those recipients meeting the loan rules for either the Small Community Rate or Hardship Rate. In total for fiscal year 2023, Illinois EPA issued over \$803 million in low-interest loans for water infrastructure. In addition to the SRF loans, Illinois provided nearly \$54 million in funding for lead service line replacement over the last 12 months.</p>				
6	The state should undertake a comprehensive, state-wide evaluation of current operations to identify technology that optimizes and streamlines state agency operations for water resource management recommendation implementation.	IEPA	0%	ongoing	<p>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 have the ability to run data through a QA/QC process within minutes and on a weekly basis. In July 2023, BOW surface water staff received iPhones that are used as tools in the field to collect data using the Field Data Collection Apps developed by BOW.</p> <p>Additional areas where the IEPA/BOW is expanding the implementation of technology to improve operations includes field staff being issued durable tablet computers and smartphones for use in the field (they have proven most useful during emergency response incidents for producing field-generated reports, photos, and maps to inform management of observations in near real-time) and the use of hand-held field instruments for instant measurement of temperature, pH, dissolved oxygen, and conductivity. The information indicates whether a particular surface water meets water quality standards for these parameters and helps staff determine the appropriate locations for sample collection for more detailed analysis.</p> <p>The SWPTF should discuss areas where Agencies can evaluate operations and report on new technology being deployed as well as areas where there is a pressing need for new technology.</p>			
7	Support Public-Private Partnerships	IDNR	0%					
8	Enact stamps or license fees to generate targeted funds	IDNR	0%					
Water Sustainability Wei Han - Wei.Han2@Illinois.gov								
1	Prioritize services to underserved communities	Wei Han wei.han2@illinois.gov	5%	12/31/2025	OWR staff has reviewed federal definition of underserved communities and are currently evaluating tools to determine underserved or disadvantaged community status.	\$0	OWR Staff Availability	1
2	Determine sustainable water yield for all water supply sources and share online	Wei Han wei.han2@illinois.gov	75%	6/30/2025	Data are near completion, online application to be improved. (10-5-2023) Sustainable yields have been determined for each water supply planning region under contract OWR-395. ISWS will develop website to make the data publicly available to stakeholders. (1-3-2024) OWR met with ISWS in December 2023. ISWS indicated concerns from some stakeholders regarding releasing supply analysis and demand forecast data. It was tentatively determined to publish data with a beta version website for public review and comments. ISWS will further improve and complete dataset with public input.	\$250,000	ISWS availability	2
3	Establish and support regional water supply committees	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. (10-5-2023) A new 2-year agreement with HeartLands Conservancy has been drafted and will be executed to support water supply planning activities in Kaskaskia River Region. (1-3-2024) OWR-423 has been signed by Heartland Conservancy and is pending IDNR execution.	\$36,000 annually/region	Funding and staffing levels	3
4	Study evaporation impacts from climate change	Wei Han wei.han2@illinois.gov	0%	6/30/2027	Planned contractual work for State Fiscal Years 2026-2027 with ISWS	Estimated \$125,000	Staffing availability at the IL State Water Survey	5
5	Develop minimum stream flow protection for during emergencies	Wei Han wei.han2@illinois.gov	5%	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 protection and management of the instream flow resource of the State. Findings and conclusions does not result in legislative solution to the problem. Additional research and analysis were recommended.	tbd	Participant Availability	4
6	Update IL Drought Preparedness and Response Plan	Wei Han wei.han2@illinois.gov	0%	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 status on their state drought plans.	tbd	OWR Staff Availability	6
7	Improve water use accuracy with outreach and metering	Walt Kelly wkelly@illinois.edu	5%	6/30/2025	Coordination with USGS to install metering in Mason Co.	\$50,000	Funding in FY24-25	7

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Lake Michigan							
Tara Jagadeesh - Tara.Jagadeesh@illinois.gov							
1	Outreach about Lake MI programs using the Local Assistance Program	russell.g.flinchum@illinois.gov	50%		With hiring of Luz Payan in OWR and the establishment of partnerships with the city of Chicago and MWRDGC.		Updated 1/8/2024
2	Improve water allocation reporting	russell.g.flinchum@illinois.gov	5%		Russell meeting 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%		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	0%		New hire will be doing outreach w underserved communities. 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	0%		No Fees after intial feedback did not show appetite from communities	Not viewed favorably by communities	
6	Establish workgroup for Lake MI water diversion	russell.g.flinchum@illinois.gov	10%		Will be presenting at WaterCon in April of this year and showcase our program to many municipal Northern IL Lake Michigan water users. 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	tara.jagadeesh@illinois.gov	20%	Ongoing	Various ongoing efforts and partnerships, including the USACE Great Lakes Coastal Resiliency Study. Ongoing projects include development of North Shore Resiliency Plan, South Shore Resiliency Plan. South Shore plan kicked off community engagement events in November, will be planning 2 more in the next few months. Ongoing coordinaation with the Shoreline Management Working Group.		
8	Promote coastal tourism and recreation	tara.jagadeesh@illinois.gov	10%	Ongoing	Coastal provides competitive grants that include improving access and recreation to Lake Michigan. 2024 Coastal Grant program just closed so we will be reviewing grants later this month. Initial phases of planning William Powers event. Coordinating with other divisions and providing funding for site improvements at William Powers.	Staff capacity	
9	Increase transportation of commercial goods and upgrade ports		5%	Ongoing	Coastal provided a grant to Delta for capacity support to IIPD. As part of their work, Delta helps to identify funding sources and helps IIPD apply for grants	Needs additional coordination with IDOT - they are more suited to focus on this	
10	Protect and restore coastal habitats	tara.jagadeesh@illinois.gov	0%	Ongoing	Various ongoing projects and initiatives - Healthy Port Futures project at Illinois Beach State Park, applying to fed funding opportunities for hydrologic study at IBSP, competitive grants, capacity funding for building partnerships and identifying needs for coastal restoration. Increased capacity to work on this topic - new dedicated staff person. Provide capacity support in Waukegan through a grant.		
11	Evaluate feasibility of alternative energy in Lake MI and define acceptable locations	loren.wobig@illinois.gov	90%		Defined acceptable and unacceptable zones of potential turbine construction that would abide by the Public Trust Doctrine. State leaders need to finalize by determining which parameters are considered critical and which are not.	Need to understand who is responsible for organizing the workgroup, moving this forward	
Flood Damage Mitigation							
Terra McParland - terra.mcp@illinois.gov							
1	Update rainfall data by modeling future/seasonal data changes	Terra.McParland@illinois.gov	16%	12/31/2024	Contract is signed between OWR and ISWS to do research and prepare a report. ISWS has begun research. Coordination/Status Meeting was held with team in October 2023.	FY23 & FY24 - \$153,681 (funded)	Funding required past FY24
2	Develop a hydraulic model database	Terra.McParland@illinois.gov	2%	12/31/2026	Contract is signed between OWR and ISWS. Work to begin FY24 to develop the database and bring in ISWS models. Coordination/Status Meeting will be held with team in Feb 2024.	FY24 - \$20,099, FY25 - \$25,000, FY26 - \$35,000 then \$10,000 annually (FY24 funded)	Funding required past FY24
3	Generate 2-D hydraulic modeling for targeted areas in the state	Glenn.Heistand@illinois.edu	0%	12/31/2030	Ongoing discussions. ISWS is coordinating with FEMA/IEMA and other partners to provide support.	UNK	Funding availability for new program
4	Develop dynamic inundation mapping for targeted areas in the state	Terra.McParland@illinois.gov	7%	12/31/2030	Contract is signed for ISWS to provide technical GIS support. Coordination has started. IL River mapping to be completed first. Coordination/Status Meeting was held with team in October 2023.	FY 23 - \$6,800, FY24 - \$20,000, then \$20,000 annually (FY23/FY24 funded)	OWR GIS staffing availability and funding past FY24
5	Perform structural damage assessments for targeted areas in the state	Terra.McParland@illinois.gov	7%	12/31/2030	ISWS Contract signed for SAFR uploads/maintenance. Ongoing Data Collection/Processing - E. Peoria. To be Uploaded FY23/FY24 - IL River, Middle MS Ph 1&2, Middle Fork. Partners agreed to work on Des Plaines River updates, Upper Rock River and Middle MS Ph 3. Coordination/Status Meeting was held with team in October 2023.	FY23 - \$55,000, FY24 - \$60,000 then \$60,000 annually (FY23/FY24 funded)	OWR GIS/survey staffing availability and funding past FY24
6	Identify 2 underserved communities per year that require flood planning assistance	Terra.McParland@illinois.gov	0%	12/31/2024	None.	FY24 - \$4,000	Waiting for Int. Man. to develop criteria. OWR staffing availability.
7	Develop a pilot urban flood warning system	Terra.McParland@illinois.gov	0%	12/31/2024	Made contacts at IAFSM conference. Next step is to hold partner calls to determine location. See if any federal funding is available.	\$25,000 annually	Need to determine who will pay for and maintain sensors. If state agency, funding reqd.
8	Develop GIS-based database of existing flood protective infrastructure and future needs	Zachary.Krug@illinois.gov	0%	12/31/2030	Meeting held with IEMA Dec 2023. IEMA to provide updates next quarterly Task Force Meeting	TBD annual	Need staffing/funding for new program.

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9	Develop outreach tool to help find flood impact funding opportunities Zachary Krug Krug Zachary.Krug@illinois.gov	0%	12/31/2030	Meeting held with IEMA Dec 2023. IEMA to provide updates next quarterly Task Force Meeting	TBD one time	Need staffing/funding to develop tool	
10	Assess infrastructure and identify future needs for underserved communities as a pilot program Zachary Krug Krug Zachary.Krug@illinois.gov	0%	12/31/2030	Meeting held with IEMA Dec 2023. IEMA to provide updates next quarterly Task Force Meeting	TBD annual	Need Item 6 completed. Need staffing/funding for new program.	
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	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	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	
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.	FY24-F26 - \$10,000	Need partner support and maybe legislation passed.	
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	
Aquatic & Riparian Habitat Brian Metzke - brian.metzke@illinois.gov							Updated 1/4/2024
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 for implementation	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 and then \$150,000 annually	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.	

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17	Brian Metzke Brian.Metzke@illinois.gov	0%	tbd	Resource needs under development.	unknown	Staff availability. Funding.	
18	Brian Metzke Brian.Metzke@illinois.gov	0%	tbd	Resource needs under development.	unknown	Staff availability. Funding. Requires recommendation 14 complete.	
19	Brian Metzke Brian.Metzke@illinois.gov	50%	tbd	Passed by IL House, but stalled in Senate.	n/a	Legislative process.	
20	Brian Metzke Brian.Metzke@illinois.gov	0%	tbd	Resource needs under development.	n/a	Staff availability. Legislative process.	
Water Use Laws & Regulations Steve Altman - steve.altman@illinois.gov							Updated 1/4/2024
1	Wei Han	5%	12/31/2030	Started reviewing 1983 Illinois Water Use Act. Will meet with IDoA discussing any needs for modification. (10-5-2023) OWR has reviewed and commented Joyce Foundation's summary on Illinois groundwater water statute and governance. The 1983 Water Use Act is the focus as Illinois does not permit groundwater use. The summary will be available to the public along with other states in EPA's regions 5.	N/A		
2	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	
3	Steve Altman	0%					
4	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 study on crop yield preservation under drought conditions. The proposal does not align with the goal of groundwater management and sustainability, and was denied by OWR. MAC was invited to submit a revised proposal that better meets the goal of this task.			
5	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.			
6	Wei Han	0%	12/31/2030	Need to discuss with IWIP in collecting data about high capacity wells. (10-5-2023) OWR participated and potentially will fund partially a consumptive water use impact study conducted by Upper Mississippi River Basin Association (UMRBA). Water use data in Illinois, including high capacity well water use data, will be collected, analyzed and reported along with other 4 UMRBA states. Results of this study will be used to justify the task. (1-3-2024) This task will be appropriately led by IWIP/ISWS.	tbd		
7	EPA	0%					
Navigation Brian McCoy - Brian.McCoy@illinois.gov							Updated 1/4/2024
1	Brian McCoy	0%	TBD	• 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.			1
2	Brian McCoy	0%	TBD	• February 2024 IDOT State Planning and Research Program call for plans and studies projects; 15 marine plans/studies awarded since 2018 • IL State Freight Plan Published Fall 2023. • IL Long Range Transportation Plan Update is underway • Port Facilities Capitol Investment Grant Program 13 of 23 Projects Awarded 2021	Need a consistent annual appropriation to provide for IMTS capital needs.		2
3	Brian McCoy	0%	TBD	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 switchboat implementation. https://www.mvr.usace.army.mil/Missions/Navigation/NESP.aspx Annual Funding appropriated for Funding for Lagrange (Lock 8), Brand Road. \$732mil funded for L&D 25 to construct 1200' Chamber	Backlog of Maintenance for Upper Mississippi and Illinois River = \$1.6 Bil as of FY21	Given recent funding with IJIA, lock and dam projects are underway. However, funding for Lock and Dam maintenance, expansion, and replacement projects are limited. Annual appropriations provide some relief to the needs of the system but are not consistent. Needs are still outpacing funding availability. Lock closures due to maintenance create unreliability within the IMTS.	3
4	Brian McCoy	0%	TBD	Include implement policies for 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. USACE database?			4
5	Brian McCoy	0%	TBD	ILWW Transportation Study RFP in late 2024. 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	Brian McCoy	0%	Ongoing	Ongoing: Annual dredging operations are fully utilized due to low water events and long term programmed channel mainenance projects. USACE completing construction of channel structures to help maintain channel depth.			6

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7	Utilize dredged material in infrastructure projects	BJ Murray	100%	Study Published 11/30/2022	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 update planned late Fall of 2023 to include an interactive map with a BUDM sites layer and site contact information.		Complete	
8	Protect the IMTS environment	Brian McCoy	0%	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On 6/23/2023 IDOT held a webinar with Port Districts and agency personnel to discuss port electrification and Federal grant funds available to reduce carbon-emitting equipment at ports. 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. F23 IDOT funded the Resiliency Improvement Plan FY24 IDOT funded the Illinois International Port District Infrastructure Sustainability & Climate Resiliency Plan 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. 		7	
9	Navigation Outreach and Education using IWIC	Brian McCoy	0%	TBD		The Port District Governor board appointments are needed.	8	
10	Establish IDOT Marine Transportation Section	BJ Murray	100%	10/1/2022	Brian McCoy onboarded to the IMTS section		Complete	
Erosion & Sedimentation Brian Rennecker - brian.rennecker@illinois.gov								Updated 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%					

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24	Expand IDOA staffing to assist in conservation efforts	0%					
25	Establish IDOA outreach/educational position	0%					
Data Management Laura Keefer - lkeefe@illinois.edu							Updated 7/6/2023
1	Assess streamgage network ability to meet current and future water data needs for everyone	Laura Keefer - lkeefe@illinois.edu	0%		Developing a proposal & determine funding needs		
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	Draft legislation has been developed for Spring 2024 GA Session working with Uof I/PRI. Next step is to evaluate structure and operations		
Recreation Michael McClelland - Michael.McClelland@illinois.gov							Updated 12/22/2022
1	Enact Aquatic Conservation Stamp on licenses to fund ANS management		0%				
2	Create invasive species education center as part of the Brandon Road Interbasin Project		0%				
3	Maintain and improve state waterbody access and focus on underserved locations		0%				
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%				
6	Develop mobile app with multitude of angling information		0%				
7	Outreach about waterway access laws & regulations		0%				
8	Develop a webpage and mobile app focused on low-head dam safety and navigation		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%				