

2023

# INDIANA DRINKING WATER AND WASTEWATER UTILITIES REGIONAL MEETINGS LEGISLATIVE REPORT

PREPARED BY: INDIANA FINANCE AUTHORITY

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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As required by IC 5-1.2-11.5-6 (“Act”), the Indiana Finance Authority (“IFA”) submits to the Indiana General Assembly the data gathered from the State’s 2021 and 2022 regional water planning meetings. This report fulfills the reporting requirement set forth in Section 6(e) of the Act.

In 2021 and 2022, 47 regional water planning meetings were held throughout the State of Indiana, with approximately 1,155 utility representatives in attendance.

Frequent regional meeting topics in 2021 and 2022 included:

- Regional water studies
- Supply chain concerns
- Work in right-of-way issues
- Recruitment and retainage challenges
- Power outages
- Lead Service Line Inventory work.

## INTRODUCTION

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In 2018, the Indiana Legislative Council convened the Water Infrastructure Task Force (“Task Force”) to study drinking water and wastewater utility needs and best practices in Indiana. One recommendation of the Task Force was for the State to assist utilities with long term planning by establishing Water Infrastructure Study Areas for the purpose of studying supply and demand, drought preparedness, infrastructure needs, and opportunities for utility collaboration within a region.

As a result of these recommendations, the 2019 Indiana General Assembly enacted Senate Enrolled Act 4 (“SEA 4,” now Section 6 of IC 5-1.2-11.5, the “Act”). The Act requires the IFA to conduct regional meetings throughout the State to help drinking water and wastewater utilities work together to address long term planning needs. The Act also requires drinking water and wastewater utilities to participate in regional meetings to qualify for assistance from the IFA and to report participation to the IFA. Lastly, the Act requires the IFA to summarize and prepare a report for the Indiana General Assembly on November 1 of every odd-numbered calendar year.

To create the State of Indiana’s regional map, the IFA began in 2020 by conducting (or participating in) a series of regional water planning meetings throughout the State for the purpose of collecting input from utilities on how the regional map should be configured. The majority of utilities wanted the boundaries to follow county boundaries and be clustered into areas based on existing relationships between utilities and/or watershed boundaries. [Appendix A](#) displays the final map. While utilities may attend a regional meeting outside of their region, the intention is that they attend one in their region to get the benefits of interacting with their neighbors.

Regional meetings are for utility personnel, board members, and elected officials, and only these individuals can meet the attendance requirement. Examples of utility representatives who can meet the attendance requirement are listed in Table 1. A sign-in sheet is used to document utility participation. Consultants and contractors are welcome to attend when they attend at the invitation of a utility who is also attending.

Table 1: Examples of utility representatives who can meet the attendance requirement.

Utility Leadership	Utility Operations	Utility Billing/Other	Utility Elected Officials
Superintendent, Office Manager, Town Manager	Operator, Treatment Plant Manager, Distribution Collection System Manager, Laborer, Apprentice	Clerk, Billing Manager, Communications Manager	Board Members, Town Council, Mayor, Clerk-Treasurer

## APPROACH

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In 2021 and 2022, the IFA continued conducting planning meetings in all regions of the State. In some cases, the IFA managed all the meeting arrangements, but in most cases the IFA worked with the host utility to find a location and determine meeting time and date. Where possible, the IFA held meetings in conjunction with partner utility associations’ events (e.g., Alliance of Indiana Rural Water, Indiana Section of the American Water Works Association, and Indiana Wastewater Operators Association meetings and conferences, etc.). This approach served to reduce utility travel and reporting requirements, increase participation, and minimize duplicative efforts.

Setting the regional meeting agenda was a collaborative effort. In some instances, utilities arranged the entire agenda. Other times, utilities suggested the topics and the IFA identified the speakers.

Utilities decided how often to meet; some meet quarterly, most meet twice per year. The schedule and location of regional meetings is advertised on the IFA Regional Planning Meeting website,<sup>1</sup> and is also sent by email to utilities twice a year.

The IFA applied for Continuing Education Credits, or “CEUs,” for drinking water and wastewater certified operators who attend the regional meetings and submitted necessary paperwork to the Indiana Department of Environmental Management.

Unless a regional meeting is held as part of another group’s conference, there is no cost to attend a regional meeting.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.in.gov/ifa/regional-planning-meetings/>

## DISCUSSION OF RESULTS

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From January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2022, 47 regional meetings were held and attended by approximately 1,155 persons. See Table 2. The list of utilities that attended a regional meeting during that period is listed in [Appendix B](#).

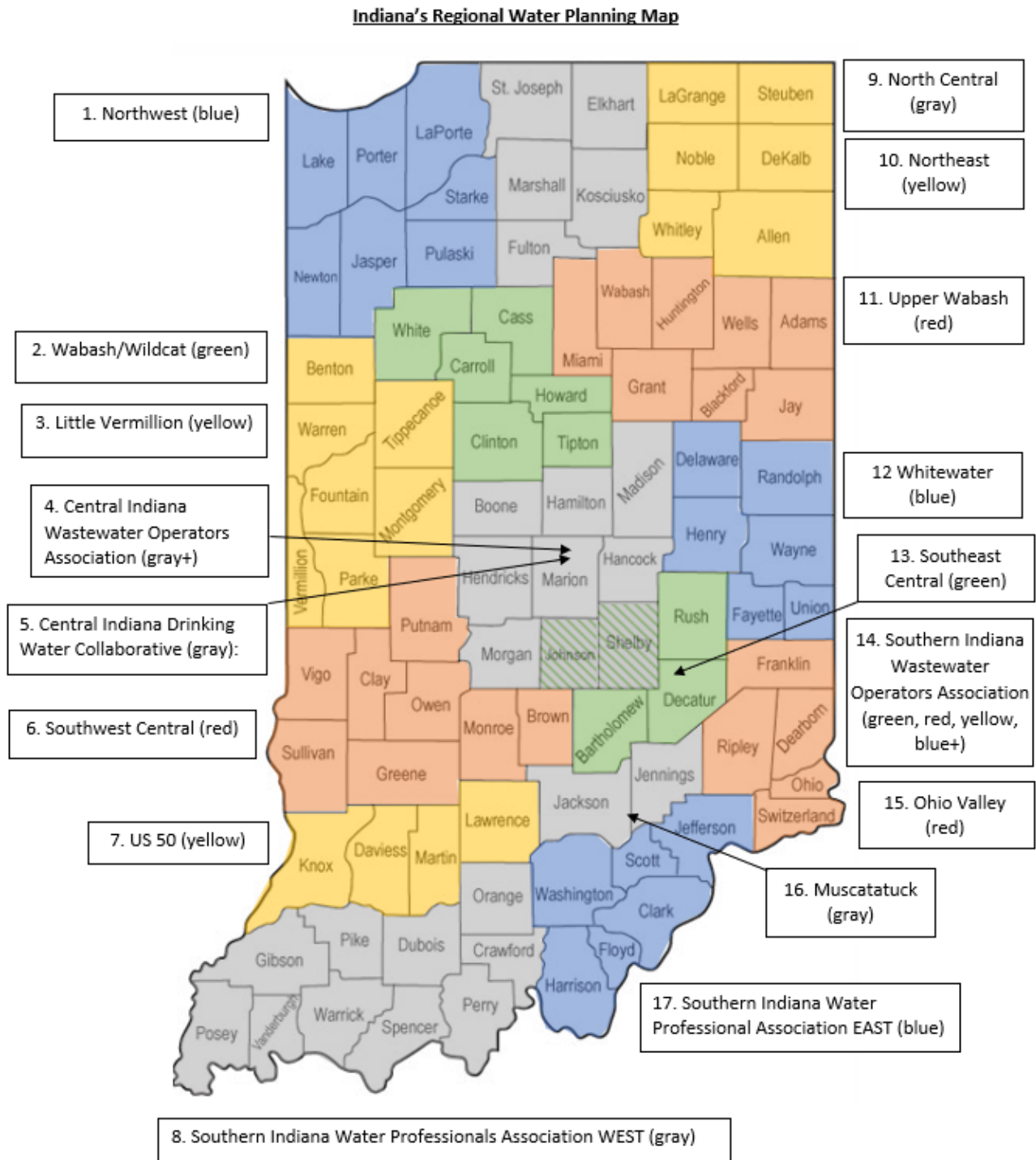
Table 2. Number of regional meetings and utilities in attendance in Calendar Year 2021 and 2022.

	Number of Regional Meetings	Number of people attending
2021	19	385
2022	28	770
TOTAL	47	1,155

Frequent regional meeting topics in 2021 and 2022 included:

- Regional water studies
  - The most notable regional water study undertaken during the time period, is the [Southeast I-74 Water Study](#), which assessed the public water demand and supply needs in Hancock, Henry, Johnson, Shelby, Rush, Bartholomew, Jackson, and Decatur counties.
- Supply chain problems
  - Many drinking water and wastewater utilities were impacted by supply chain problems mostly as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Work in right-of-way issues
  - A utility right-of-way may contain drinking water and wastewater infrastructure but may also house power, gas, and telecommunication infrastructure as well. Installation and operation of multiple utilities in a limited space can create challenges.
- Recruitment and retainage challenges
  - Finding, training, and keeping a quality workforce is a challenge most utilities face.
- Power outages
  - Power outages can impact drinking water and wastewater utilities.
- Lead Service Line Inventory work
  - Indiana drinking water utilities are obligated to inventory both the utility-owned and the customer-owned portions of their service lines and report findings to the Indiana Department of Environmental Management by October 2024.

APPENDIX A: INDIANA'S REGIONAL WATER PLANNING MAP



## APPENDIX B: LIST OF UTILITIES THAT PARTICIPATED IN IFA REGIONAL MEETINGS

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*Reporting timeframe is January 2021 – December 2022*

Aberdeen Pate Water Company	Blue River Regional Water District
Adams County Regional Sewer District	Bluffton, City of Utilities
Akron Water Department	Boonville, Veolia Water
Albany, Town of Utilities	Borden Tri County Regional Water District
Allen County Regional Water and Sewer District	Boswell, Town of Utilities
Anderson Township RSD	Bourbon, Town of Utilities
Anderson, City of Utilities	Brazil, City of Utilities
Andrews, Town of Utilities	Bremen Water Department
And-Tro Water Authority	Bristol, Town of Utilities
Angola Utilities	Brooklyn, Town of Utilities
Arcadia, Town of Utilities	Brookston, Town of Utilities
Ashley, Town of Utilities	Brookville Lake Regional Waste District
Atlanta, Town of Utilities	Brookville Utilities
Attica, City of Utilities	Brown County Water
Auburn, City of Utilities	Brownsburg, Town of Utilities
Aurora, Town of Utilities	Brownstown Wastewater Utility
Avilla, Town of Utilities	Bunker Hill, Town of Utilities
Bainbridge Municipal Utilities	Burlington, Town of Utilities
Bargersville, Town of Utilities	Burnt Pines Water Association
Batesville Water & Gas Utility	Butler Water Department
Battle Ground Conservancy District	Cambridge City, Town of Utilities
Battle Ground, City of Wastewater Utility	Camden, Town of Utilities
BBP Water Corporation	Cannelton Municipal Utilities
Bear High Wolf Lakes RSD	Carbon, Town of Utilities
Bedford, City of Utilities	Carlisle Water Department
Ben Davis Conservancy District	Carmel, City of Utilities
Berne, City of Utilities	Cayuga Water Department
Bicknell, City of Utilities	Cedar Lake, Town of Utilities
Birdseye, Town of	Center Point, Town of Utilities
Bloomington, City of Utilities	Centerville, Town of Utilities



Chalmers, Town of Utilities  
Chandler, Town of Utilities  
Chrisney Water Department  
Churubusco, Town of Utilities  
Cicero, Town of Utilities  
Citizens Energy Group  
Clarksville, Town of Utilities  
Clear Creek Conservancy District  
Clinton, City of Utilities  
Cloverdale, Town of Utilities  
Colfax, Town of  
Columbia City Utilities  
Columbus, City of Utilities  
Community Utilities of Indiana  
Connersville Utilities  
Converse, Town of Utilities  
Cordry-Sweetwater Conservancy District  
Crawford County Water Company Inc.  
Crawfordsville Utilities  
Cromwell, Town of Utilities  
Crothersville Utilities  
Crown Point, City of Utilities  
Culver, Town of Utilities  
Cynthiana Water Works  
Dale, Town of  
Daleville, Town of Utilities  
Dana, Town of Utilities  
Danville Utilities  
Daviess Co. Rural Water  
Dayton, Town of Utilities  
Decatur County Rural Water Corporation  
Decatur, City of Utilities  
Dillsboro Utilities  
Dubois Water Utilities  
Duff Water Corporation  
Dyer, Town of Utilities  
East Chicago, City of Utilities  
East Enterprise Sewage District  
East Fork Water Inc.  
East Washington Rural Water  
Eastern Bartholomew Water Corporation  
Eastern Heights Utilities  
Eaton, Town of Utilities  
Edinburgh, Town of Utilities  
Edwardsville Water Corporation  
Elberfeld, Town of Utilities  
Elkhart, City of Utilities  
Ellis Water Company  
Elwood Utilities  
Evansville Utilities  
Fall Creek Regional Waste District  
Farmersburg WWTP  
Ferdinand, Town of Utilities  
Fillmore, Town of Utilities  
Fishers, City of Utilities  
Flora Water Works  
Florence Regional Sewage District  
Floyds Knobs Water Company  
Fort Branch Utilities  
Fort Wayne, City of Utilities  
Fortville, Town of Utilities  
Fowlerton, Town of WWTP  
Frankfort, Town of Utilities  
Franklin County Water Association  
Frankton, Town of Utilities  
Fulda Regional Sewer District

Galveston, Town of Utilities	Huntington, City of Utilities
Garrett Utilities	Indiana American Water
Gary Sanitary District	Ireland Utilities
Gaston, Town of Utilities	Jackson County Water - Reddington
Geneva Water Works	Jackson County Water Utility, Inc.
Georgetown, Town of Utilities	Jasonville, City of Utilities
Gibson Water	Jasper Municipal Utilities
Glenwood, Town of Utilities	Jeffersonville, City of Utilities
Goshen, City of Utilities	Jennings Northwest Regional Utilities
Grabill, Town of Utilities	Jennings Water Inc.
Grandview, Town of Utilities	Jonesboro, City of Utilities
Greencastle Utilities	Kent Water
Greendale, City of Utilities	Kentland, Town of Utilities
Greenfield Utilities	Kewanna Water Works
Greensburg, City of	Kingman, Town of Utilities
Greentown, Town of Utilities	Kingsford Heights
Greenville Water Utility	Kirklin, Town of Utilities
Greenwood Utilities	Knightsville, Town of Utilities
Griffith, Town of Utilities	Knox Water Works
Hammond, City of Utilities	Kokomo, City of Utilities
Hanover, Town of Utilities	Kouts, Village of Utilities
Harrison County Regional Sewer District	L&M Regional Water District
Hartford City, Town of Utilities	La Crosse, Town of Utilities
Haubstadt, Town of Utilities	La Grange County Regional Utility District
Hayden Water Association, Inc.	La Porte, City of Utilities
Henryville Membership Sanitation Corporation	Lafayette, City of Utilities
Highland Water Works	LaFontaine, Town of Utilities
Hobart Sanitary District	LaGrange, Town of Utilities
Holland, Town of Utilities	Lagro, Town of Utilities
Holton Community Water Corporation	Lake Dalecarlia Regional Waste District
Hope, Town of Utilities	Lakeville, Town of Utilities
Huntertown Utilities	Lanesville Utilities
Huntingburg, City of Utilities	Laurel, Town of Utilities

Lawrence, City of Utilities	Monroe, Town of Utilities
Lawrenceburg Municipal Utilities	Montgomery, Town of Utilities
Leavenworth Water	Monticello, City of Utilities
Lebanon, City of Utilities	Montpelier, City of Utilities
Lewisville, Town of Utilities	Moorefield/Bennington Sewer District
Ligonier Utilities	Morgan County Rural Water Corporation
Lindon, Town of	Morgantown Utilities
Linton, City of Utilities	Mount Summit, Town of Utilities
Little Raccoon Regional Sewer District	Mount Vernon Utilities
Lizton, Town of Utilities	Mulberry, Town of Utilities
LMS Conservancy District	Munster, Town of Utilities
Logansport Municipal Utilities	Muscatatuck Urban Training Center
Luce Township Regional Sewer District	Napoleon Comm. Rural Water Corporation
Madison, City of	Nappanee Utilities
Mapleturn Utilities (Morgan County)	Nashville Utilities
Marengo, Town of	New Carlisle, Town of Utilities
Marion Utilities	New Castle, City of Utilities
Marshall Water Works	New Chicago Utilities
Marysville Otisco Nabb Water	New Haven, City of Utilities
Matthews, Town of WWTP	New Market Water
Maysville Regional Water & Sewer District	New Pekin, Town of
Merrillville Conservancy District	New Richmond Utilities
Michigan City Water Works	New Ross, Town of Utilities
Michigantown, Town of Utilities	Newburgh Wastewater Facility
Middlebury, Town of Utilities	Ninestar Connect Utilities (Hancock County)
Middletown, Town of Utilities	Noblesville, City of Utilities
Milan, Town of	North Dearborn Water Corporation
Milford, Town of Utilities	North Judson, Town of Utilities
Millersburg Water Works	North Lawrence Water Authority
Milton, Town of Utilities	North Liberty, Town of Utilities
Mishawaka Utilities	North Manchester, Town of Utilities
Monon Utilities	North Salem, Town of Utilities
Monroe City, Town Utilities	North Vernon Water

Oaktown Water	Rockport, Town of Utilities
Odon, Town of Utilities	Rockville, Town of Utilities
Ogden Dunes, Town of Utilities	Romney Regional Sewer District
Oolitic Water Works	Royal Center Utilities
Orestes, Town of Utilities	Rural Membership Water Corporation
Orleans, Town of	Rushville, City of Utilities
Otterbein, Town of Utilities	Russellville, Town of Utilities
Oxford Utilities	Salem Water
Palmyra, Town of Utilities	Santa Claus Utilities
Paoli, Town of	Schererville, Town of Water Department
Patoka Lake Regional Water & Sewer District	Scottsburg Water
Patoka Water Company	Seelyville, Town of Utilities
Patriot Water	Sellersburg Water
Pendleton, Town of Utilities	Seymour, City of Utilities
Peru Utilities	Shamrock Lakes WWTP
Petersburg Water	Shelburn Municipal Water
Plainfield, Town of Utilities	Shelbyville, City of Utilities
Plymouth, City of Utilities	Sheridan, Town of Utilities
Portland Utilities	Silver Creek Water Corporation
Poseyville Utilities	Silver Lake, Town of Utilities
Pretty Lake Conservancy District	Sisters of Providence
Princes Lakes Utilities	South Bend, City of Utilities
Princeton, City of	South Dearborn RSD
Ramsey Water Co. Inc.	South Harrison Water
Reelsville Water Authority	South Henry Regional Waste District
Rensselaer, City of Utilities	Speedway Utilities
Reynolds, City of Utilities	Spencer, Town of Utilities
Richmond, City of Utilities	Spiceland, Town of Utilities
Ridgeville, Town of Utilities	Springs Valley Regional Water District
Rising Sun Municipal Utilities	Spurgeon Water
River Ridge Development Authority	St. Anthony Utilities
Roachdale, Town of Utilities	St. Bernice Utilities
Rochester, City of Utilities	St. Henry Water Corporation

St. Joe - Spencerville Regional Sewer District	Veedersburg, Town of Utilities
St. John, Town of Utilities	Vernon, Town of Utilities
St. Leon, Town of Utilities	Versailles, Town of Utilities
St. Paul, Town of Utilities	Vincennes Water
Staunton, Town of Utilities	Wakarusa, Town of Utilities
Steuben Lakes Regional Waste District	Waldron Conservancy District
Sullivan Utilities	Walton, Town of Utilities
Sullivan-Vigo Rural Water Corp.	Wanatah, Town of Utilities
Summitville, Town of Utilities	Warren, Town of Utilities
Sunman, Town of	Warsaw, City of Utilities
Swayzee, Town of Utilities	Waterloo, Town of Utilities
Syracuse, Town of Utilities	Watson Water
Tell City Utilities	Waynetown, Town of Utilities
Tennyson, Town of Utilities	West College Corner, Town of
Terre Haute, City of Utilities	West Lafayette, City of
Tiptecanoe Chapman Regional Sewer District	West Lebanon, Town of Utilities
Tipton Utilities	West Terre Haute Waste Water
Trafalgar, Town of Utilities	Western Rush County Sewer
Tri-Lakes Regional Sewer District	Westfield, Citizens Water of
Tri-Township Water Corporation	Westport Utilities
Troy Township Water Association	Wheatland, Town of
Turkey Creek RSD	Whitestown, Town of Utilities
Twin Lakes RSD	Williamsport, Town of Utilities
Universal Water Co	Winamac, Town of Utilities
Upland, Town of Water and Sewer	Winchester, City of Utilities
Valley Rural Utility Co.	Windfall, Town of Utilities
Valparaiso Lakes Area Conservancy District (L-A-C Utility)	Wingate, Town of Utilities
Valparaiso, City of Utilities	Wolcottville, Town of Utilities
Van Bibber Lake Conservancy District	Woodburn, City of Utilities