Northwest Regional Meeting

May 2, 2024, Thursday, 10:00-11:30am Central Standard Time (local time)

Valparaiso Lakes Area Conservancy District / LAC Utilities office, 1805 Burlington Beach Rd, Valparaiso, IN 46383

The Northwest Region includes Newton, Jasper, Pulaski, Starke, LaPorte, Porter, and Lake counties but open to all drinking water and wastewater utilities and elected officials who wish to participate. The IFA has applied for Certified Operator CEU hours. There is no cost to attend but registration is appreciated. Register [here](https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/7710859/Northwest-Regional-Planning-Meeting).

Agenda

1. Welcome from Valparaiso Lakes Area Conservancy District
2. Introductions and housekeeping (15 min)
   1. Attendance tracking – sign in sheet and contact list, CEUs
   2. Name, utility, title, professional experience
   3. What projects are you doing in 2024?
3. Katherine Balkema, Indiana Department of Natural Resources Grant Specialist
   1. Assistance from the Lake Michigan Coastal Program (15 min)
4. *INVITED: Louis DeFelice, Electric Operations Manager, NIPSCO*
   1. *Power Outages and Brownouts (20 min)*
5. Roundtable (30 min)
   1. Lead service line inventory work – how is your utility proceeding?
   2. Other topics to bring up?
6. Next meeting (10 min)
   1. Fall 2024 meeting – East Chicago
      1. Topics: Jobs for America’s Graduates (“[JAG](https://www.in.gov/dwd/jag/)”) DWD; other?
7. Adjourn

The purpose of the meetings is to build on the benefits that come from neighboring utilities collaborating to solve similar issues. These meetings are for utility personnel, board members, and elected officials, and only these individuals can meet the attendance requirement. Consultants and contractors are welcome to attend when they attend at the invitation of a utility who is also attending. Utilities may attend a regional meeting outside of their region, but the intention is that they attend one in their region to get the benefits of interacting with their neighbors.

As a reminder, utilities are required to attend at least one regional meeting a year and attending is required for funding assistance from the IFA (IC 5-1.2-11.5-5). The IFA tracks attendance on a 12-month rolling basis. For example, if your utility attended on April 2, 2024, your utility meets the requirement of the rule until April 2, 2025. The list of utilities who have attended a regional meeting is available on the IFA website. <https://www.in.gov/ifa/regional-planning-meetings>