

“IN the Works” – Recent IN Water-Related Task Forces

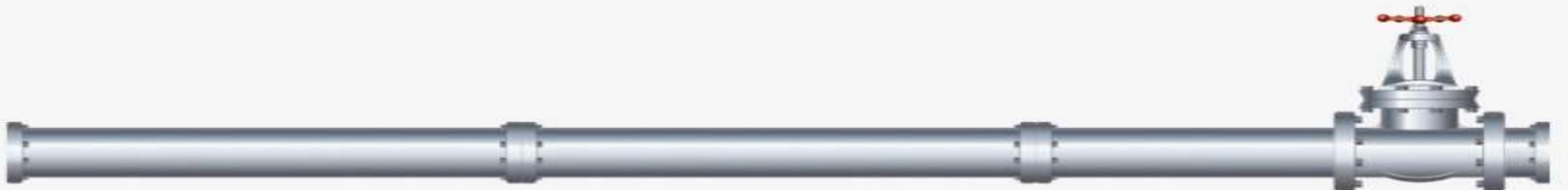
- Water Infrastructure (2017-18)
- Storm Water (2018-19)
- Wastewater Infrastructure and Underserved Areas (2020-21)
- Isolated Wetlands (2021-22)
- Drainage (upcoming 2022-2023)



WATER INFRASTRUCTURE TASK FORCE – 2017-18

The Indiana General Assembly created the Water Infrastructure Task Force to study:

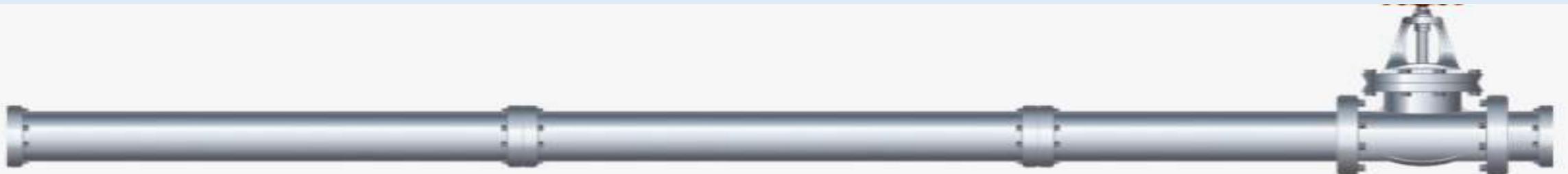
- Standards and funding for drinking water, wastewater management, and storm water management systems, and the potential for regionalizing systems;
- Efforts to reduce nonpoint source impacts on water quality, including programs related to nutrient management, soil health, and drainage water management;
- Potential funding mechanisms to assist local governments to address
 - sewer and water projects including storm water management projects,
 - improving storm water drainage systems, and
 - upgrading deteriorating wastewater and storm water infrastructure.



WATER INFRASTRUCTURE TASK FORCE – Final Report November 2018

Recommendations (page 1 of 2):

- The Executive Branch should evaluate:
 - Requiring asset management plans for all water and wastewater systems;
 - Requiring water-loss audits for drinking water utilities;
 - Establishing utility benchmarks; and
 - Creating a central repository for all reported utility data.
- Prioritize infrastructure needs based on public health & safety, probability and consequences of failure, affordability, and economic development.
 - Adopt and use an established prioritization methodology, and
 - Deploy funding according to that prioritization methodology.



WATER INFRASTRUCTURE TASK FORCE – Final Report November 2018

Recommendations (page 2 of 2):

- Develop a long-term plan for addressing water, wastewater, and stormwater needs.
- Establish Water Infrastructure Study Areas, with required participation by utilities, municipalities, and other entities.
 - In these areas, studies should include opportunities for utility collaboration and other regional synergies.
- Continue the work of the Task Force for another year to focus on storm water issues.
- Appoint a person or persons to oversee all water-related activities including regulation, financing, infrastructure needs, and water supply and demand.

Associated legislation passed, included funding.



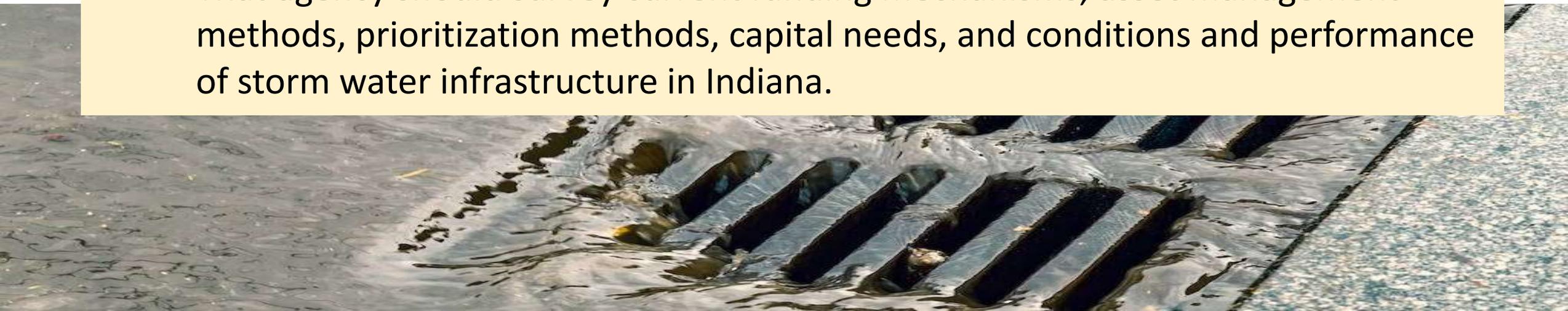
STORM WATER TASK FORCE – 2018-19

The Indiana General Assembly created the Storm Water Task Force “to study issues related to storm water management systems.”

STORM WATER TASK FORCE – Final Report October 2019

Recommendations (page 1 of 2):

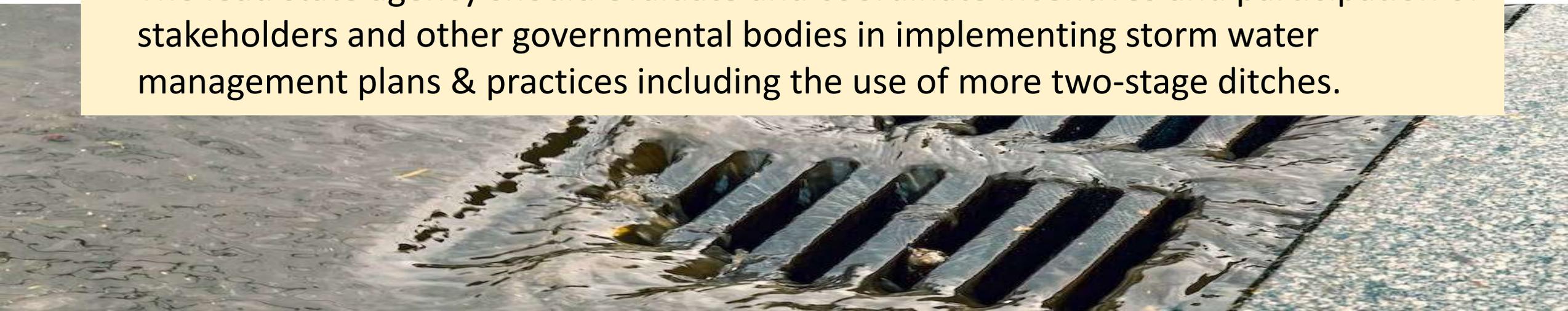
- A single state agency should be designated as the lead agency for storm water issues.
 - That agency should survey current funding mechanisms, asset management methods, prioritization methods, capital needs, and conditions and performance of storm water infrastructure in Indiana.



STORM WATER TASK FORCE – Final Report October 2019

Recommendations (page 2 of 2):

- The Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA) should coordinate with the Indiana Finance Authority and use the IFA's prioritization methodology.
- The "Drainage Code" (IC 36-9-27) should be reviewed to determine whether it encourages best management practices by drainage boards and surveyors.
- Ways should be developed to allow easier cross-county coordination and collaboration using watershed boundaries.
- The lead state agency should evaluate and coordinate incentives and participation of stakeholders and other governmental bodies in implementing storm water management plans & practices including the use of more two-stage ditches.



WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE AND UNDERSERVED AREAS TASK FORCE – 2020-21

The Indiana General Assembly created the Wastewater Infrastructure and Underserved Areas Task Force to assess:

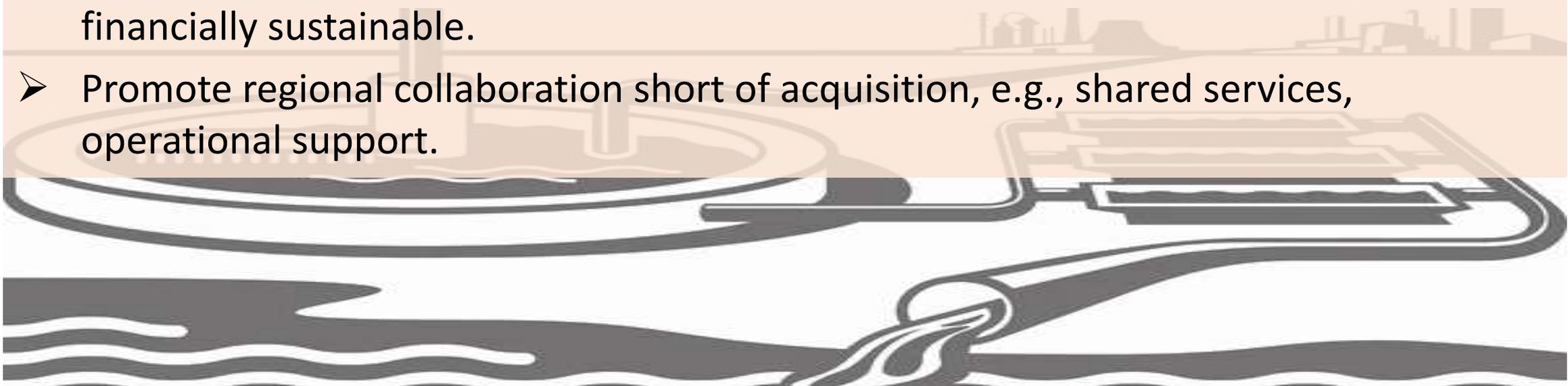
- standards and best practices for maintenance and life-cycle management of systems;
- funding adequacy and opportunities for additional funding;
- regulations and the roles of state agencies in regulating wastewater systems, the status of unregulated systems;
- IFA's prioritization methodology;
- regionalization of systems and opportunities for underserved or unserved areas to connect to systems.



WASTEWATER TASK FORCE – Final Report October 2021

Recommendations (page 1 of 2)

- Systems seeking IFA funding be required to have asset management plans in place, utilities should be required to report lifecycle management costs.
- Systems should be or become financially self-sustaining, and IURC should be able to use rate adjustment mechanisms to balance capital investment needs and the protection of ratepayers from rate shock.
- Streamline the process for acquisition of utilities that are not independently financially sustainable.
- Promote regional collaboration short of acquisition, e.g., shared services, operational support.



WASTEWATER TASK FORCE – Final Report October 2021

Recommendations (page 2 of 2)

- Establish a clear state definition of a failed septic system.
- Encourage IFA, IURC, and local governments to provide financial support to homeowners in unserved or underserved area to transition from failing septic systems to utility wastewater systems.
- Strengthen the state's procedures for identifying, improving or replacing deficient wastewater systems, including placing chronically deficient systems in receivership.
- Develop and implement pilot programs for identifying systems that discharge into the same regional basin and managing discharges to protect drinking water sources.
- Promote vocational education to sustain the utility workforce, and partner with higher ed to provide technical assistance to small systems.

ISOLATED WETLANDS TASK FORCE 2021-22

The General Assembly created the Wetlands Task Force to research and develop recommendations on the following (page 1 of 2):

- Flood risk mitigation benefits of isolated wetlands.
 - Engage researchers to understand the ‘tipping point’, what storage has been lost where
- Carbon-capture benefits of isolated wetlands and how to strengthen Indiana carbon markets.
 - Make wetlands part of larger carbon market legislation and efforts
- Improvements to the isolated wetland permitting process under IC 13-18-22.
 - Continued refinement of new worksheet tool
- Incentives to preserve existing isolated wetlands and to avoid impacts during development.
 - Explore model ordinance regarding density trade-offs
 - State and local tax incentives (potential legislation)



ISOLATED WETLANDS TASK FORCE 2021-22

Task & Draft Recommendations (page 2 of 2)

- How to keep compliance costs of state regulations down for builders while protecting isolated wetlands.
 - Recognize time is money; process improvements, including Army Corps review times and IDEM staffing needs
 - Find other development cost savings trade-offs at local level
- Reviewing current mitigation ratios and “in lieu of” options.
 - Cooperation with Co. Surveyors on regional detention needs and ‘off-line’ projects
 - ID watershed needs/losses, develop a targeted approach and public-facing project tracking system
- Aligning state wetland classifications and nomenclature with those used by the Army Corps
 - Classification alignment is difficult, many case by case needs at both levels

