

Politics and Water

Presentation to the
Michiana Irrigation Association
December 14, 2015



Pumped beyond limits, many U.S. aquifers in decline - Internet Explorer

http://www.desertsun.com/story/news/environment/2015/11/11/pumped-beyond-limits-many-u-s-aquifers-in-decline/3641110002/

The Desert Sun HOME NEWS SPORTS BUSINESS LIFE OPINION OBITUARIES 56° USA TODAY MORE

Pumped beyond limits, many U.S. aquifers in decline

NATIONWIDE ANALYSIS SHOWS DEPLETION OF GROUNDWATER WIDESPREAD AND WORSENING

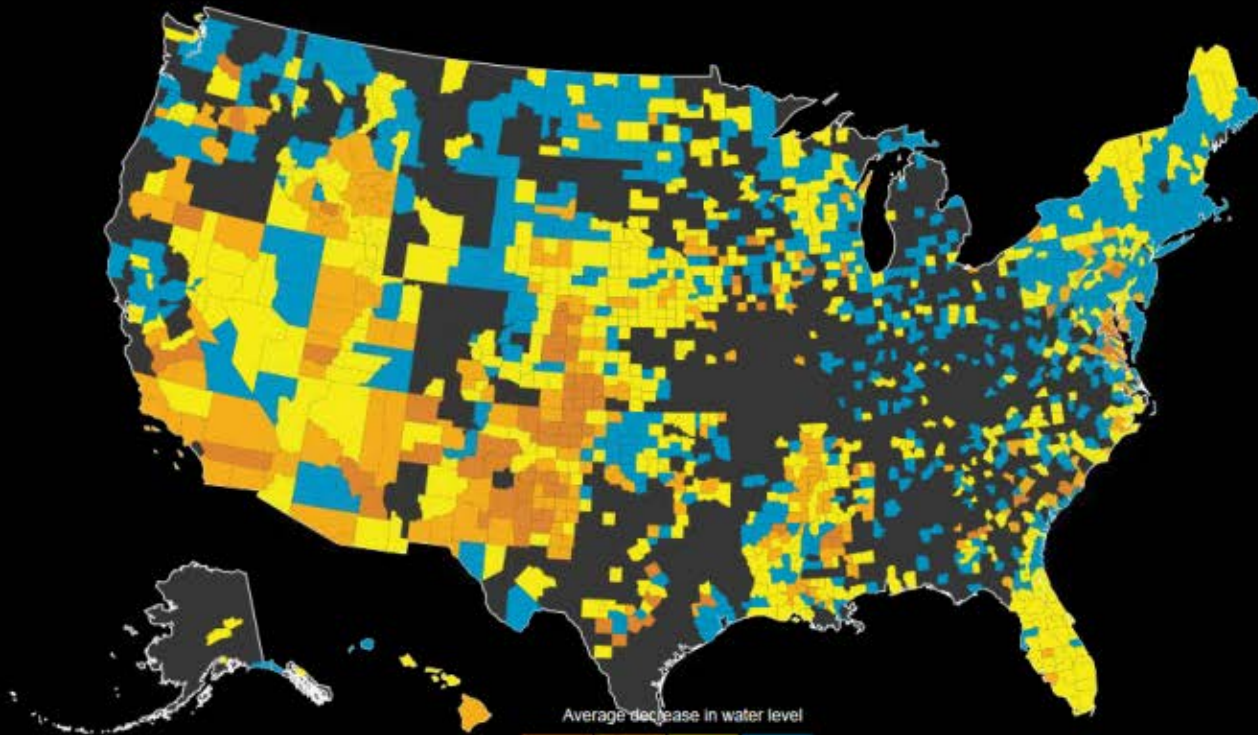
Story by Ian James and Steve Reilly | Photos and video by Steve Elfers

CHAPTER 1

11:08 AM
12/11/2015



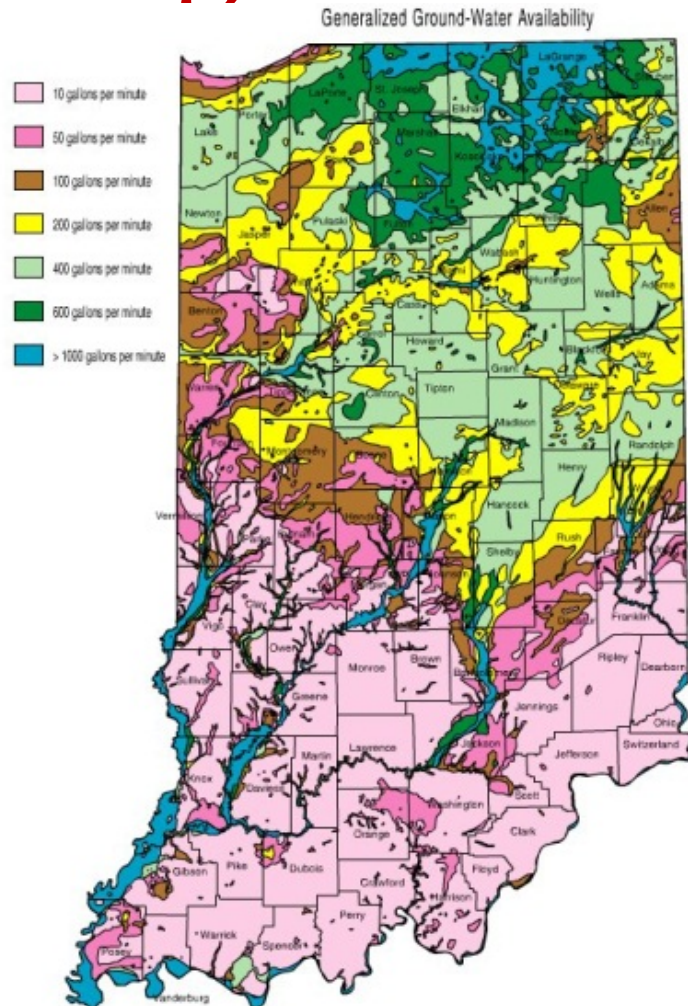
have been dropping.

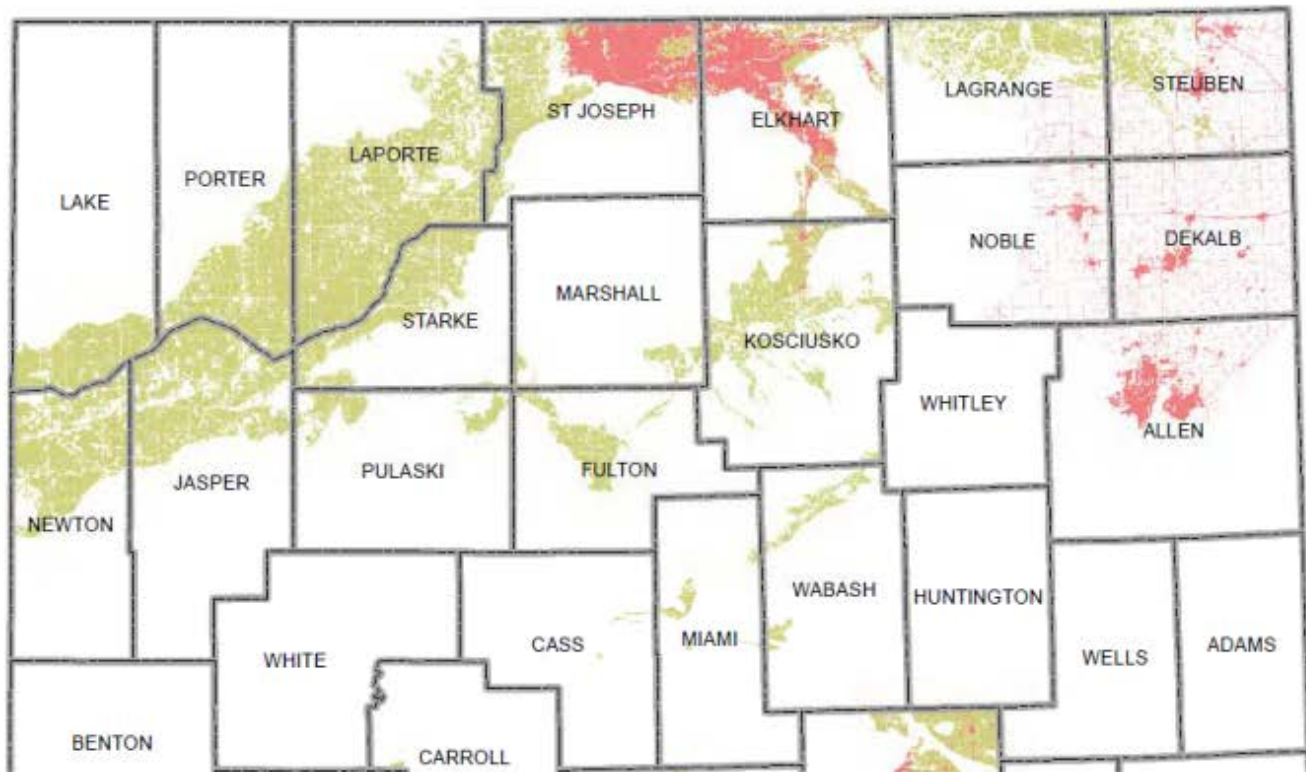


Average decrease in water level
15ft.+ 5-15ft. 0-4ft. increase or stable
Source: USA TODAY/Desert Sun analysis of USGS data

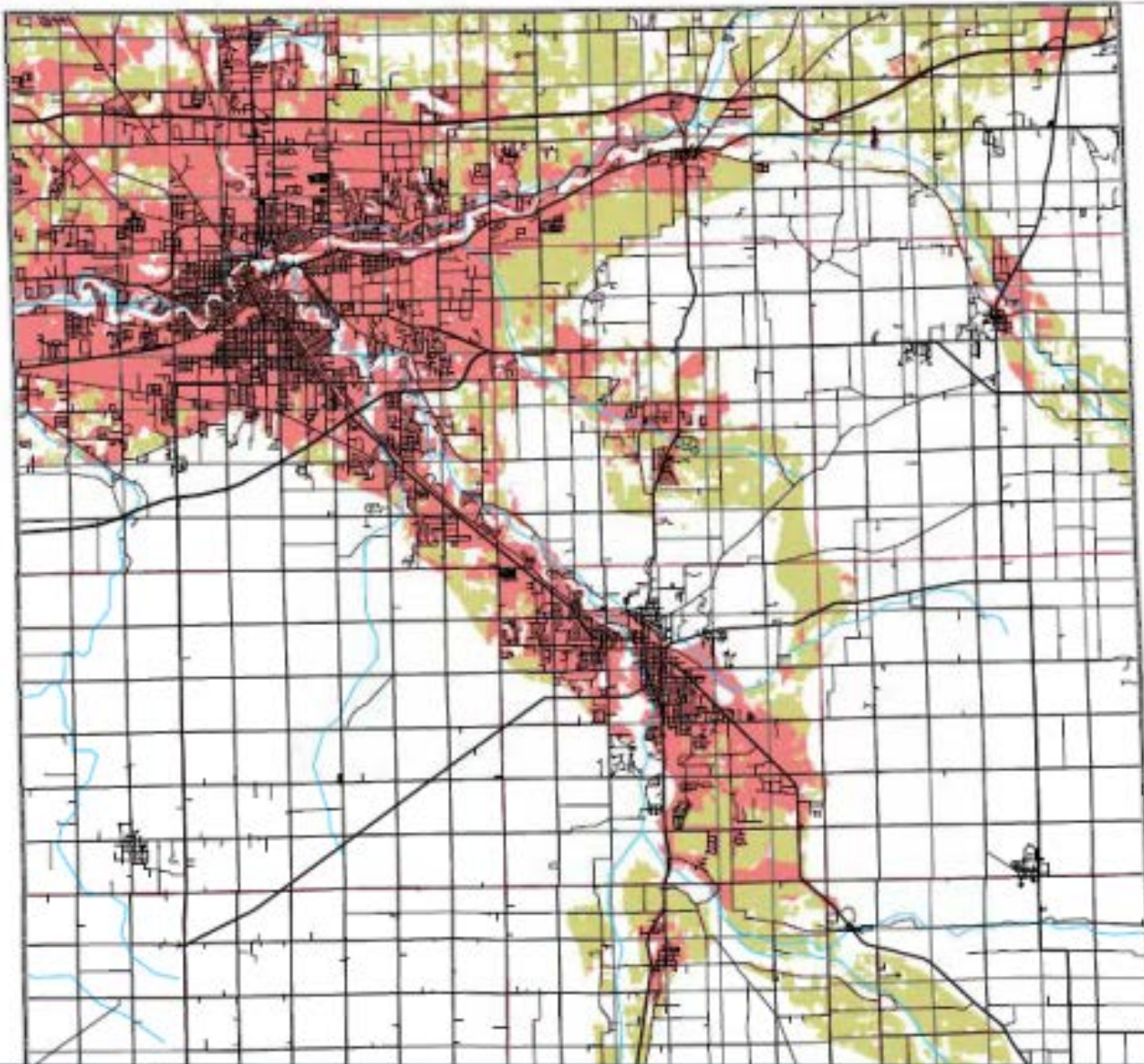


SB 473, HB 1319: Well monitoring network





Elkhart County, Indiana



SB 474: Analysis of water utility planning and needs

- Indiana Finance Authority study
 - 15 largest utilities
 - 5 small service utilities
 - fewer than 10,000

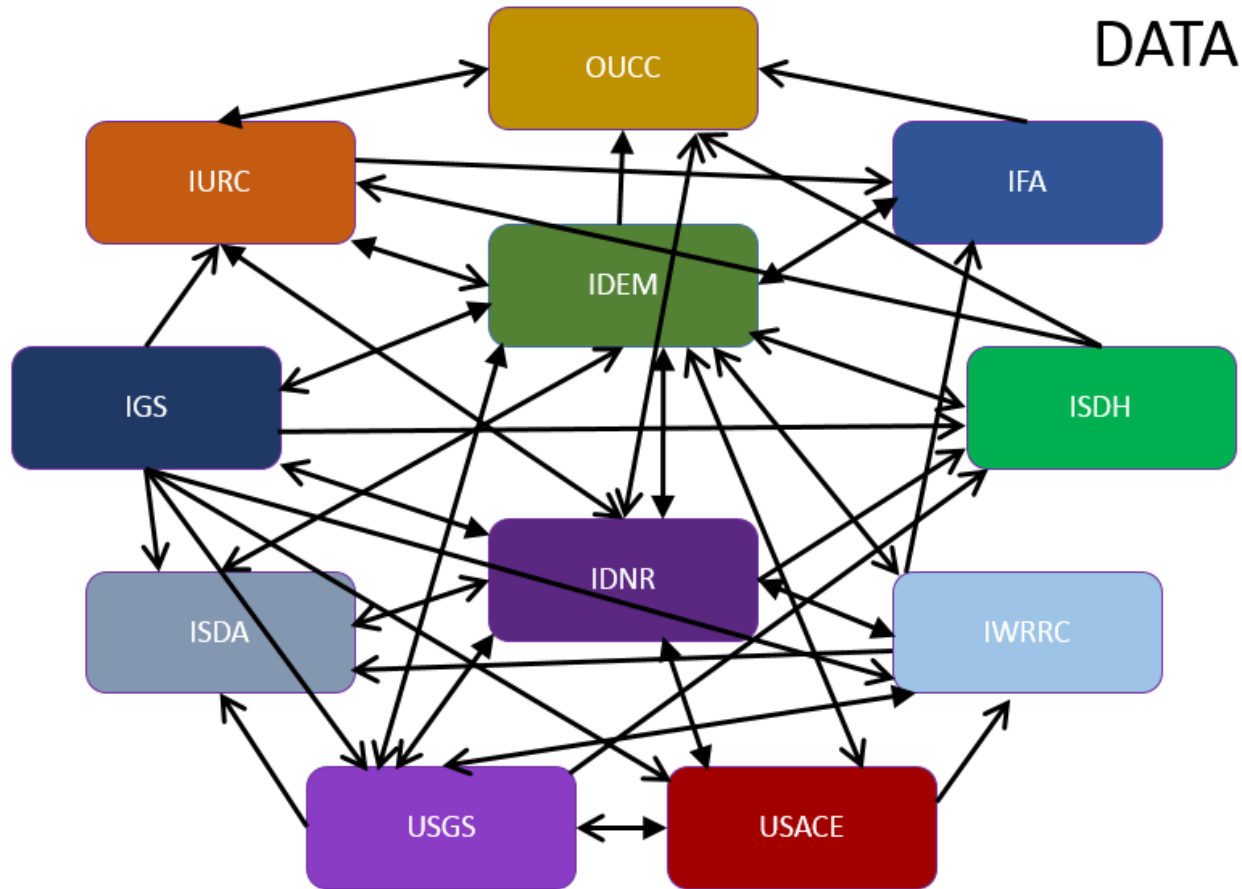


Political Considerations

- Sufficient data collection
- Data analysis and mapping
- Utility cooperation and planning
- Conservation, shortage and drought planning
- Infrastructure needs
- Financing needs
- Oversight



The Regulatory Network





SCIENCE
AUG 4 2014, 5:49 PM ET

Toxic Algae Blooms to Persist on Lake Erie, Experts Say

by JOHN ROACH

Algae blooms on Lake Erie on Oct. 5, 2011. NASA / AP, file

SHARE



Share

Toledo's drinking water is once again safe, Mayor Michael Collins announced as he took a sip from a glass at a Monday morning news conference — but scientists

advertisement



Water Quality



This story is part of IOWA WATER QUALITY ISSUES

Editorial: Ads are smear campaign against Stowe

Consider the cost of Des Moines Water Works lawsuit

Editorial: Don't blame God for water woes

Water Works plans to sue three counties

f 2233

Twitter icon

in 8

Envelope icon

97

Key icon



Timothy Meinch, tmeinch@dmreg.com 4:30 p.m. CST February 4, 2015



(Photo: Charlie Neibergall/AP)

Des Moines Water Works is expected to pursue a lawsuit against three northwestern Iowa counties that manage drainage districts with high concentrations of nitrates.

Water Works officials say the nitrates, which flow into the Raccoon River, threaten the city's water quality.

The Board of Water Works Trustees will vote Thursday to move forward with the lawsuit in what's expected to be a unanimous decision, according to chairman Graham Gillette.

"We really feel we have no choice," he said.

"This is the only way that we see that we can engage the government, especially the state of Iowa, in a serious discussion about regulating those pollutants that are dumped into our source water."

PAST COVERAGE: [Nitrate levels hit record highs in 2 D.M. rivers](#)

How do Iowa farmers protect hogs from sunburns?



IFAC
IOWA FARM ANIMAL CARE

TOP VIDEOS



*Small Changes.
Big Impact.*

 **INDIANA**
NUTRIMENTAL
& SOIL HEALTH

What is NMSH?

collaborative effort

**address concerns in a way
that makes sense**

**position Indiana as a
leader in resource
management and
protection**

Why?

- reduce nutrient loss

How?

- awareness
- research
- monitoring
- education
- implementation



Questions

