

January 7, 2010

**Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Water Resources Regional Body
Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Council
JOINT DECLARATION OF FINDING**

Water Management Program Review
Water Conservation and Efficiency Program Review
State of Ohio

PURPOSE

Pursuant to Section 3.4 of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact (“Compact”), each Party State must submit a report to the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Water Resources Regional Body (Regional Body) and the Great Lakes—St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Council (Compact Council) on actions taken by that State to meet the provisions of the Agreement and Compact. Following the review of such reports, the Compact Council, in cooperation with the Provinces, shall determine if that State’s program meets or exceeds the provisions of the Compact; does not meet the provisions of the Compact; or, would meet the provisions of the Compact if certain modifications were made and what options may exist to assist the jurisdiction in meeting the provisions of the Compact.

Pursuant to Article 300 of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Sustainable Water Resources Agreement (“Agreement”), each Party State and Province must submit a report to the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Water Resources Regional Body (Regional Body) on actions taken by the State or Province on actions taken by that State or Province to meet the provisions of the Agreement. Following the review of such reports, the Regional Body shall determine if that State or Province’s program meets or exceeds the provisions of the Agreement; does not meet the provisions of the Agreement; or, would meet the provisions of the Agreement if certain modifications were made and what options may exist to assist the jurisdiction in meeting the provisions of the Agreement. However, and as noted below, Article 300 of the Agreement has not come into force as of this date, so all such submissions to date and subsequent Declarations of Findings issued pursuant to this Article are recognized as voluntary, and shall not be implied to indicate that Article 300 of the Agreement has come into force.

STIPULATIONS

Entry into Force of the Agreement and Compact

1. The Agreement was signed by the Great Lakes Governors and Premiers on December 13, 2005. Pursuant to Article 709 of the Agreement, the terms of the Agreement do not come into force unless and until all Parties to the Agreement notify all other Parties that measures have been enacted into law, except for the following terms that came into force on December 13, 2005:
 - a. Preamble
 - b. Chapter 1
 - c. Article 202
 - d. Article 208

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- e. Article 302
- f. Article 303
- g. Article 304
- h. Chapter 4
- i. Chapter 6
- j. Chapter 7

To date, no such notification has been given, and the remaining terms of the Agreement have not come into force, except as described in Regional Body Resolution #8 (Attachment "A").

2. The effective date of the Compact is December 8, 2008. Therefore, pursuant to OH L, HB 416 (2008), the Compact and all terms contained therein became enforceable State law in the State of Ohio on **December 8, 2008**.

Relevant Actions Taken by the Regional Body and Compact Council

1. Pursuant to Article 304, Paragraph 1 of the Agreement, the Regional Body must identify Basin-wide Water conservation and efficiency objectives to assist the Parties in developing their Water conservation and efficiency programs by **December 13, 2007**. The Regional Body adopted Basin-wide Water conservation and efficiency objectives in fulfillment of this provision on **December 13, 2007**.
2. Pursuant to Section 4.2. of the Compact, the Compact Council must adopt Basin-wide conservation and efficiency objectives. The Compact Council adopted Basin-wide conservation and efficiency objectives on **December 8, 2008**.

Provisions of the Agreement or Compact that must be met by the State of Ohio to date

1. Pursuant to Section 4.12.2 of the Compact, the Baseline for determining a New or Increased Diversion, Consumptive Use or Withdrawal was set as of **December 8, 2008**. The corresponding provision in the Agreement (Article 207, Paragraph 1) has not yet come into force.
2. Pursuant to Section 4.8 of the Compact, all New or Increased Diversions are prohibited, with exceptions as described in Section 4.9, and exemptions as described in Section 4.13, as of **December 8, 2008**. The corresponding provisions of the Agreement (Article 200, Article 201, and Article 208) have not yet come into force.
3. Pursuant to Section 4.12.2. of the Compact, each State must submit a list of Baseline Diversions, Consumptive Uses and Withdrawals to the Regional Body and Compact Council by **December 8, 2009**. The corresponding provision of the Agreement (Article 207, Paragraph 1) has not yet come into force.
4. Pursuant to Section 3.4.1 of the Compact, each State must submit a report to the Regional Body and the Compact Council detailing its Water management and conservation and efficiency programs pursuant to the Compact by **December 8, 2009**. The corresponding provision of the Agreement (Article 300) has not yet come into force.

Provisions of the Agreement and Compact that must be met by the State of Ohio by a future date

5. Pursuant to Section 4.2.2 of the Compact, consistent with the Basin-wide goals and objectives adopted by the Regional Body and the Compact Council, each State must establish Water conservation and efficiency goals and objectives by **December 8, 2010**. The corresponding provision of the Agreement (Article 304, Paragraph 2) will come into force at a date currently uncertain.
6. Pursuant to Sections 4.2.2, 4.2.4 and 4.2.5 of the Compact, each State must establish a Water Conservation and Efficiency program for all water users that is consistent with the Basin-wide goals and objectives as well as State goals and objectives by **December 8, 2010**. The corresponding provision of the Agreement (Article 304, Paragraphs 2, 4 and 5) will come into force at a date currently uncertain.
7. Pursuant to Section 4.1 of the Compact, each State must develop and maintain a Water resources inventory for the collection, interpretation, storage, retrieval exchange, and dissemination of information concerning the Water resources of the State, including, but not limited to, information on the location, type, quantity, and use of those resources and the location, type, and quantity of Withdrawals, Diversions and Consumptive Uses **by December 8, 2013**. The corresponding provision of the Agreement (Article 301) will come into force at a date currently uncertain.
8. Pursuant to Section 4.10.1 of the Compact, each State must create a program for the management and regulation of New or Increased Withdrawals and Consumptive Uses by adopting and implementing measures consistent with the decision-making standard of the Compact (see Section 4.11) **by December 8, 2013**. The corresponding provision of the Agreement (Article 206, Paragraph 1) will come into force at a date currently uncertain.
9. Pursuant to Section 4.10.2 of the Compact, each State must set threshold levels that comply with Section 4.10.1 of the Compact **by December 8, 2018**. Any State that fails to do so shall apply a threshold for management and regulation of all New or Increased Withdrawals of 100,000 gallons per day or greater average in any 90 day period. The corresponding provision of the Agreement (Article 206, Paragraph 2) will come into force at a date currently uncertain.

FINDING ON STATE OF OHIO'S WATER MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION AND EFFICIENCY PROGRAMS

The Regional Body and the Compact Council have received the State of Ohio's report on its Water management and conservation and efficiency programs, which are attached hereto as Attachments "B" and "C", respectively. Upon review of said submissions, the

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terms of the Agreement and Compact, as well as other actions taken by the State of Ohio as described above, the Regional Body and Compact Council find the following:

Provisions of the Agreement or Compact that must be met by the State of Ohio to date

1. Because the Compact is law in the State of Ohio, pursuant to section 4.12.2 of the Compact the Baselines for determining a New or Increased Diversion, Consumptive Use or Withdrawal in the State of Ohio was set on **December 8, 2008**.
2. Pursuant to Sections 4.8 and 4.9 of the Compact, the prohibition on Diversions and corresponding exceptions to such prohibition came into effect in the State of Ohio on **December 8, 2008**.
3. Pursuant to Section 4.12.2 of the Compact, the State of Ohio submitted its list¹ of Diversions, Consumptive Uses and Withdrawals that existed as of December 8, 2008, to the Regional Body on **December 8, 2009**.
4. Pursuant to Section 3.4.1 of the Compact, the State of Ohio submitted a report on its water management and conservation and efficiency programs, which are attached hereto as Attachments “B” and “C”, respectively, to the Regional Body and Compact Council **by December 8, 2009**.

Provisions of the Agreement and Compact that must be met by the State of Ohio by a future date

5. The Regional Body and the Compact Council find that neither the Compact nor the Agreement requires the adoption or implementation of water conservation and efficiency goals and objectives at this time.
6. The Regional Body and the Compact Council find that neither the Compact nor the Agreement requires adoption or implementation of a water conservation and efficiency program at this time.
7. The Regional Body and the Compact Council find that neither the Compact nor the Agreement requires the adoption or implementation of a water resources inventory program at this time.
8. The Regional Body and the Compact Council find that neither the Compact nor the Agreement requires the adoption or implementation of a water management program at this time.
9. The Regional Body and the Compact Council find that neither the Compact nor the Agreement requires the adoption or implementation of a threshold for determining which Withdrawals of Water will be subject to management and regulation pursuant to the Compact and Agreement at this time.

¹ This list is subject to future correction or revision.

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THEREFORE, the Regional Body and the Compact Council, after reviewing the Water Management Program report from the State of Ohio, finds that such program meets or exceeds the current requirements of the Agreement and Compact.

FURTHERMORE, the Regional Body and the Compact Council, after reviewing the Water Conservation and Efficiency Program report submitted by the State of Ohio, finds that such program meets or exceeds the current requirements of the Agreement and Compact.

Issued by the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Water Resources Regional Body and the Great Lakes—St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Council on January 7, 2010.

ATTACHMENT “A”

**GREAT LAKES—ST. LAWRENCE RIVER WATER RESOURCES REGIONAL
BODY**

**RESOLUTION #8—ENTRY INTO FORCE OF CHAPTER 5 OF THE
AGREEMENT (REGIONAL REVIEW)**

WHEREAS, on December 13, 2005, the Governors of the States of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio and Wisconsin, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and the Premiers of Ontario and Québec signed the *Great Lakes—St. Lawrence River Basin Sustainable Water Resources Agreement* (“Agreement”); and,

WHEREAS, Chapter 7 of the Agreement came into force on December 13, 2005, pursuant to Article 709 paragraph 1j of the Agreement; and,

WHEREAS, pursuant to Article 709, Paragraph 2j of the Agreement, Chapter 5 of the Agreement will come into force “60 days after the last Party [State or Province] has notified the others that it has completed the Measures necessary to implement” specific provisions of the Agreement as described in Article 709, Paragraph 2 of the Agreement; and,

WHEREAS, the Parties to the Agreement have neither completed all the Measures as described in Article 709, Paragraph 2, nor have they notified the other Parties that they have completed such Measures; and,

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes—St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact (Compact) became effective on December 8, 2008; and,

WHEREAS, the Compact requires Regional Review to be performed from time to time to properly implement the terms of the Compact; and,

WHEREAS, Article 705 of the Agreement states that “Each Party shall, from the date of execution of this Agreement, exercise its best efforts to refrain from taking any action that would defeat the objectives of this Agreement;” and,

WHEREAS, the inability to engage in Regional Review would hinder the ability of the States to implement the Compact, which would in turn defeat the objectives of the Agreement.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the members of the Regional Body declare that Chapter 5 of the Agreement shall come into force immediately as of December 8, 2008, with regard to any requirements for Regional Review that may arise in respect of proposals from the States of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio and Wisconsin, and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as they implement the Compact.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in accordance with Paragraph 5 of Article 709 of the Agreement, the terms, agreements and review processes contained in the Great Lakes Charter of 1985 (Charter) shall remain in full force and effect, except for those instances where Regional Review may take place in respect of diversion proposals from the States as they implement the Compact. In such instances, Regional Review shall replace prior notice and consultation requirements and activities in the Charter. The Regional Body shall be used for all prior notice and consultation activities under the Charter where they continue to apply.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that Chapter 5 of the Agreement shall come into force with regard to any requirements for Regional Review that may arise in respect of proposals from the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec once each province has notified the other Parties that they have completed the measures needed to implement the prohibition of diversions and the management and regulation of exceptions. Once notice has been provided, Regional Review shall replace prior notice and consultation requirements under the Charter for diversion proposals in that Province.

***Adopted by the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Water Resources Regional Body on
December 8, 2008.***

ATTACHMENT “B”



Ohio Department of Natural Resources

TED STRICKLAND, GOVERNOR

SEAN D. LOGAN, DIRECTOR

December 8, 2009

David Naftzger, Executive Director
Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Council
Council of Great Lakes Governors
35 East Wacker Drive, Suite 1850
Chicago, IL 60601

Dear Mr. Naftzger:

Pursuant to Section 3.4.1 of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact, the State of Ohio hereby submits reports outlining its water management and conservation & efficiency programs. Copies of these reports are attached.

The State of Ohio has also submitted, via electronic transfer of data, its list of existing Great Lakes Basin water withdrawals, consumptive uses, and diversions, along with the baseline volumes, pursuant to Section 4.12.2 of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact; and, Article 207, Paragraph 1 of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Sustainable Water Resources Agreement.

Staff with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources has worked diligently to assure that the reported baseline volumes are accurate. However, it should be acknowledged that this submission is subject to future correction or revision.

If you have questions or need clarification of any of the information contained in the submittals, please contact Ted Lozier with the Division of Soil & Water Resources at 614-265-6728.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sean D. Logan".

Sean D. Logan, Director
Ohio Department of Natural Resources
Alternate of Governor Ted Strickland
Member, Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River
Basin Water Resources Council

SDL/lb
Attachments

cc: Peter Johnson, Program Director, Council of Great Lakes Governors



STATE OF OHIO
WATER WITHDRAWAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM REPORT
December 8, 2009

The following Water Withdrawal Management Program report is submitted by the State of Ohio to the Compact Council pursuant to the requirements contained in Section 3.4.1 of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact (hereinafter “the Compact”) and to the Regional Body pursuant to the commitments contained in Article 300 of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Sustainable Water Resources Agreement (hereinafter “the Agreement”).

1. Lead agency/agencies and contact person(s). The lead agency for administering the Compact/Agreement is the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR). The lead contact person is Sean Logan, ODNR Director. Other contact people include David Hanselmann, Chief of the ODNR-Division of Soil & Water Resources and Ted Lozier, Assistant Chief of the ODNR-Division of Soil & Water Resources. Additional legislation is required to authorize the implementation of Ohio’s Great Lakes Basin water withdrawal management & regulation program, and the lead agency for this program will depend on this legislation.

2. Implementing laws, regulations and policies. Ohio’s only implementing laws, regulations and policies are contained in the Compact, codified in Section 1522.01 of the Ohio Revised Code (ORC), and its state implementing provisions, codified by Sections 1522.02-08 of the ORC. Ohio’s Great Lakes Basin water withdrawal management & regulation program has not yet been authorized and there are, therefore, no other implementing laws, regulations or policies.

3. Summary description of the water management program. Ohio’s Great Lakes Basin water withdrawal management & regulation program has not yet been authorized and there is, therefore, no program to summarize. The scope and regulatory threshold levels are currently undefined. Water withdrawals are not managed pursuant to the Compact for any use sector or water source.

New or increased diversions out of the Great Lakes Basin are prohibited by the Compact, other than for certain specified exceptions. Statutes and rules are currently being developed to implement a permit program under the authority of the ODNR Director for new or increased diversions excepted from the general prohibition.

All water withdrawers with the capacity to withdraw greater than 100,000 gallons per day are required to register and annually report monthly withdrawal quantities (and have been since 1990) pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 1521.16. The Chief of the ODNR-Division of Soil & Water Resources oversees the registration and reporting program.

4. Description of how the Standard of Review and Decision is applied. Ohio’s Great Lakes Basin water withdrawal management & regulation program has not yet been authorized and the Standard of Review and Decision is, therefore, not currently being applied to water withdrawals within the Basin.

Statutes and rules are currently being developed to address application of the Exception Standard as appropriate for new or increased diversions excepted from the general prohibition on diversions.

5. Overview of reporting and database of Withdrawals, Consumptive Uses and Diversions.

Ohio maintains a database of all water withdrawers with the capacity to withdraw greater than 100,000 gallons per day, including information about the water use category and source type & location. Annual report forms, which are sent to registrants at the end of each calendar year to be submitted by the end of March of the next year, require reporting of monthly withdrawal quantities. Discharge quantities are also requested and reported, but these data are, in most cases, inappropriate for estimating consumptive use. Consumptive use quantities are estimated using coefficients based on water use category.

Diversion quantities are reported for diversions approved under Section 1501.32 of the ORC or other authority (e.g., federal statute). These do not include “straddling community” diversions and other small diversions not subject to approval under statute. Statutes and rules are currently being developed to register all existing diversions pursuant to Section 4.1.3 of the Compact, which will include a requirement for annual reporting of diversion quantities.

6. Attach a copy of the withdrawal application form(s). Ohio’s Great Lakes Basin water withdrawal management & regulation program has not yet been authorized and there is, therefore, no withdrawal application form or related regulations, policies, and manuals.

7. Summary description of initiatives to support an improved scientific understanding of the waters of the Basin. Ohio has been conducting river basin water quantity assessments to estimate the impacts of existing withdrawals, consumptive uses, and diversions on streams at various streamflow levels. While methods and procedures are in the formative stage, these assessments should provide useful information in estimating individual and cumulative impacts of Basin withdrawals, consumptive uses, and diversions. Other initiatives, which may require additional legislative authority to implement, are currently being considered.

8. Additional information. No additional information is included.

ATTACHMENT “C”



Ohio Department of Natural Resources

TED STRICKLAND, GOVERNOR

SEAN D. LOGAN, DIRECTOR

December 8, 2009

David Naftzger, Executive Director
Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Council
Council of Great Lakes Governors
35 East Wacker Drive, Suite 1850
Chicago, IL 60601

Dear Mr. Naftzger:

Pursuant to Section 3.4.1 of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact, the State of Ohio hereby submits reports outlining its water management and conservation & efficiency programs. Copies of these reports are attached.

The State of Ohio has also submitted, via electronic transfer of data, its list of existing Great Lakes Basin water withdrawals, consumptive uses, and diversions, along with the baseline volumes, pursuant to Section 4.12.2 of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact; and, Article 207, Paragraph 1 of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Sustainable Water Resources Agreement.

Staff with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources has worked diligently to assure that the reported baseline volumes are accurate. However, it should be acknowledged that this submission is subject to future correction or revision.

If you have questions or need clarification of any of the information contained in the submittals, please contact Ted Lozier with the Division of Soil & Water Resources at 614-265-6728.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sean D. Logan".

Sean D. Logan, Director
Ohio Department of Natural Resources
Alternate of Governor Ted Strickland
Member, Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River
Basin Water Resources Council

SDL/lb
Attachments

cc: Peter Johnson, Program Director, Council of Great Lakes Governors



STATE OF OHIO'S WATER CONSERVATION & EFFICIENCY PROGRAM REPORT

December 8, 2009

The following Water Conservation & Efficiency Program report is submitted by the State of Ohio to the Compact Council pursuant to the requirements contained in Section 3.4.1 of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact (hereinafter "the Compact") and to the Regional Body pursuant to the commitments contained in Article 300 of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Sustainable Water Resources Agreement (hereinafter "the Agreement").

1. Lead Agency. The lead agency is the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR). The lead contact person is Sean Logan, ODNR Director. Other contact people include David Hanselmann, Chief of the ODNR-Division of Soil & Water Resources and Ted Lozier, Assistant Chief of the ODNR-Division of Soil & Water Resources.

2. Goals & Objectives. Ohio's Water Conservation & Efficiency Goals are those contained in Section 4.2.1 of the Compact. Ohio's Water Conservation & Efficiency Objectives are currently being developed. A copy of the draft objectives is attached as Appendix 1.

3. Water Conservation & Efficiency Program Overview. Ohio's only implementing laws, regulations and policies are contained in the Compact, codified in Section 1522.01 of the Ohio Revised Code (ORC), and its state implementing provisions, codified by Sections 1522.02-08 of the ORC. Section 1522.05(B)(1) specifically prohibits the adoption of rules or implementation of any mandatory programs governing water conservation and efficiency pursuant to Section 4.2 of the Compact unless the general assembly enacts legislation authorizing the adoption of such rules or the implementation of such programs. It does allow for the adoption of rules and the implementation of voluntary water conservation and efficiency programs, so long as such programs do not place mandatory conservation requirements on water users.

Therefore, all elements of Ohio's water conservation & efficiency program are voluntary, except those that are authorized by pre-existing statutes, regulations, or programs. The only such program that provides for mandatory use reductions is the Ohio Emergency Management Agency's Drought Contingency Plan, and then only when the governor declares a Level Four Drought Emergency.

Ohio's program consists of education on the value of water conservation & efficiency and promotion of voluntary conservation activities. Such efforts are undertaken individually by state agencies pursuant to general education authorities and programs, and without centralized coordination by the lead agency under the Compact.

Ohio's water conservation & efficiency program elements have not been correlated to the regional objectives.

4. Promotion of Environmentally Sound and Economically Feasible Water Conservation Measures. Ohio has not yet identified specific measures that meet these criteria under the Compact and, therefore, does not yet have a program for promoting them.

5. Water Conservation & Efficiency Program Implementation Timeline and Status. Ohio's initial Water Conservation & Efficiency Program under the Compact, which will not include any mandatory conservation requirements on water users, is currently being developed and is on schedule to be completed by the Compact-imposed deadline of December 8, 2010.

APPENDIX 1:
DRAFT OHIO LAKE ERIE BASIN WATER CONSERVATION
GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

GOALS

Ohio's Lake Erie Basin Water Conservation & Efficiency Goals are provided by the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact:

1. Ensure the improvement of the Basin's waters & water dependent natural resources;
2. Protect and restore the hydrologic and ecosystem integrity of the Basin;
3. Retain the quantity of surface water and ground water in the Basin;
4. Ensure the sustainable use of the waters of the Basin;
5. Promote the efficiency of use and reduce loss and waste of water in the Basin.

OBJECTIVES

Consistent with Ohio Revised Code Section 1522.05, Ohio's Lake Erie Basin Water Conservation & Efficiency Objectives do not entail the implementation of any mandatory program governing water conservation and efficiency, and do not include mandatory water conservation requirements for any water users.

Promote the efficient use and conservation of water.

- Develop a mechanism to communicate the importance of water use efficiency and conservation practices.
- Identify and promote supply, demand, and mitigation best management practices for the various categories of water use.
- Identify incentive programs to encourage water conservation and pursue their implementation.
- Promote appropriate innovative technology for water reuse.
- Promote the conservation of existing water supplies to delay or prevent the need for developing additional supply sources.
- Promote investment in and maintenance of efficient water infrastructure.
- Coordinate state agency and local government water use efficiency and conservation programs.

Guide programs toward long-term sustainable water use.

- Develop and maintain water management plans for sustaining the quantity and quality of the waters of the Basin, including the inventorying and assessment of ground and surface water resources, the analysis of water use trends and formulation of long-term water use forecasts, and the development of strategies to incorporate water conservation practices.
- Use adaptive programs that are goal-based, accountable, and measurable and that build upon existing efforts by considering practices and experiences from other jurisdictions.

- Engage stakeholders and the public and coordinate with state and federal agencies and local government officials in the development and implementation of voluntary water management and conservation programs.
- Develop administrative rules for regulating new and increased diversions allowable under the exceptions provisions of the Compact.
- Develop programs or, if necessary, administrative rules to direct state agencies in the implementation of the voluntary Lake Erie Basin water conservation and efficiency program.
- Develop a process for maintaining and improving the understanding, communicating, planning, and promoting of the waters of the Basin.

Develop water conservation education programs and information sharing.

- Emphasize educating school children, businesses, citizens, and government officials on the economic, societal, and ecological values of water, including sustainability.
- Encourage and increase training opportunities in collaboration with professional or other organizations in order to increase water conservation and efficiency practices and technological applications.
- Promote the cost-saving aspect of water conservation and efficiency for economic sustainability.
- Disseminate information regarding identified best management practices for different categories of water use, including evaluation and results achieved.
- Compile published information on specific water conservation efforts in Ohio and elsewhere and make it available to the public so that all are aware of how water can be used and conserved.
- Ensure public access to water conservation and efficiency tools and information; ensure that voluntary conservation programs are transparent and that information is readily available.
- Contribute to regional information sharing; share conservation and efficiency experiences, including successes and lessons learned across the Basin.

Develop science, technology, and research.

- Encourage the development of water-related industries and technologies to position Ohio as a global industry leader.
- Identify research and monitoring needs related to the interaction of ground water and surface water, and strategies for managing and protecting water resources.
- Use scientific data and modeling to improve conservation and efficiency.
- Promote the development of systems and tools for an integrated approach to ground water and surface water management that would predict the effects of water withdrawal and conservation practices within the Basin and strengthen scientific understanding of the linkages between water conservation practices and ecological responses.
- Leverage the resources of Ohio's research institutions to focus on problems affecting the human and natural communities of the Great Lakes, including analyzing barriers to sustainable water use.

- Foster cooperation and sharing of resources and information among all federal, tribal, state, and local agencies as well as with international partners.
- Encourage research, development, and implementation of state-of-the-art water conservation technologies, including the identification and sharing of innovative management practices.

Improve monitoring and standardize data reporting among state and provincial water conservation and efficiency programs.

- Collect, analyze, and report water use information for registered withdrawals in the various categories of water use.
- Make information readily available to the public, including information about the waters of the state and water use, on a state website.
- Monitor the implementation of best management practices for water conservation.
- Improve the measurement and evaluation of water conservation practices; identify and encourage measures to monitor, account for, and minimize water loss.
- Track and report program progress and effectiveness.