

November 4th, 2010

## Minutes of Regional Compact/Agreement Coalition Call

### Participants:

Karen Hubbard, NRDC  
Kristy Meyer, OEC  
Deb Twardy, IWF  
Wayne Howard, NY SClub  
Darell Gerber, MN Clean Water Action  
Katherine Nadeau, EANY  
Trilby Becker, NWF  
Marc Smith, NWF  
George Meyer, WWF  
Cyndi Roper, MI CWA  
Lisa Wozniak, MILCV  
Cecily Smith, PRN  
Lucy Saunders, conserve-greatlakes.com  
Brian Smith, Citizens Campaign NY  
Eric Uhude, Audubon Ohio

### Agenda:

- 1) Discussion of post-election outcomes and impact on Compact implementation
- 2) Follow up from letters to state agencies/Compact Council on Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>, 2010 water conservation deadline

**Michigan:** Republicans swept the state and created a super-majority in the both houses in the Legislature. Rick Synder won Governor and could be softer on regulatory enforcement and could streamline permitting to promote business opportunities in state. Hired former Gov. Engler staff to help with transition.

**Ohio:** Republicans swept the state – Democrat Ted Strickland lost to Republican John Kasich for Governor, and the legislative house switched to R. Remains to be seen what will happen, but Kasich will tend to fall in line with regulators. Compact report is due to legislature December 15<sup>th</sup> and still concerns over high proposed threshold levels (from regulated industry) and regulatory framework to assess adverse resource impacts. \$8 billion deficit could focus attention away from the legislature moving on any bill to implement the Compact – which could be a good thing to buy time for us to organize and continue to improve current report proposals.

**New York:** Cuomo (D) is the new Governor with a tentative agenda to cut dollars to agencies – especially DEC. Strong and respected DEC Director was fired under the Paterson Administration – so opportunity exists to find a new DEC director under Cuomo. State Senate is still up in the air as votes are still being counted (senate passed a bill to implement portions of the Compact in NY which we support); House remained D and has not indicated any movement towards passing the accompanying bill (had political concerns with Patterson and held up movement). Likely no action before the end of the year and the legislature will pick it back up again next year.

**Wisconsin:** Big switch from D to R in the Legislature. Gov. Walker( R) replaces outgoing D Gov. Doyle. Walker hails from Milwaukee and is rumored to be closely associated with Waukesha officials so it is the assumption that he will be less critical of Waukesha's application moving forward. Good news is current DNR staff have been very upfront and upholding the stiff requirements the Compact requires of any diversion proposal. Rumored DNR Director candidates both hail from Waukesha. Most non-controversial rules have moved – still more to come.

**Minnesota:** Unexpected results – biggest is long serving sage Oberstar losing his House seat in Duluth. Both houses of legislature switched from D to R. Governor race is still too close to call but former Senator Mark Dayton (D) holds a slight lead. As it relates to the Compact – there might be a push to revise MN's current water permitting system. Currently, MN has one of the strongest permitting programs in the basin. A pre-Compact program that requires all withdrawals over 10,000 gallons per day requires a permit. Very low threshold and stringent requirement. (compare this level to proposals in Ohio at 300,000 gallons per day).

**Illinois:** Mark Kirk(R ) wins Obama's old Senate seat. Current Gov. Quinn (D ) still too close to call - but looks like he will win re-election. Funding is a tremendous issue for the state agencies, which undermines efforts to not only comply with Compact requirements (water conservation) but more so general operations and enforcement.

**Pennsylvania and Indiana** – nothing to report

**Follow up to letters to State Agencies on Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> Compact deadline on Water Conservation:**

Special thanks to the groups who signed onto our letters to the states. Especially the state leads who helped gather signatures. Very appreciated. We discussed the need to follow up with phone calls to the state agencies about their response to our letters. Please follow up next week. I will reach out to the state leads in the state to coordinate.

**Regional Body/Compact Council will meet December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2010 via conference call.** We are asking to have this meeting face to face. At the least, we will distribute the conference call number to folks to call in. Stay tuned for call-in information.

**Next call: December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2010 at 2:00 EST**

**1-800-791-2345**

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