

- Develop good rules for enforcement
- Educate stakeholders about the process to implement the Compact

Save the Dunes Council (STD), founded in 1952 as Northwest Indiana's advocate for air, land and water, is working with partners to accomplish those next steps.

Tom Anderson, STD Executive Director is cooperating with John Goss of Indiana Wildlife Federation and Kay Nelson of the Northwest Indiana Forum on this project. LM LWV2008 annual meeting attendees met both John and Kay last fall in Chesterton when they spoke to the topic of cooperation between environmentalists and business.

Goss emphasizes, "Indiana is a leader on this issue and we want good, clear rules to implement the . . . Compact and protect water resources in Indiana."

"We have had on-going stream-monitoring for some time now," according to Anderson "Indiana is ahead of most Great Lakes states as far as implementing the Great Lakes Compact because implementing language was passed in Indiana at the same time as the Compact. Now we need to work with our DNR and the diverse coalition and develop rules guiding the Compact to protect and sustain water quantity in the Great Lakes."

Attention has been temporarily diverted from the program during the legislative session. Budget and an Indiana unemployment rate nearing 10% have legislators focused on those issues to the detriment of environmental concerns. Anderson stresses that following the April 30 end of the session Save the Dunes and Indiana Wildlife Federation will develop a plan to distribute information and to gain support for a strong conservation component

National Wildlife Association is providing financial support for the education process

Sources: Save the Dunes newsletter Winter 2009 and Conversation with Tom Anderson

Janet Greenwald, Indiana State Representative



MICHIGAN

Michigan is one of only two states to assume the Clean Water Act dredge and fill permitting program from the Corps and EPA. As a result, Michigan has independent state authority to protect wetlands, lakes, and streams. Michigan's budget crisis has led to very significant cutbacks in Michigan's water permitting programs in 2008 and 2009. On February 3, 2009, Governor Granholm proposed to drop Michigan's 30 year old law for protecting its wetlands. She made this recommendation believing the federal government had more staff to effectively safeguard our natural resources. Truth be told, the Army Corps of Engineers is not staffed to assume this responsibility, and our state wetland law is stronger than federal laws. The Federal Clean Water Act is in disarray from several court rulings. In 2006, the Supreme Court ruled that unless there was some navigable connection, wetlands, small streams and inland lakes were to be ignored.

In an unusual alliance, both the home builders' association and conservation groups agree. There were hearings in Lansing. Permitting is sluggish from the Corps, and Michigan has mandatory timelines to issue permits.