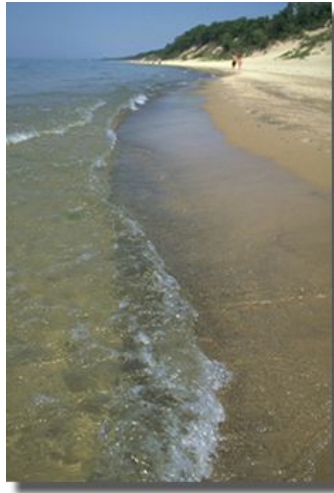


Final Evaluation Findings
Indiana Lake Michigan Coastal Program
August 2002 through April 2006



Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management
National Ocean Service
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

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I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Section 312 of the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) requires NOAA's Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (OCRM) to conduct periodic evaluations of the performance of states and territories with federally-approved coastal management programs. This review examined the operation and management of the Indiana Lake Michigan Coastal Program (LMCP) by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the designated lead agency, for the period from August 2002 through April 2006. This was the first evaluation of LMCP since it was approved in 2002.

This document describes the evaluation findings of the Director of NOAA's OCRM with respect to LMCP during the review period. These evaluation findings include discussions of major accomplishments as well as recommendations for program improvement. The evaluation concludes that DNR is successfully implementing and enforcing its federally-approved coastal management program, adhering to the terms of its federal financial assistance awards, and addressing the coastal management needs identified in §303(2)(A) through (K) of the CZMA.

The evaluation team documented a number of LMCP's accomplishments during the review period. LMCP has exceptional staff members that are critical to the program's success. The program emphasizes public involvement in LMCP and engages the public in all of its major projects. LMCP regularly engages in many diverse partnerships. The program developed a strategic plan that clearly defines its vision, goals and objectives. Working with its partners, LMCP began development of Indiana's Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program Plan. The program also collaborated with its partners to develop Indiana's coastal nonpoint program document and submitted it NOAA and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for review. LMCP runs a successful Coastal Grants Program that provides money at the local level for projects in areas such as public access, land-use planning, acquisition and restoration. Additionally, the program initiated development of a strong education and outreach component.

The evaluation team also identified areas where LMCP could be strengthened. OCRM's recommendations are in the form of five Program Suggestions. No Necessary Actions were identified. Recommendations address staffing, the Coastal Advisory Board, the Coastal Grants Program, federal consistency, and education and outreach.

II. PROGRAM REVIEW PROCEDURES

A. OVERVIEW

NOAA's Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (OCRM) began its review of the Indiana Lake Michigan Coastal Program (LMCP) in February 2006. The evaluation process involves four distinct components:

- An initial document review and identification of specific issues of particular concern;
- A site visit to Indiana including interviews and a public meeting;
- Development of draft evaluation findings; and
- Preparation of the final evaluation findings, partly based on comments from the state regarding the content and timetables of recommendations specified in the draft document.

The recommendations made by this evaluation appear in boxes and bold type and follow the findings section where facts relevant to the recommendation are discussed. The recommendations may be of two types:

Necessary Actions address programmatic requirements of the Coastal Zone Management Act's (CZMA) implementing regulations and of the federally-approved LMCP. Each Necessary Action must be implemented by the specified date.

Program Suggestions describe actions that OCRM believes would improve the program, but they are not currently mandatory. If no dates are indicated, the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is expected to address the recommendations by the time of the next regularly-scheduled evaluation.

A complete summary of accomplishments and recommendations is outlined in Appendix A.

Failure to address Necessary Actions may result in a future finding of non-adherence and the invoking of interim sanctions, as specified in CZMA §312(c). Program Suggestions that are reiterated in consecutive evaluations to address continuing problems may be elevated to Necessary Actions. OCRM will consider the findings in this evaluation document when making future financial award decisions relative to LMCP.

B. DOCUMENT REVIEW AND ISSUE DEVELOPMENT

The evaluation team reviewed a wide variety of documents prior to the site visit, including: (1) the federally-approved Environmental Impact Statement and program documents; (2) financial assistance awards and work products; (3) semi-annual

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performance reports; (4) official correspondence; and (5) relevant publications on natural resource management issues in Indiana.

Based on this review and on discussions with OCRM staff, the evaluation team identified the following priority issues:

- LMCP's major accomplishments during the review period;
- Effectiveness of DNR in permitting, monitoring and enforcing the core authorities that form the legal basis of LMCP;
- Implementation of state and federal consistency authority;
- Extent to which LMCP is monitoring, reporting and submitting program changes to OCRM;
- Status of LMCP grant tasks and reporting;
- LMCP's coordination with other federal, state and local agencies and programs;
- Effectiveness of local technical assistance programs in assisting coastal communities;
- Status of public access opportunities in the coastal zone;
- LMCP's approach to emerging local and regional coastal management issues; and
- LMCP's advancement of the CZMA goals set out in §303(2).

C. SITE VISIT TO INDIANA

Notification of the scheduled evaluation was sent to LMCP, DNR, relevant state and federal environmental agencies, members of Indiana's congressional delegation and regional newspapers. LMCP published notification of the evaluation and of the scheduled public meeting. In addition, a notice of OCRM's "intent to evaluate" was published in the *Federal Register* on February 21, 2006.

The site visit to Indiana was conducted on May 30 through June 2, 2006. Ms. Rosemarie McKeeby, Evaluation Team Leader, OCRM National Policy and Evaluation Division; Ms. Diana Olinger, LMCP Specialist, OCRM Coastal Programs Division; and Mr. Steven Resler, Federal Consistency Section Chief, New York State Coastal Management Program, formed the evaluation team.

During the course of the site visit, the evaluation team interviewed LMCP staff, representatives of federal, state and local government agencies, and members of academic institutions and interest groups involved with or affected by LMCP. Appendix B lists individuals contacted during this review.

As required by the CZMA, OCRM held an advertised public meeting on May 31, 2006, at 6:00 p.m., at the Westchester Public Library Service Center, 100 West Indiana Avenue, Chesterton, Indiana. The meeting gave members of the general public the opportunity to express their opinions about the overall operation and management of LMCP. Appendix C lists individuals who registered at the meeting. OCRM's response to written comments submitted during the review is summarized in Appendix D.

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The evaluation team gratefully acknowledges the support of LMCP staff with site visit planning and logistics.

III. COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

NOAA's Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management approved the Indiana Lake Michigan Coastal Program (LMCP) in 2002. The program is based on a "networked approach" that links existing state programs, agencies and laws into an effective state coastal program. The lead agency for LMCP's implementation is the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Within DNR, the Division of Nature Preserves has the lead for coordinating among LMCP's networked partners.

LMCP also has a Coastal Advisory Board (CAB) that serves as a stakeholder advisory group. Board members are predominantly from northwest Indiana and represent a broad range of interests and experience in the coastal region. The CAB's mission is to provide a forum for the public to assist with program implementation.

Indiana's coastal program area encompasses approximately 604 square miles of land and approximately 241 square miles of Lake Michigan. The area comprises the northern portions of Lake, Porter and LaPorte counties along the southern shore of Lake Michigan. The jurisdictional borders within Lake Michigan that Indiana shares with Illinois and Michigan compose the coastal program area's lakeward boundary. The inland boundary incorporates those areas that drain into Indiana's portion of Lake Michigan between the Illinois border and the LaPorte County line. Lands subject to lake flooding and erosion, estuaries and wetlands, ecologically significant areas, coastal recreation areas, and areas of cultural and historic significance are also included within the coastal area's boundary.

IV. REVIEW FINDINGS, ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A. OPERATIONS AND MANAGEMENT

1. Staff

Indiana Lake Michigan Coastal Program (LMCP) staff are responsible for the program's daily operations and management. Staff at the time of the site visit consisted of the Program Manager, Program Specialist, Coastal Nonpoint Coordinator and Program Assistant. A combination of funds from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and NOAA's Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (OCRM) supports the four coastal program positions.

The evaluation team was very impressed by LMCP's staff and their many achievements since program approval in 2002. The staff are dedicated, knowledgeable, accessible and responsive. During the review period, LMCP staff maintained a high level of performance while managing very heavy workloads. Their commitment to and enthusiasm for their work have gained respect for LMCP among its many partners. A clear understanding of current threats to the state's coastal resources as well as a strong focus on priority coastal issues is evident in LMCP's results-oriented approach to coastal management.

Accomplishment: LMCP has exceptional staff who have built the program from its inception in 2002. The staff are critical to LMCP's success.

LMCP's small staff of four have accomplished a great deal since program approval. However, it appeared to the evaluation team that the program's existing workload represents the upper limit of current staff capacity. The development and implementation of any new initiatives would place additional burdens on staff and would likely overload them. Additionally, LMCP makes available approximately 80 percent of its annual Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) funding through a competitive grants program, limiting the program's ability to add contract staff.

1. Program Suggestion: OCRM encourages LMCP and DNR to conduct an assessment of current staff capacity and potential future staffing needs. LMCP and DNR should also assess whether the amount of funding that LMCP retains for program operations will be sufficient as the program's workload increases. LMCP and DNR should use the results of the assessment to develop a staffing plan for the program as it matures and undertakes new initiatives.

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2. Grants Management

OCRM awards grants to federally-approved coastal management programs for operations and other activities. Each program submits an annual grant application, or work proposal, to OCRM for review and approval. The proposals provide project descriptions and deliverables for each task that the program intends to complete. During the review period, LMCP satisfactorily managed its federal funding, achieved desired results from funded tasks and built upon established projects.

OCRM also requires coastal management programs to submit semi-annual performance reports for each grant. Performance reports are important because they present consolidated information about accomplishments related to a program's financial assistance awards. LMCP submitted performance reports containing necessary information on schedule during the review period. However, LMCP's performance reports would be improved by clearer presentation of permitting data. For example, in each performance report, LMCP could include a summary table for the reporting period with the number and type of permits applied for, granted, denied and pending.

3. Coastal Advisory Board

Public involvement is a key component of LMCP, and the program ensures that it engages the public in each of its major projects. LMCP's primary public input mechanism is its Coastal Advisory Board (CAB). As noted in Section III of this document, the CAB's mission is to provide a forum for the public to assist with program implementation.

The CAB has 27 members¹ who are predominantly from northwest Indiana and represent a broad range of interests and experience in the coastal region. The CAB performs a variety of roles, including:

- Stakeholder Representation – The CAB provides diverse perspectives on coastal issues and fosters close ties between LMCP and the local community.
- Priority Setting – The Board assists in setting priorities for the Coastal Grants Program by recommending grant program guidance and project evaluation criteria. The CAB also offers opinions on Coastal Grants Program proposals.
- Public Involvement – The Board provides a forum for public involvement in the Coastal Grants Program through: (1) annual public meetings regarding program guidance; and (2) opportunities for public comment at quarterly CAB meetings.

¹ Voting members represent the following interests: agriculture, citizens of Indiana's three coastal counties, environment, historical resources, Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, industry and business, lake-dependent uses, Lake Michigan aquatic resources, local land trusts or land-holding nature conservancies, local parks and recreation, Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission, Port of Indiana at Burns Harbor, tourism, universities, and cities or towns of Indiana's three coastal counties. Ex officio members include the Indiana Department of Environmental Management, Indiana Department of Transportation, Indiana Department of Commerce, Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

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- Planning and Coordination – The Board assists LMCP by annually reviewing and recommending nominations for Coastal Areas of Significance. The designations are subsequently incorporated into the Coastal Grants Program’s annual priority setting.

Accomplishment: LMCP emphasizes public involvement in the program and engages the public in all of its major projects. In particular, LMCP established the CAB when the program was approved in 2002 and developed the Board into a forum for the public to assist with LMCP implementation. LMCP also ensures that the CAB has broad stakeholder representation.

During the site visit, the evaluation team met with the CAB to discuss members’ perspectives on LMCP. In general, the CAB was satisfied that the program had performed well during the review period; members were primarily interested in discussing the future direction of LMCP. Several board members expressed the opinion that the program should place greater emphasis on education and outreach. LMCP is considering this suggestion. One board member stated that the CAB should have a greater role in and responsibility for LMCP policy development. The evaluation team recognizes the value of the services, as described above, that the CAB provides for LMCP and believes that those roles are appropriate for a stakeholder advisory group. The evaluation team knows of neither a reason nor a basis for the CAB to assume greater policy-development responsibility for the program. The CAB should maintain its defined mission of providing a forum for the public to assist with LMCP implementation.

2. Program Suggestion: OCRM strongly recommends that the CAB maintain its role as a stakeholder advisory group and critical public input mechanism for LMCP as the program matures.

4. Partnerships

The evaluation team was very impressed with LMCP’s successful coordination with other programs both within DNR as well as with external state, local, academic, industrial and private agencies and organizations. Evaluation participants often praised the program’s expertise and collaborative approach as well as the work achieved as a result of LMCP’s assistance. For example, LMCP held its first Annual Coastal Network Partners Meeting in January 2006. The meeting provided a forum for key players in the coastal management community to update each other on major initiatives and to discuss opportunities for further collaboration. LMCP’s work with the Northwest Indiana Regional Planning Commission, such as the development of a regional watershed framework plan, is another example. One evaluation participant cited the successful Marquette Greenway Plan² as an example of how the program benefits economic development in the area. He noted that private industry recognized the value of the plan and was better able to commit to the area with the plan in place. Through partnerships with other agencies and organizations, LMCP strengthens its own program by pooling the

² The Marquette Greenway Plan is discussed in Section IV-B.

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resources and expertise of many different groups. The program's proactive approach to coordination by involving partners early in processes and projects improves efficiency and allows potential problems to be addressed before they escalate. The emphasis that LMCP places on collaboration with its partners is clearly one of the strengths of the program.

Accomplishment: LMCP regularly engages in many diverse partnerships. The program successfully coordinates with other programs both within DNR as well as with external state, local, academic, industrial and private agencies and organizations.

5. Strategic Planning Initiative

During the review period, LMCP developed its first Coastal Strategic Plan. The purpose of the plan is to improve coordination and planning among LMCP and its networked partners. In order to develop the plan, LMCP staff: (1) conducted a "strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats" analysis; (2) reviewed historical documentation; (3) developed a vision statement; (4) crafted four program goals, associated objectives and actions; and (5) developed a timeline of key events and associated staff responsibilities.

As identified in the strategic plan, LMCP's vision is to facilitate the coordination of coastal resource protection and preservation through accountable and efficient planning, practice and stewardship. The program has five primary goals:

- Provide financial and technical assistance to state, local and regional governments and nongovernmental organizations to protect, preserve and properly manage coastal resources;
- Implement program documents through coordination of networked partners;
- Develop and maintain a transparent and comprehensive program through regular self-assessment and public involvement;
- Empower the coastal community to become active stewards of coastal resources; and
- Strive to improve internal processes.

LMCP presented the strategic plan to its state networked partners for review and incorporation into their work. The framework and timeline will allow for better coordination in situations where more than one agency has an interest and associated authority. Additionally, the strategic plan will provide overarching guidance for the program as it continues to grow. Such planning and guidance will allow the LMCP to operate proactively.

Accomplishment: LMCP developed a strategic plan that clearly defines its vision, goals and objectives. The plan will provide overarching guidance for the coastal program as it continues to grow.

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B. PUBLIC ACCESS

Approximately 23 square miles of Lake Michigan is held in public trust for the citizens of Indiana. Ownership above the ordinary high watermark determines the availability of public access to Indiana's 45 miles of shoreline. Nearly 22 miles of the shoreline are characterized by intense development and limited public access. Sandy beaches compose the other 23 miles of Indiana's lakeshore. The Indiana Dunes State Park and the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore provide most of the public access to the state's Lake Michigan beaches. Indiana's remaining beaches are either owned and operated as public beaches by local communities or are privately held by individual owners.

LMCP's Coastal Grants Program³ has significantly supported the design and creation of new public access opportunities and the improvement of existing public access sites in the coastal area. For example, many of Indiana's coastal municipalities are actively working to incorporate "greenway" planning into their communities. Of particular note is the Marquette Greenway Plan that involved the municipalities of Whiting, East Chicago, Gary, Hammond and Portage. The project's purpose was to establish a master plan for the Lake Michigan Shoreline from the Illinois state line to the eastern boundary of Portage. The project's three goals were to: (1) recapture 75 percent of the shoreline for public access; (2) require a setback from the water of at least 200 feet for any structures or facilities; and (3) establish a continuous pedestrian and bicycle trail along the shoreline.

In addition to the Marquette Greenway Plan, LMCP's Coastal Grants Program supported a variety of other public access projects during the review period. The program provided funding to the Porter County Convention and Visitors Bureau to publish an ecotourism guide that highlights the ecology, biodiversity and public access opportunities in the coastal area. Additionally, a LMCP coastal grant facilitated an agreement between Porter County and the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore to build a joint Visitors' Center that will offer public access information.

During the review period, LMCP developed its first CZMA §309 Assessment and Multi-year Strategy.⁴ LMCP incorporated a lengthy public planning process into the development of the assessment and strategies that address, among other things, public access. The assessment notes that despite the current public access projects underway along the Lake Michigan shoreline, DNR has concluded that the demand for public access within the coastal area exceeds the state's ability to provide it. This demand is strongly influenced by the proximity of Gary and Chicago; day visitors from the cities

³ As noted in Section IV-A-1, approximately 80 percent of Indiana's CZMA 306 and 306A funds are made available annually through a competitive grants program in Indiana's coastal area. The Coastal Grants Program is described in greater detail in Section IV-F.

⁴ Section 309 of the CZMA, as amended in 1990 and 1996, establishes a voluntary grants program to encourage states and territories with approved coastal management programs to develop program enhancements in one or more of the following areas: wetlands, public access, coastal hazards, cumulative and secondary impacts, energy and government facility siting, marine (lake) debris, marine (lake) resources, special area management plans, and aquaculture.

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rely heavily on Indiana's lakeshore for recreational opportunities, particularly during the summer. The primary obstacles to public access in Indiana include:

- Riparian ownership: Land use above the ordinary high watermark is privately controlled;
- Increased population: As more people move into the coastal area, less land is available for public access;
- Limited parking: Many lakeshore beaches' parking areas are insufficient to meet current demand;
- Insufficient funding: State and federal funding for public access projects is limited; and
- Water quality: Increased use of coastal resources can degrade water quality.

LMCP has identified enhancing public access within Indiana's coastal area as a high priority for the program. As a result, LMCP is implementing the public access strategies identified in its §309 document, such as improving the information available to both the state and the public regarding public access in the coastal area. For example, the program plans to develop a comprehensive inventory of existing public access sites within the Indiana coastal area. LMCP will then develop a coastal access guide based on the inventory. LMCP will also conduct an assessment of coastal user needs and perceptions in order to understand how best to provide future public access opportunities. State agencies will use the results of the inventory and assessment: (1) to plan for the appropriate type and location of future public access sites; and (2) to assist in establishing priorities for the improvement of existing facilities. Additionally, LMCP is working with the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) to develop a Greenways and Blueways Plan for the coastal area. LMCP plans to modify its public access strategies to incorporate NIRPC's projects and to avoid duplication of efforts.

C. COASTAL HABITAT

The Department of Commerce, Justice and State Appropriations Act of 2002⁵ directed the Secretary of Commerce to establish a Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELCP) "for the purpose of protecting important coastal and estuarine areas that have significant conservation, recreation, ecological, historical or aesthetic values, or that are threatened by conversion from their natural or recreational state to other uses." CELCP gives priority to lands that can be effectively managed and protected and that have significant ecological value. Each coastal state that submits grant applications under CELCP must develop an OCRM-approved CELCP Plan. An assessment of priority land conservation needs and clear guidance for nominating and selecting land conservation projects within the state must be included in each CELCP Plan.

During the review period, LMCP initiated development of Indiana's CELCP Plan. The first phase of the process employed the technical expertise of Indiana University and the Indiana Biodiversity Initiative (IBI), a diverse group of natural resource and conservation

⁵ Public Law 107-77.

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biology managers and researchers. IBI's goal is to develop a common framework for conservation land-use planning in Indiana. The initiative began with: (1) plant species and community information from the Indiana Heritage Database; (2) a map of Indiana's general land cover; (3) the National Wetlands Inventory of Indiana's wetlands; and (4) a map of areas protected for conservation. IBI used the maps and spatial optimizing software to identify areas with the highest concentration of desirable characteristics, such as numbers of rare species, availability of high-quality habitats, or large blocks of more common habitats.

The second phase combined areas of high plant conservation potential with a map of existing conservation areas as a starting point for identifying lands that offer the best protection for animals. The initiative selected six to nine "umbrella species"⁶ for each region and modeled their habitat needs. The animal modeling program gave preference to protected areas and plant conservation areas in order to minimize the extent of land involved and to cluster habitat blocks.

Indiana's CELCP Plan development process also established a Public Technical Workgroup consisting of representatives from universities; local, regional, state and federal government agencies; local landholding trusts and nonprofits; and other interested parties. LMCP formally presented the IBI and an overview of the CELCP process to the workgroup at its first session. Workgroup members suggested additional data to supplement IBI's existing information. For example, members recommended adding stream, multi-use trail, and power line corridors to show connections among otherwise fragmented habitat. Members of the workgroup also contributed information about additional managed areas and areas of ecological importance for inclusion in the database.

The IBI's final product for any given natural region is a map identifying square kilometer blocks that best meet the plant and animal conservation criteria. The initiative provides users with the final map as well as a wide range of auxiliary maps, color orthophotos, and appropriate U.S. Geological Survey 1:100,000 maps. A "conservation features" layer allows users to click on map cells and learn which animal species select the cell, how much area is available in habitat types within the cell, and how many plants or high-quality plant communities have been identified in the cell.

Collaboration with the IBI has been a major asset to LMCP in its efforts to develop Indiana's CELCP Plan. LMCP and its partners made significant progress on the plan during the review period. To complete development of Indiana's CELCP Plan, LMCP and its partners will: (1) incorporate additional data layers into priority areas; (2) finalize the planning map; (3) develop a CELCP project nomination process; and (4) present the CELCP Plan for public review and comment. LMCP will then submit the plan to OCRM for review and approval.

⁶ Umbrella species' habitat needs encompass those of many other species.

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Accomplishment: Working with its partners, LMCP began development of Indiana's CELCP Plan. The plan will serve as a comprehensive and coordinated planning document that assesses Indiana's priority coastal and estuarine land conservation needs and provides clear guidance to applicants for nominating and selecting coastal and estuarine land conservation projects within Indiana.

D. WATER QUALITY

In 1990, Congress established the Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program (CNPCP), which works within the framework of existing Coastal Zone Management Programs developed under the Coastal Zone Management Act and Nonpoint Source Pollution Management Programs developed under the Clean Water Act. Two of the CNPCP's key purposes are to strengthen the links between federal and state coastal zone management and water quality programs and to enhance state and local efforts to manage land use activities that degrade coastal waters. Each state's coastal nonpoint program (CNP) must be approved by NOAA and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA).

During the review period, LMCP collaborated with its partners to develop Indiana's CNP document. In particular, DNR, the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) and Purdue University contributed significantly to CNP development. LMCP convened a CNP Workgroup to review CNPCP guidance and to develop subcommittees to address each of the six CNPCP categories⁷ and their respective management measures. The subcommittees: (1) identified Indiana's priority nonpoint source concerns; (2) outlined program objectives; (3) developed an implementation approach; and (4) determined existing state and federal programs that could assist in meeting the program's goals. LMCP submitted Indiana's draft CNP document to NOAA and USEPA for review in January 2005 and anticipates that the program will receive conditional approval in 2006.

Indiana has twenty marinas with approximately 1,750 slips operating in the coastal area. Additionally, at the time of the evaluation site visit, a new 300-slip marina and condominium development was under construction in Portage. Each of these marinas represents a potential source of nonpoint pollution to Lake Michigan. Thus, LMCP is working closely with IDEM to develop a Clean Marina Program, the CNP's largest initiative for 2006. The Clean Marina Program will provide marinas, boatyards and yacht clubs with the opportunity to receive recognition for voluntarily participating in the program. If a marina is in compliance with state and federal regulations and incorporates many of the best management practices recommended by the program, it will be designated as an Indiana Clean Marina. Certified marinas are authorized to fly the Clean Marina flag and to use the Clean Marina logo in their advertising. The Indiana Clean Marina flag and logo will serve as a signal to boaters that a marina is a steward of the Lake Michigan coastal area. Marinas participating in the program will be introduced as

⁷ The six CNPCP categories are: (1) agriculture, (2) forestry, (3) urban and rural areas, (4) marinas, (5) hydromodification, and (6) wetlands, riparian areas and vegetated treatment systems.

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Indiana Clean Marinas in a news release upon their inauguration and will be included in the Indiana Clean Marina Program website.

In order to gauge the level of effort that will be required to achieve success with the Clean Marina Program, LMCP and IDEM developed a survey for distribution to the four largest marinas within the coastal program area. After reviewing the survey responses, LMCP and IDEM will hold a series of stakeholder meetings with marina operators to discuss the program's development. LMCP anticipates that the Indiana Clean Marina Program will be operational by 2008.

Accomplishment: LMCP collaborated with its partners to develop Indiana's coastal nonpoint program document and submitted it to NOAA and USEPA for review in January 2005. LMCP also initiated and worked extensively on the development of the Indiana Clean Marina Program.

In addition to the Clean Marina Program, the Indiana CNP also contributed to projects that addressed watershed planning and development during the review period. For example, the Indiana CNP participated in the Trail Creek and Salt Creek Watershed Planning Steering Committees and provided information to and funding for the Dunes Creek Watershed Planning Steering Committee. The program intends to continue its work with watershed planning committee members and communities to incorporate CNP guidance within local watershed plans as appropriate.

LMCP awarded the Porter County Convention and Visitors Bureau a CNP grant to install educational signage at the new Porter County Visitors' Center. The signs will highlight the site's stormwater best management practices. Proposed best management practices include a stormwater wetland and treatment swales, a rain garden, pervious pavement, and curb cuts that will allow stormwater to drain from the road into the swales. The Porter County Convention and Visitors Bureau is also developing a documentary as part of the project.

Indiana CNP is also participating in the Hoosier Riverwatch Program by training volunteer stream monitors. Hoosier Riverwatch collaborates with agencies and volunteers to: (1) increase public involvement in water quality issues through hands-on volunteer training in stream monitoring and cleanup activities; (2) educate local communities about the relationship between land use and water quality; and (3) provide water quality information to citizens and governmental agencies working to protect Indiana's rivers and streams. The CNP plans to host at least one volunteer monitoring training day within the coastal program area in 2006. The goal is to engage the public in becoming active stewards of their watersheds by collecting and submitting water quality monitoring data to the Hoosier Riverwatch database.

E. COASTAL HAZARDS

The majority of Indiana's shoreline is parkland with little likelihood of future construction, and much of the rest of the shoreline has been stabilized. For example, the

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western portion of Indiana's shoreline is heavily industrialized and largely protected by seawalls and breakwaters. However, erosion remains a significant coastal hazard in Indiana. In particular, three areas of Indiana's coast experience increased erosion rates and lack enough sand to maintain sufficient beach widths as well as the offshore sand bars necessary to protect the shoreline. Mt. Baldy and Ogden Dunes experience severe sand-starved conditions and the highest erosion rates on Indiana's coast. These areas are located immediately downdrift of major sand-trapping structures. Beverley Shores is also sand-starved, but to a lesser degree than Mt. Baldy and Ogden Dunes. In 1974, a 13,000-foot rock revetment was placed along the shoreline of Beverley Shores to prevent the road and homes from collapsing into Lake Michigan. Mt. Baldy, Ogden Dunes and Beverley Shores all rely upon beach nourishment to maintain a shoreline with beaches and offshore sand bars.

LMCP has identified addressing coastal erosion as a high priority for the program; however, it must overcome two major impediments. The first obstacle is riparian ownership of the Lake Michigan shoreline. Private ownership extends to the ordinary high watermark; thus, the state has limited control over land use above ordinary high water. Additionally, the state does not regulate the use of sand dunes. Regulation of sand dunes is primarily the responsibility of local governments and is subject to National Flood Insurance Program requirements. There is no consistency in either the type of shoreline protection applied⁸ or construction standards. The second barrier is the lack of an adequate geographic information system (GIS)-based inventory of shoreline structures. Without a regularly-updated inventory, it is difficult for the state to determine legal ownership and condition of structures along the shoreline. The lack of such an inventory also hampers the state's ability to provide current information and technical assistance to individual homeowners and local communities.

Given these obstacles, LMCP has identified four priority tools that are required to address coastal erosion in Indiana:

- **Local Hazard Mitigation Ordinances:** Local communities have the primary responsibility for regulating construction activities and alterations above the ordinary high watermark. However, communities lack sufficient ordinances⁹ and technical expertise to control development activities that might have an adverse effect on natural resource function.
- **Shoreline Structures Inventory:** As previously noted, Indiana lacks a GIS-based inventory of existing shoreline structures. Such an inventory should be updated annually and made widely available.
- **Survey Benchmarks:** Indiana also lacks a permanent set of survey benchmarks along the coastline that can be used to monitor shoreline change over time.
- **Coastal Current Model:** A more predictive model of nearshore coastal currents would improve the understanding of how sediments move along Indiana's coastline. Such a model could also be used to project the movement of pollutants

⁸ For example, seawall vs. revetment.

⁹ Such as setbacks or rolling easements.

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and contaminants that enter Lake Michigan from tributaries and discharge points along the coast.

In order to address coastal erosion, LMCP has established two goals for the program. The first goal is to enhance the capacity of local communities to prevent and to minimize threats from coastal hazards. In order to achieve that goal, LMCP will develop hazard mitigation model ordinances for area communities. Local adoption of hazard mitigation ordinances will provide communities with an enforceable means of managing uses and activities along the lakeshore in a manner that preserves resources' natural function. The second goal is to improve the information available for mitigation planning. LMCP plans to develop a network of permanent reference sites that will be used to survey and to monitor shoreline changes annually. Shoreline change information will enhance the implementation of existing state and local regulatory and non-regulatory¹⁰ programs. A shoreline change reference network will also provide critical information to federal, state and local officials and will result in improved coastal planning and permitting.

F. COASTAL DEPENDENT USES AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

One of LMCP's major initiatives is its Coastal Grants Program. Established in 2003, the annual competitive grants program has two purposes: (1) to support projects that preserve, protect, restore and where possible develop Indiana's coastal resources; and (2) to achieve wise use of the coastal region's resources, giving full consideration to ecological, cultural, historic and aesthetic values as well as to the need for economic development. LMCP's large-scale coastal grants award a maximum of \$100,000 per project in three categories: low-cost construction, land acquisition,¹¹ and planning and outreach. LMCP also allocates limited funding for small-scale coastal grants that award a maximum of \$5,000 per project. The small-scale grants program was established to fund short-term education, outreach and resource management projects. LMCP allocates nearly 80 percent of its annual OCRM financial assistance award to the Coastal Grants Program.

LMCP's Coastal Grants Program begins each July when the CAB holds a public meeting to solicit input on funding priorities for the upcoming grant cycle. This is another noteworthy example of the emphasis that LMCP places upon public involvement in the program. A committee of three CAB members reviews the public comments, and the full CAB subsequently votes on funding priorities. LMCP announces its request for project proposals on October 1. Between October 1 and the application deadline on December 20, the LMCP Program Specialist conducts grant workshops in each of Indiana's coastal counties and works extensively with prospective applicants. In December and January, the CAB Grant Committee reviews applications and votes on funding recommendations. Subsequently, the Technical Review Team, a committee composed of representatives from various DNR divisions, discusses the CAB's recommendations and scores the applications. The team forwards their scores to the DNR Director for final selection in February. LMCP then sends the projects to OCRM for federal approval and to DNR for

¹⁰ Such as beach nourishment.

¹¹ Maximum award was increased to \$150,000 in 2006.

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environmental and historic preservation reviews. OCRM issues final approval of the projects and releases award funds in July, as the next funding cycle begins.

It was clear to the evaluation team that LMCP's Coastal Grants Program is very successful and well-run. During the site visit, the evaluation team repeatedly heard positive, enthusiastic comments about the Coastal Grants Program and the work it has facilitated. Evaluation participants highlighted projects in areas such as public access, land-use planning, acquisition and restoration. LMCP's Program Specialist received uniform praise for the grant workshops and other technical assistance that she provides. Her willingness to "go the extra mile" to assist applicants and her role as a single point of contact for the grants was frequently cited by those who had participated in the program.

Accomplishment: LMCP runs a successful Coastal Grants Program that provides money at the local level for projects in areas such as public access, land-use planning, acquisition and restoration. The program provides excellent grant workshops and other technical assistance to prospective applicants.

During the site visit, several CAB members registered concern that LMCP was unable to award all the money it allocated for the Coastal Grants Program. For example, LMCP allotted approximately \$900,000 for the 2005 funding cycle but only awarded \$285,213 to seven projects. LMCP explained that several factors contributed to the low project count in 2005. LMCP did not have the 2003 Coastal Grants Program operational in time to submit the grants for OCRM's review as part of the program's cooperative agreement. Projects slated for 2003 funding were approved nearly a year later. Additionally, LMCP's 2004 cooperative agreement was issued approximately three months late; the 2005 Coastal Grants Program proposal request process was half complete by the time the 2004 cooperative agreement was issued. These factors had the combined effect of reducing the grants management and match capacities of many of the program's grantees, thus decreasing the total number of projects submitted for funding.

During the 2006 funding cycle, LMCP awarded 15 projects a total of \$677,952.¹² As an example of the work funded by the program, the 2006 projects are listed below:

- Hobart Heritage Prairie (DNR Division of Nature Preserves)
- CSX Land Acquisition (Lake County Parks and Recreation Department)
- Little Calumet Prairie River Public Access and Restoration Area (Portage Parks Department)
- East Chicago Beach Restoration Project (City of East Chicago)
- Hoosier Prairie Block 11 and Gaylord Butterfly Tract Buckthorn Removal (DNR Division of Nature Preserves)

¹² Although the 2007 funding cycle is outside the review period of this evaluation, LMCP has indicated that it received 19 proposals for a total request of \$900,000. The program credits enhanced outreach and a streamlined grants application process for the increase in proposals. For example, the 2007 grant application process included a pre-application that required fewer technical grant-writing skills and a smaller time commitment.

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- Hoosier Prairie Nature Preserve, Savanna and Wetland Restoration (DNR Division of Nature Preserves)
- Clark and Pine East Phragmites Control (DNR Division of Nature Preserves)
- Pullman Forest (City of Michigan City)
- Restoration of Dune Acres Natural Areas (Town of Dune Acres)
- Jerry Ross Elementary Natural Habitat Restoration Project (Jerry Ross Elementary School)
- Restoration on Trail Creek at Springland Avenue (City of Michigan City)
- Orchard Pedestrian Bridge (Town of Porter Redevelopment Commission)
- Indiana Coastal Restoration Action Team – Training, Working, Outreach (Save the Dunes Conservation Fund)
- Learning to Keep the Coastline Rivers Healthy in Theory and Practice (Valparaiso University)
- Workshop on Enhancing Wetland Education Through GIS Applications (Purdue University North Central)

During the site visit, the evaluation team and LMCP staff discussed ways that the Coastal Grants Program could be further improved. For example, LMCP's Program Specialist mentioned that while several new applicants submitted projects during the most recent funding cycle, the program generally had the same core of applicants from year to year. This is not surprising given that LMCP is a relatively young program. It will take time to develop and to diversify the prospective applicant pool. At the time of the site visit, LMCP noted that it would increase its efforts to make grantees aware of funding opportunities. Such efforts include holding a grant workshop with all state grant programs and continuing to work with CAB members to reach out to stakeholder groups. Additionally, LMCP was planning to collaborate with a variety of professional groups in order to raise their members' awareness of the Coastal Grants Program. LMCP also will require project proponents to submit press releases with each quarterly report. These efforts will help improve visibility of the program among prospective applicants.

Evaluation participants also noted that it is often challenging for small communities to find people with both the time and the expertise to develop grant applications. In order to address the grant development challenges faced by small communities, LMCP might collaborate with its partners to sponsor occasional grant-writing workshops for prospective applicants. Another reason, cited repeatedly during the site visit, is that it is very difficult for local communities to meet the one-to-one match requirement. Although LMCP cannot alter the match requirement, the program works closely with prospective applicants to improve their understanding of options for meeting the requirement. The program noted that it would continue to work with local partners to explore creative ways of addressing the match requirement.

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3. Program Suggestion: OCRM encourages LMCP to continue improving its Coastal Grants Program. In particular, LMCP should: (1) expand, as practicable, its efforts to increase the visibility of the Coastal Grants Program; (2) collaborate with its partners to explore the feasibility of sponsoring occasional grant writing workshops for local communities; and (3) continue working closely with prospective applicants to raise awareness of options for meeting the one-to-one match requirement.

Funds that LMCP makes available for the competitive grants process but that are not awarded are eventually reprogrammed for other projects. During the site visit, the evaluation team and LMCP staff discussed reallocating a portion of the unused Coastal Grants Program money for staff or contractor support.¹³ Program Suggestion #1 in this document encourages LMCP and DNR to conduct an assessment of current staff capacity and potential future staffing needs. It also recommends that LMCP and DNR assess whether the amount of funding that LMCP retains for program operations will be sufficient as the program's workload increases. In conjunction with that recommendation, LMCP should consider whether the percentage of funding reallocated from unawarded Coastal Grants Program funds towards staff support is adequate or whether it should be increased.¹⁴

G. GOVERNMENT COORDINATION AND DECISION-MAKING

1. Federal Consistency

The CZMA's federal consistency provision is a major incentive for states to join the National Coastal Zone Management Program. It is also a powerful tool that states use to manage coastal uses and resources and to facilitate cooperation and coordination with federal agencies. The provision requires that federal agency activities that have reasonably foreseeable effects on any land or water use or natural resource of the coastal zone must be consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies of a state's federally-approved coastal management program.

LMCP is based upon existing state laws that are considered enforceable policies for the purposes of federal consistency. Thus, Indiana's federal consistency decisions are based on whether an existing state law, as described in the LMCP Program Document, applies to the proposed action. Consistency is only required of actions addressed by state laws, regardless of whether they are conducted by a local, state or federal entity. LMCP relies on appropriate state agencies to evaluate federal actions for consistency. DNR coordinates federal consistency reviews with these state agencies and serves as the point of contact for consistency reviews.

During the review period, LMCP undertook several initiatives to strengthen the federal consistency process. For example, LMCP invited all DNR divisions to assist in the

¹³ LMCP reallocated \$12,000 from the unawarded 2005 coastal grant funds for staff support.

¹⁴ LMCP notes that it continuously assesses the amount of funding required for staff and program support, but that the amount of resources available to match the federal award is a limiting factor for the program.

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development of a document to improve understanding of the federal consistency process. Representatives from 11 DNR divisions worked with LMCP to draft the Nonrule Policy Document, which explains and outlines federal consistency's internal review timeline and process as well as the public comment timeline and process. Subsequently, LMCP further refined the Nonrule Policy Document to clarify the timeline and review process for applicants and networked partner agencies. LMCP also established the online Indiana Federal Consistency Register¹⁵ to provide information about each federal consistency request to the public. At the time of the evaluation site visit, LMCP was coordinating with its partners to streamline the federal consistency review process by combining it with DNR's environmental review process. Additionally, LMCP and the DNR Division of Water are planning to implement a new project tracking system that will allow multiple permitting entities to provide comments on consistency reviews electronically. LMCP and the Division of Water also have had preliminary discussions regarding additional commitments of staff time for consistency issues. These efforts will improve the efficiency of the federal consistency process in Indiana.

LMCP implemented its federal consistency authority in accordance with program procedures and the requirements of CZMA §307 during the review period. Between April 2004 and March 2006, LMCP received seven federal consistency determination requests ranging from utility line placement to maintenance dredging. None of the proposed projects violated state laws; therefore, LMCP found them to be consistent. All applicants obtained the necessary state and federal permits or licenses and conducted the work accordingly.

During the site visit, the evaluation team and LMCP staff discussed ways that federal consistency implementation could be improved. As described above, LMCP is already undertaking several initiatives that will enhance the application of federal consistency, and the evaluation team commends the program for those efforts. For example, aligning the federal consistency process with DNR's environmental review process will improve LMCP's tracking of federal consistency actions. As noted previously in this document, LMCP is a young program; thus, federal consistency remains a relatively new process both for the program and for its federal partners. LMCP will improve federal consistency implementation as it continues outreach and education about the process to its federal partners. For example, a federal consistency workshop would likely be very beneficial for all participants. Additionally, LMCP will gain a greater understanding of how to use federal consistency to the best advantage of the program as it applies the process over time.

4. Program Suggestion: OCRM encourages LMCP to continue improving federal consistency implementation. In particular, LMCP should: (1) complete the alignment of the federal consistency process with DNR's environmental review process; and (2) increase outreach and education about the process to its federal partners.

¹⁵ <http://www.in.gov/dnr/lakemich/federal/register.html>

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2. Education and Outreach

Throughout the review period, LMCP increased its emphasis on education and outreach in order to raise public awareness of coastal issues. The program divides its education and outreach activities between coordinated and project-specific efforts. Indiana Coast Week is a good example of one of LMCP's coordinated education and outreach projects. Since 2003, LMCP has convened an annual Coast Week planning group of state, local, federal and nonprofit partners. Additionally, the local business community has supported and participated in Coast Week. In 2005, the Coast Week planning process involved several new participants. For example, the City of Gary hosted a Clean Water Fair as part of the Marquette Park Lagoons Coastal Grant Project and provided space for partners to share information about clean water efforts. Additionally, Michigan City and a variety of partners hosted an "edutainment" event for area school children.

In addition to LMCP's overarching sponsorship and coordination role in Coast Week, the program also engages in project-specific education and outreach efforts in conjunction with the week's festivities. In 2005, LMCP funded "Diving into Indiana's Maritime History." The "live dive" featured a two-way video and audio link for students and divers in Lake Michigan. More than 150 students from seven different schools learned about Lake Michigan's maritime history through the event. LMCP and the Northern Indiana Commuter Transportation District co-sponsored the "South Shore Coast Week Special." The transportation district donated use of a two-car train for the event, and LMCP arranged for interpretive presentations on topics ranging from history of the national lakeshore to regional planning. LMCP and its partners also: (1) purchased and distributed 2,500 Coast Week decals; (2) printed and distributed more than 250 Coast Week posters with a calendar of events; and (3) designed and maintained a Coast Week website.

During the review period, LMCP commissioned a new educational poster that presents information on the coastal region's top ten ecosystems. LMCP and DNR staff worked closely with a local artist to develop the poster's theme and associated information. LMCP held a formal poster release ceremony at Indiana Dunes State Park Nature Center in January 2006. At the time of the site visit, the program was also planning to commission a poster featuring the ecosystems of Lake Michigan.

In 2006, LMCP launched a public design contest for a "Welcome to the Lake Michigan Basin" highway sign. The sign will be posted at 28 locations throughout the coastal region where major roadways intersect the Lake Michigan drainage basin. The project is intended to raise public awareness of the extent of the drainage area as well as of the importance of Lake Michigan. LMCP, the CAB and DNR voted to select a group of finalists from the 43 entries received. The finalists were posted on the LMCP website for an open public vote to determine the contest winner. LMCP unveiled the new sign as part of Coast Week 2006.

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Accomplishment: LMCP initiated development of a strong education and outreach component. LMCP collaborated with its partners on Coast Week activities, the “Ecosystems of the Indiana Coastal Region” poster, and the Lake Michigan Basin sign design contest. The program uses a variety of methods to improve public awareness of Indiana’s coastal issues.

As LMCP is a small, networked program, education and outreach are critical components for program success. During the site visit, the evaluation team and LMCP staff discussed ways that the program could further improve its education and outreach efforts. For example, program staff noted that they were developing a marketing plan and exploring methods of showcasing their successes. Early in the review period, LMCP published a newsletter that provided information about program activities, opportunities for public participation, and funding availability. The newsletter was discontinued as a result of a staff shortage. At the time of the site visit, the Program Manager noted that a Special Projects Coordinator would be joining the program on contract. Such a position might allow the program to re-establish its newsletter. LMCP’s website¹⁶ and press releases are also important education and outreach tools for the program. However, staff noted that the processes for publishing press releases and for posting revisions and new materials to the website are very lengthy. Given the time-sensitive nature of press releases and website updates, long processing times are problematic. DNR leadership noted that the department was working to address this issue.

5. Program Suggestion: OCRM encourages LMCP to continue improving its education and outreach efforts. In particular, LMCP should: (1) complete its marketing plan; (2) re-establish its newsletter; and (3) work with DNR to explore possible methods of reducing processing times for press releases and website updates.

¹⁶ <http://www.in.gov/dnr/lakemich/>

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V. CONCLUSION

For the reasons stated herein, I find that Indiana is adhering to the programmatic requirements of the Coastal Zone Management Act and its implementing regulations in the operation of its federally-approved Lake Michigan Coastal Program (LMCP).

LCMP has made notable progress in the following areas: staffing, the Coastal Advisory Board, partnerships, strategic planning, coastal habitat, water quality, coastal dependent uses and community development, and education and outreach.

These evaluation findings also contain five recommendations. The recommendations are all in the form of Program Suggestions. The evaluation team did not identify any Necessary Actions. The Program Suggestions should be addressed before the next regularly-scheduled program evaluation, but they are not mandatory at this time. Program Suggestions that must be repeated in subsequent evaluations may be elevated to Necessary Actions. Summary tables of program accomplishments and recommendations are provided in Appendix A.

This is a programmatic evaluation of LMCP that may have implications regarding the state's financial assistance awards. However, it does not make any judgment about or replace any financial audits.

/s/ David M. Kennedy
David M. Kennedy
Director, Office of Ocean and
Coastal Resource Management

December 7, 2006
Date

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VI. APPENDICES

Appendix A. Summary of Accomplishments and Recommendations

The evaluation team documented a number of LMCP’s accomplishments during the review period. These include:

Issue Area	Accomplishment
Staff	LMCP has exceptional staff who have built the program from its inception in 2002. The staff are critical to LMCP’s success.
Coastal Advisory Board	LMCP emphasizes public involvement in the program and engages the public in all of its major projects. In particular, LMCP established the CAB when the program was approved in 2002 and developed the Board into a forum for the public to assist with LMCP implementation. LMCP also ensures that the CAB has broad stakeholder representation.
Partnerships	LMCP regularly engages in many diverse partnerships. The program successfully coordinates with other programs both within DNR as well as with external state, local, academic, industrial and private agencies and organizations.
Strategic Planning Initiative	In 2006, LMCP developed a strategic plan that clearly defines its vision, goals and objectives. The plan will provide overarching guidance for the coastal program as it continues to grow.
Coastal Habitat	Working with its partners, LMCP began development of Indiana’s CELCP Plan. The plan will serve as a comprehensive and coordinated planning document that assesses Indiana’s priority coastal and estuarine land conservation needs and provides clear guidance to applicants for nominating and selecting coastal and estuarine land conservation projects within Indiana.
Water Quality	LMCP collaborated with its partners to develop Indiana’s coastal nonpoint program document and submitted it to NOAA and USEPA for review in January 2005. LMCP also initiated and worked extensively on the development of the Indiana Clean Marina Program.
Coastal Dependent Uses and Community Development	LMCP runs a successful Coastal Grants Program that provides money at the local level for projects in areas such as public access, land-use planning, acquisition and restoration. The program provides excellent grant workshops and other technical assistance to prospective applicants.
Education and Outreach	LMCP initiated development of a strong education and outreach component. LMCP collaborated with its partners on Coast Week activities, the “Ecosystems of the Indiana Coastal Region” poster, and the Lake Michigan Basin sign design contest. The program uses a variety of methods to improve public awareness of Indiana’s coastal issues.

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In addition to the accomplishments listed above, the evaluation team identified several areas where LMCP could be strengthened. Recommendations are in the form of Program Suggestions. The evaluation team did not identify any Necessary Actions. Areas for improvement include:

Issue Area	Program Suggestion
Staff	1. OCRM encourages LMCP and DNR to conduct an assessment of current staff capacity and potential future staffing needs. LMCP and DNR should also assess whether the amount of funding that LMCP retains for program operations will be sufficient as the program's workload increases. LMCP and DNR should use the results of the assessment to develop a staffing plan for the program as it matures and undertakes new initiatives.
Coastal Advisory Board	2. OCRM strongly recommends that the CAB maintain its role as a stakeholder advisory group and critical public input mechanism for LMCP as the program matures.
Coastal Dependent Uses and Community Development	3. OCRM encourages LMCP to continue improving its Coastal Grants Program. In particular, LMCP should: (1) expand, as practicable, its efforts to increase the visibility of the Coastal Grants Program; (2) collaborate with its partners to explore the feasibility of sponsoring occasional grant writing workshops for local communities; and (3) continue working closely with prospective applicants to raise awareness of options for meeting the one-to-one match requirement.
Federal Consistency	4. OCRM encourages LMCP to continue improving federal consistency implementation. In particular, LMCP should: (1) complete the alignment of the federal consistency process with DNR's environmental review process; and (2) increase outreach and education about the process to its federal partners.
Education and Outreach	5. OCRM encourages LMCP to continue improving its education and outreach efforts. In particular, LMCP should: (1) complete its marketing plan; (2) re-establish its newsletter; and (3) work with DNR to explore possible methods of reducing processing times for press releases and website updates.

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Appendix B. People and Institutions Contacted

State of Indiana Representatives

Name	Title	Affiliation
John Bacone	Division Director	DNR Division of Nature Preserves
Brian Breidert		DNR Division of Fish and Wildlife
Karie Brudis	Program Director	DNR Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology
John Davis	Deputy Director	DNR Land Management Team
Stephen Davis		DNR Division of Water
John Ervin	Regional Ecologist	DNR Division of Nature Preserves
Joe Exl	Coastal Nonpoint Coordinator	DNR LMCP
Andrea Gromeaux		DNR Division of Water
Steve Lucas		DNR Natural Resources Commission
Ron McAhron	Deputy Director	DNR Regulatory Team
Mike Molnar	Program Manager	DNR LMCP
Jenny Orsburn	Program Specialist	DNR LMCP
Christie Stanifer		DNR Division of Fish and Wildlife
Martha Clark Mettler		IDEM Office of Water Quality
Andrew Pelloso		IDEM Office of Water Quality

Local Government Representatives

Name	Title	Affiliation
Kevin Breitzke	Secretary	Northwest Indiana Regional Planning Commission
Dan Gardner		Northwest Indiana Regional Planning Commission
Reggie Korthals	Director of Environmental Management and Planning	Northwest Indiana Regional Planning Commission
Tim Morgan	Superintendent	LaPorte County Parks and Recreation Department
Tammy Steinhagen		LaPorte County Parks and Recreation Department
Bob Thompson		Porter County Planning Commission
David Lane	Deputy Sheriff	Porter County
A.J. Monroe		City of Portage
James Kieft	Planner	City of Michigan City

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Matt Kras		City of Valparaiso

Federal Agency Representatives

Name	Title	Affiliation
Drew Benziger		USACE, Great Lakes and Ohio River Division, Chicago District
Dale Engquist	Superintendent	USDOJ, Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore

Academic Representatives

Name	Title	Affiliation
Vickie Meretsky	Professor of Conservation Biology	Indiana University
Mark Reshkin	Professor Emeritus	Indiana University Northwest

Nongovernmental Organization Representatives

Name	Title	Affiliation
Tom Anderson		Save the Dunes Council
Constance Clay		Save the Dunes Council
Charlotte Read		Save the Dunes Council
Carol Cook		Save the Dunes Conservation Fund
Christine Livingston		Save the Dunes Conservation Fund
Jack Hires		Northwest Indiana Steelheaders
Paul Labus		The Nature Conservancy

Industry Representatives

Name	Title	Affiliation
Kay Nelson		Northwest Indiana Forum
Steve Ernst	Civil Engineer	Christopher B. Burke Engineering
David McCormick	Managing Engineer	Christopher B. Burke Engineering
Mike Schubert		Christopher B. Burke Engineering
Peter Kohut	Executive Vice President	Butler, Fairman and Seufert Civil Engineers
James Troy Tharp	Construction Supervisor	Butler, Fairman and Seufert Civil Engineers

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Other Representatives

Name	Title	Affiliation
J. Allen Johnson	Executive Director	Northwest Indiana Race Relations Council
Henry Bliss	Citizen	Porter County

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Appendix C. People Attending the Public Meeting

Name	Affiliation
Carol Cook	Save The Dunes Conservation Fund
Mary Ann Crayton	Town of Dune Acres
Grayson Davis	Valparaiso University
John Ervin	DNR Division of Nature Preserves
Carl Fisher	Portage County Parks Department
Jenn Johansson	Jerry Ross Elementary School
Joe Mitchell	Rivertenders

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Appendix D. OCRM's Response to Written Comments

OCRM received one set of written comments regarding the Indiana Lake Michigan Coastal Program. The comments are summarized below and followed by OCRM's response.

Tim Morgan
LaPorte County Parks and Recreation Department
LaPorte County, Indiana

Comment: Mr. Morgan writes about the Coastal Grant Program and the gap between the amount of funding available and the amount of funding requested. He notes that the gap could easily be closed if LMCP directly allocated a percentage of the funds to DNR each year.

Response: This issue is discussed in Section IV-F of these findings. Mr. Morgan's comments have been provided to LMCP.