

November 4th, 2010

Minutes of Regional Compact/Agreement Coalition Call

Participants:

Karen Hubbard, NRDC
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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. 8th, 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 15th 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.