

EGLE
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY

Great Lakes High Water and Erosion


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Water Resources Division

1/23/2020

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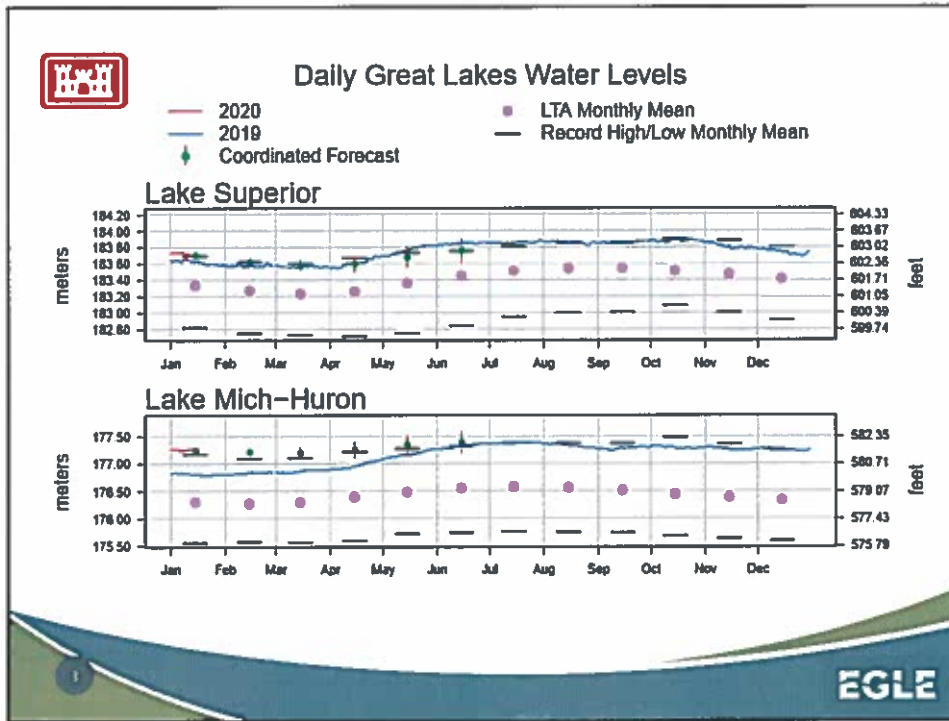
Great Lakes Water Levels



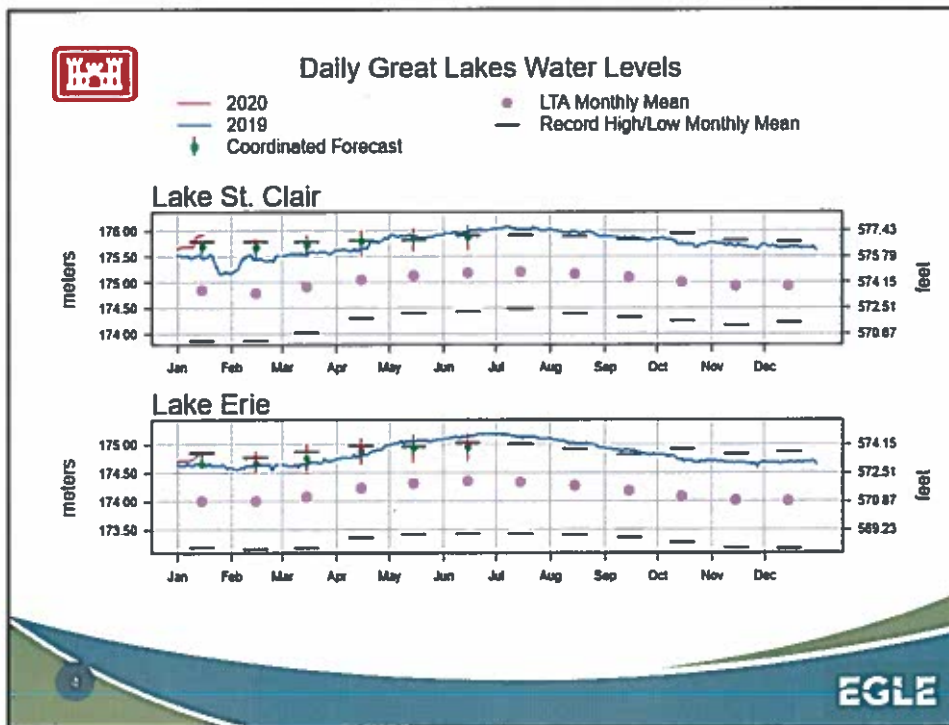
- Water levels are cyclical with periods of low and high water
 - Can last for several years
 - Influenced by precipitation, runoff, and evaporation
- All the Great Lakes are currently at or near record highs

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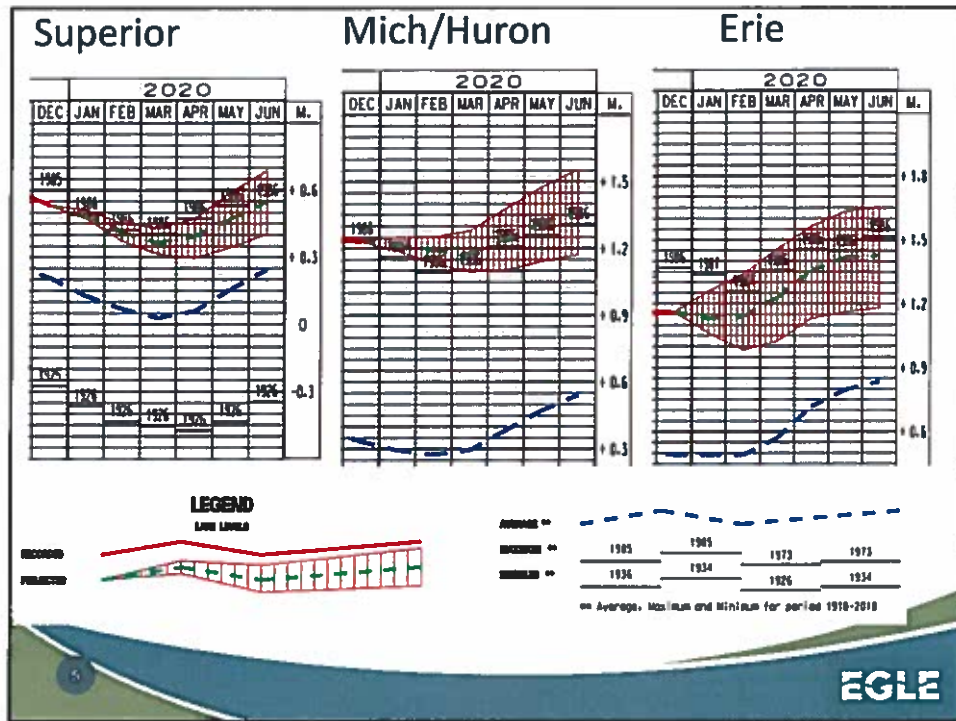
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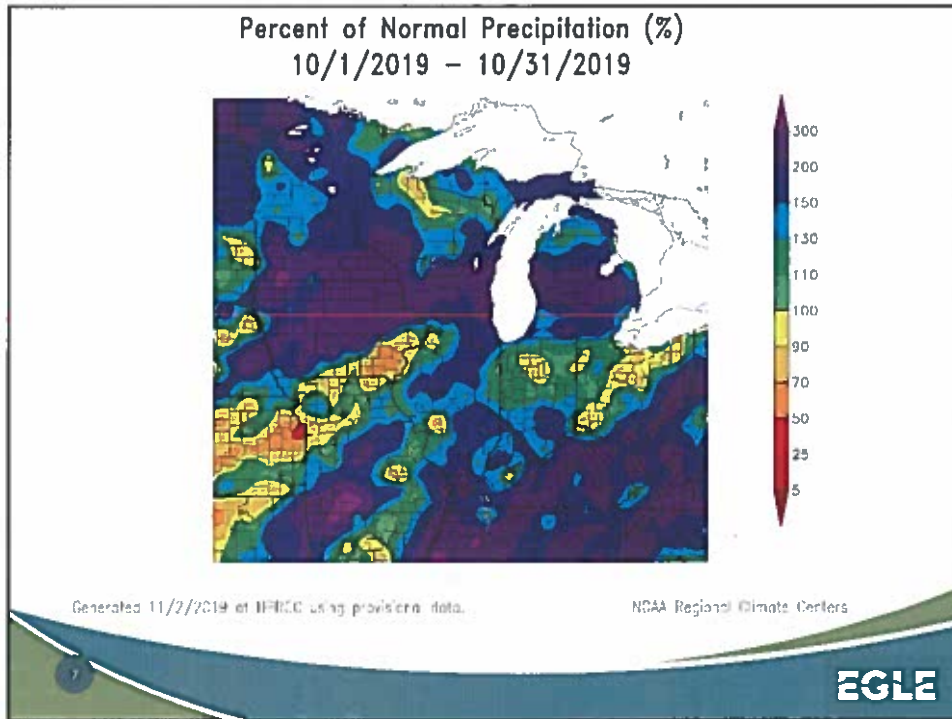


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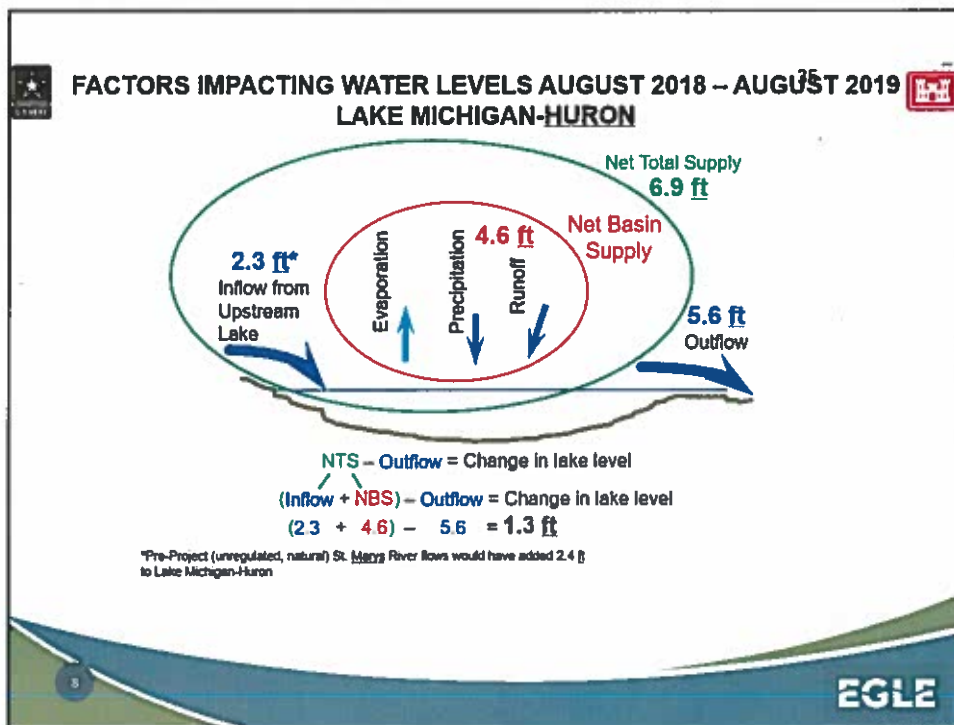
PRECIPITATION RANKS (DETAILED)

Nov 2018-Oct 2019 12 Month	41.53" (1,062.43mm)	32.78" (832.61mm)	9.05" (229.87mm)	124th Driest	Driest since 2018	1963
May 2018-Oct 2019 18 Month	65.44" (1,662.18mm)	52.05" (1,329.07mm)	13.39" (340.11mm)	124th Driest	Driest since 2018	1963
Nov 2017-Oct 2019 34 Month	80.15" (2,035.61mm)	65.54" (1,664.72mm)	14.61" (371.09mm)	123rd Driest	Driest since 2018	1963
Nov 2016-Oct 2019 36 Month	120.79" (3,068.01mm)	98.39" (2,496.92mm)	22.49" (571.25mm)	122nd Driest	Driest since 2018	1964
Nov 2015-Oct 2019 48 Month	158.50" (4,025.90mm)	131.99" (3,329.69mm)	27.41" (696.21mm)	121st Driest	Driest since 2018	1964
Nov 2014-Oct 2019 60 Month	191.62" (4,867.15mm)	163.85" (4,161.79mm)	27.77" (705.30mm)	120th Driest	Driest since 2018	1934

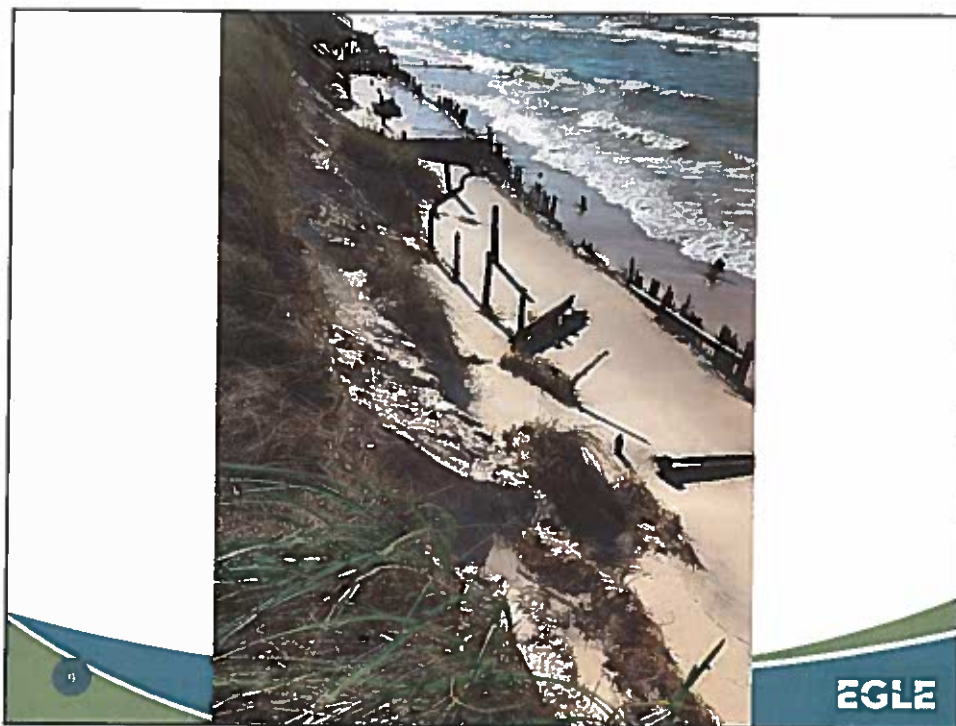
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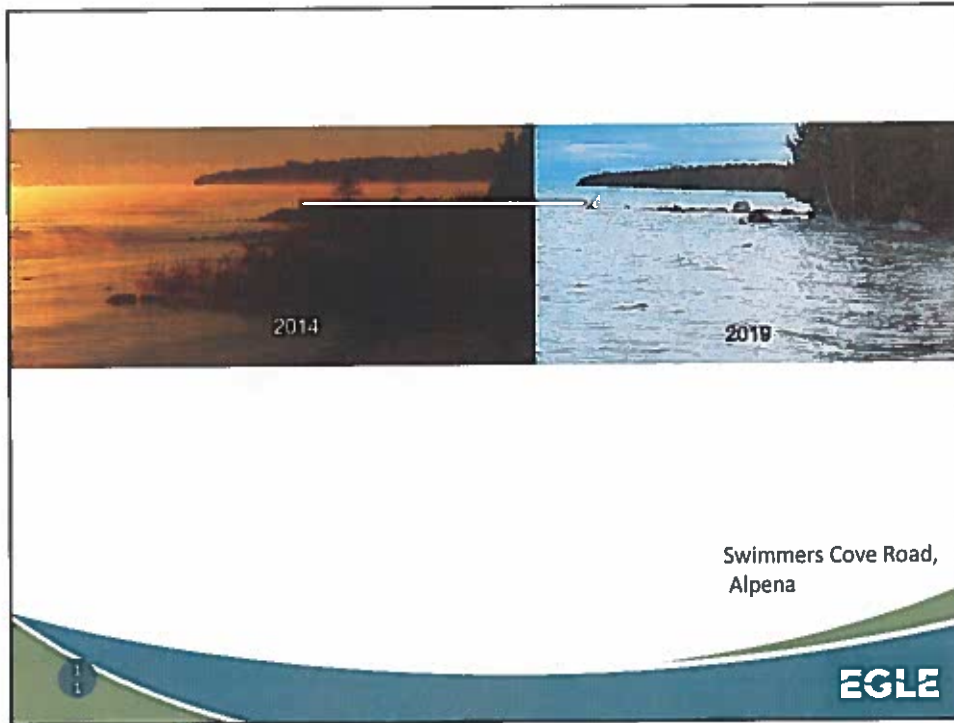
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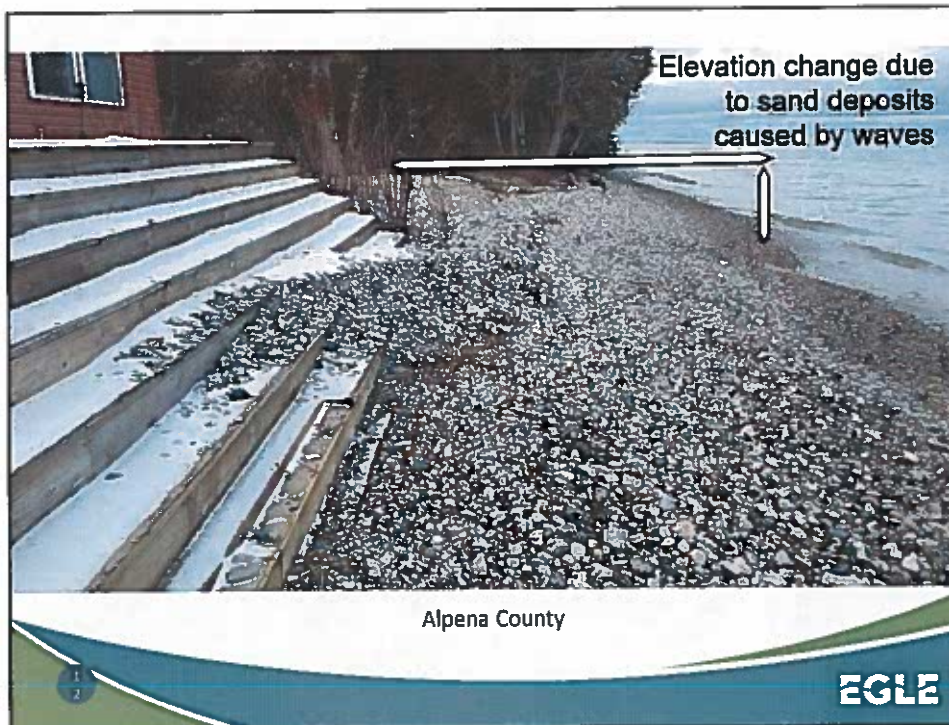
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Lakeshore Drive, Mackinac Island

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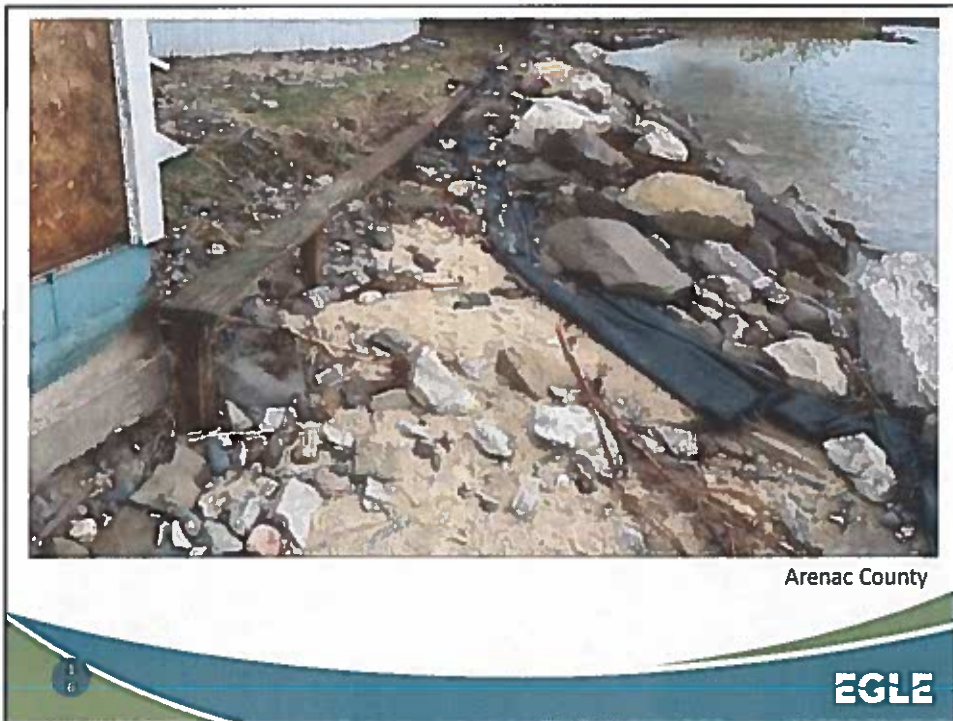


Ontonagon County

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1986

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8L2yK2iT4C0>



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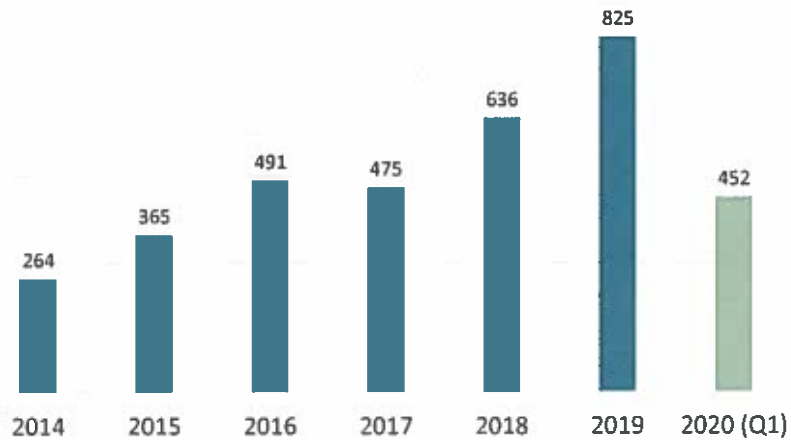
Permitting

- If the water level is at or above the proposed structure, a permit is required to install shoreline protection on the Great Lakes from both EGLE and the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE).
- If the site is in a Critical Dune Area, a permit is required for most activities.

In Michigan, one application covers both state and federal requirements for these programs (Joint Permit Application - Michigan.gov/JointPermit)

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Great Lakes Permit Applications



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What is EGLE doing about it?

- ✓ 2018 – 2019: Staff Reassignments
- ✓ October 2019: Phase I
- January 2020: Phase II



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Phase I:

Internal Response Team:

1. Expedite high water permits
2. Customer assistance
3. Communicate



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Phase I – Assisting Customers

- ✓ New webpage: Great Lakes High Water Levels (Michigan.gov/HighWater)
- ✓ Customer assistance on-calls (8:30-4:30, M-F): Environmental Assistance Center (800-662-9278 or EGLE-assist@Michigan.gov). Tell the operator you are calling about “high water”.

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Phase I – Communication

- ✓ Press Releases (3)
 - ✓ 30+ Media Interviews
- ✓ Local Units of Government Webinar (11/12)
- ✓ MiEnvironment Blog Articles
- ✓ Public Meetings: Holland, Lexington, Manistee (2), Spring Lake
- ✓ Stakeholder Meeting Presentations (6+)

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Phase I- Expediting Permits

- ✓ Prioritize based on risk to homes, critical infrastructure, and human health & safety
- ✓ More staff reassignments and overtime
- ✓ Emergency permitting authority
- ✓ Streamlining permitting processes
 - ✓ Minor Project category for sandbag stabilization
 - ✓ Modifying internal procedures

FY 2020 Q1:

Ave. Received to Issued = 14 days (66% within 7 days)

Ave. Complete to Issued = 4 days (95% within 2 days)



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Phase II

Intended to address unforeseen challenges

- Limiting after-the-fact permit fees
- Working with LUGs to obtain timely comments
- Changing “complete” application requirements to address:
 - Engineer/Architect sign offs
 - Soil erosion permitting
- Emergency Conditional Permitting



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Ongoing Considerations

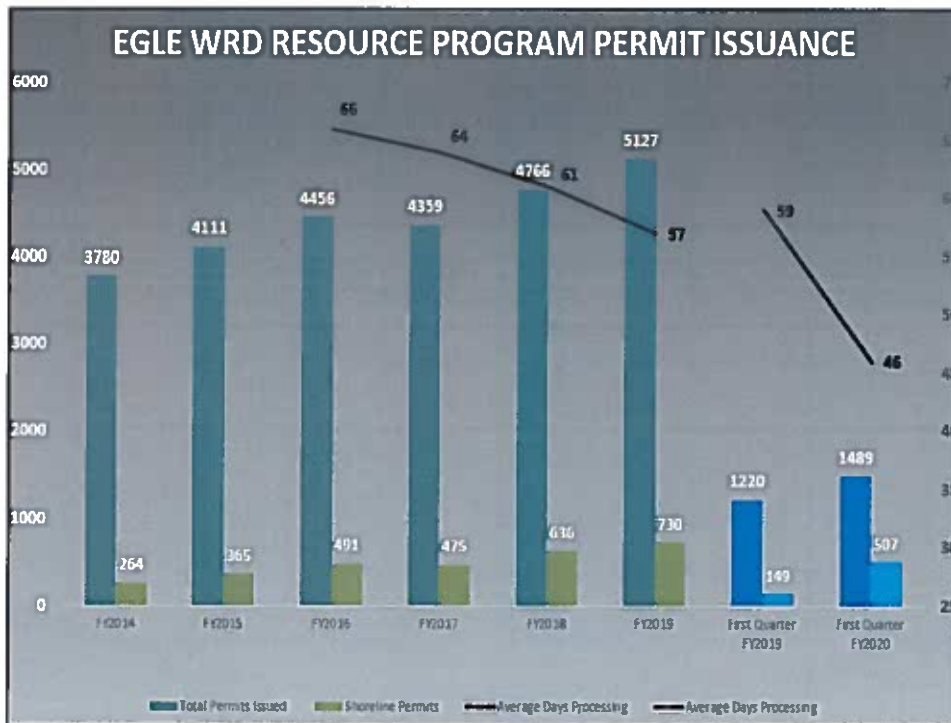
- Inland and lakeshore flooding
 - Communities
 - Infrastructure
 - Mapping

- Agency coordination

- Sustainability of other permitting responsibilities

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