Michigan

Office of the Auditor General

REPORT SUMMARY

Performance Audit

Land and Water Management Division

Department of Environmental Quality

Report Number:
761-0153-06

Released:
May 2007

The mission of the Land and Water Management Division (LWMD) is to promote the best use of land and water interface resources for their social and economic benefits while protecting associated resource values, property rights, the environment, and public health and safety. LWMD administers a variety of programs that help protect sensitive natural resources, including inland lakes and streams, wetlands, floodplains, sand dunes, and the Great Lakes. LWMD provides technical assistance and oversight over regulated activities.

Audit Objective:
To assess the effectiveness of LWMD's permit processing function.

Audit Conclusion:
LWMD's permit processing function was effective. However, we noted two reportable conditions (Findings 1 and 2).

Reportable Conditions:
LWMD should improve its Coastal and Inland Waters Permit Information System (CIWPIS) database security controls to help ensure the integrity and validity of permit data (Finding 1).

LWMD did not ensure that staff entered complete and accurate data into CIWPIS (Finding 2).

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Audit Objective:
To assess the effectiveness of LWMD's efforts to resolve complaints regarding land and water resources.

Audit Conclusion:
LWMD's efforts to resolve complaints regarding land and water resources were moderately effective. We noted two reportable conditions (Findings 3 and 4).

Reportable Conditions:
LWMD did not always follow up complaints regarding the use of land and water resources in accordance with priorities established in LWMD procedures (Finding 3).

LWMD did not ensure that district staff entered complete and accurate performance data into the Compliance Tracking Database. In addition, LWMD did not ensure that district staff maintained detailed supporting records for data recorded in the Compliance Tracking Database. (Finding 4)

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Audit Objective:
To assess the effectiveness of LWMD's efforts in monitoring wetlands.

Audit Conclusion:
LWMD's efforts in monitoring wetlands were effective. However, we noted one reportable condition (Finding 5).

Reportable Condition:
LWMD did not ensure compliance with regulations regarding wetland mitigation and protection of Michigan's wetlands (Finding 5).

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Audit Objective:
To assess the effectiveness of LWMD's efforts in monitoring required dam safety inspections and emergency action plans.

Audit Conclusion:
LWMD's efforts in monitoring required dam safety inspections and emergency action plans were effective. Our report does not include any reportable conditions related to this audit objective.

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Audit Objective:
To assess the effectiveness of LWMD's efforts in monitoring Great Lakes marina lease requirements.

Audit Conclusion:
LWMD's efforts in monitoring Great Lakes marina lease requirements were effective. Our report does not include any reportable conditions related to this audit objective.

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Audit Objective:
To assess the effectiveness of LWMD's controls over cash receipts.

Audit Conclusion:
LWMD's controls over cash receipts were moderately effective. However, we noted one reportable condition (Finding 6).

Reportable Condition:
LWMD had not established internal control over the cash receipting process for permit application fees (Finding 6).

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Agency Response:
Our audit report contains 6 findings and 7 corresponding recommendations. LWMD's preliminary response indicates that it agrees with 6 recommendations and partially agrees with 1 recommendation.

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A copy of the full report can be obtained by calling 517.334.8050 or by visiting our Web site at: http://audgen.michigan.gov

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