[1] A single agency or entity of state government should be designated as the lead agency for storm water issues.

[2] The lead agency for storm water issues designated under recommendation [1] should commission a survey of a diverse representation of at least twenty (20) rural and urban storm water systems in Indiana to gather information concerning the following matters:
   (A) The local funding mechanisms used to support storm water projects.
   (B) The asset management methods used to fund operation and management of storm water systems. This may include an annual capital statement that shows how revenues compare to utility costs.
   (C) The methods used to assign priority in a storm water system regarding the condition of all regulated drains, roadside ditches, streams, and rivers to reduce flooding and improve storm water quality.
   (D) The capital needs of each storm water utility.
   (E) The age, capacity, and performance metrics (e.g., NPDES) for the storm water utility.
   (F) The history of interaction and support with state agencies.
   (G) Apparent water quality and quantity trends that may be important for long-term capital planning.
   (H) Institutional constraints that are embedded in the current utility.
   (I) Interest in more regular interaction with neighboring utilities.

[3] The Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA) should utilize:
   (A) the water expertise of the Indiana Finance Authority (IFA); and
   (B) the prioritization methodology used by the IFA to evaluate applications for funding from the State Revolving Fund;

to evaluate proposals for storm water project funding from OCRA.

[4] IC 36-9-27, the "Drainage Code," should be reviewed to determine whether it authorizes county surveyors and drainage boards to use best management practices to meet drainage needs without creating negative impacts in the form of erosion or flooding upstream or downstream.

[5] In the sphere of drainage and flood control, models that allow for easier coordination and collaboration across county lines and that follow watershed boundaries should be developed. (These models could be similar to the models developed for use in connection with river basin commissions.)

[6] The lead agency for storm water issues designated under recommendation [1] should evaluate and coordinate incentives, resources, and technical assistance to farmers, landowners, local government officials, and state and federal agencies for purposes of implementing storm water management plans, which may include the use of more two-stage ditches.