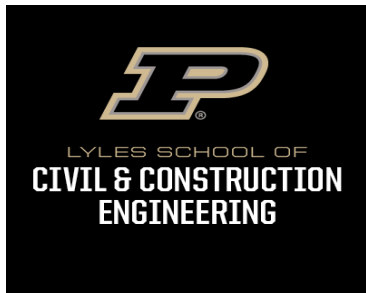


# Why Did the Indiana State Legislature Authorize the Establishment of a State-wide Water Asset Management Center?

**PRESENTER:**

**Tom Iseley, Ph.D., P.E., Dist. M. ASCE, PWAM**



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# The Problem Wouldn't Go Away

- 2015 IFA Evaluation of Water Utility Planning
- Aging water and wastewater infrastructure
- Replacement rates below sustainable levels
- Short-term rate pressure vs. long-term system integrity



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Problem

Cause

Change

Challenge

Complication

The Center

IN-WIC

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Leaders

Contractors  
and  
Technology

Visionaries

Resolution

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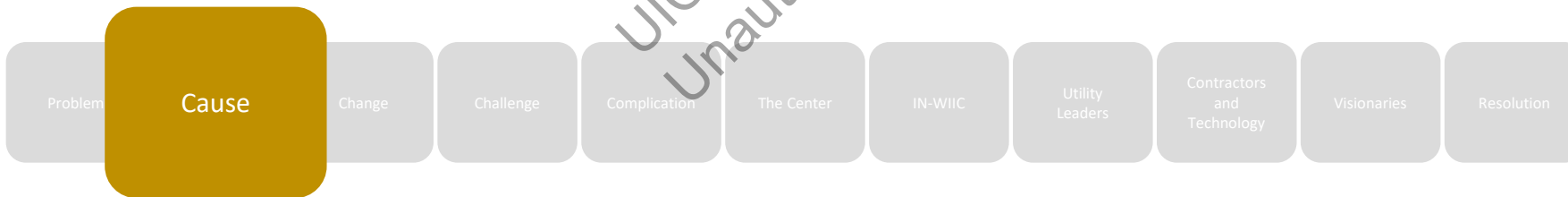
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# Everyone Was Doing Their Job

- Utilities, regulators, and legislators acting within their mandates
- Emphasis on affordability and near-term rate stability
- Fragmented responsibility across institutions
- Rational decisions producing unsustainable outcomes

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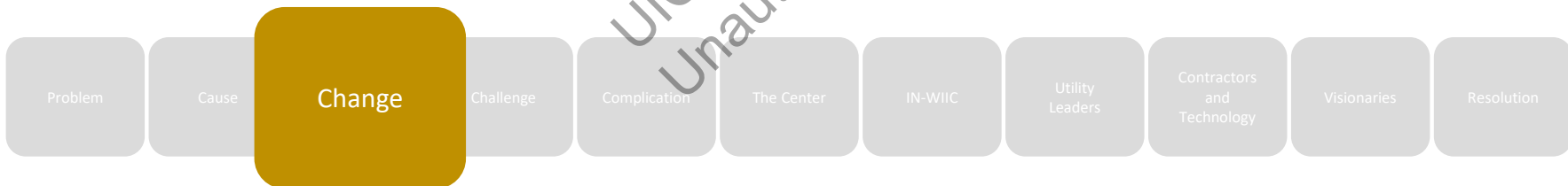
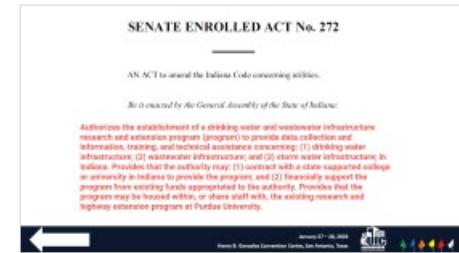
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# Indiana Changed the Rules

- SEA 272 (2022): Asset Management Program requirements
- HEA 1459 (2025): Expanded statutory authority
- Asset management tied to SRF eligibility
- Shift from voluntary guidance to required planning



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# A New Requirement, Old Constraints

- Disproportionate burden on small and mid-sized utilities
- Limited staff, data, and technical capacity
- Risk of “paper compliance” without real implementation
- Market uncertainty for vendors and contractors

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# The State Knew the Risk

- Legislative authorization for a statewide center
- Recognition that mandates require institutional support
- Need for consistency, continuity, and neutrality
- Asset management framed as governance infrastructure

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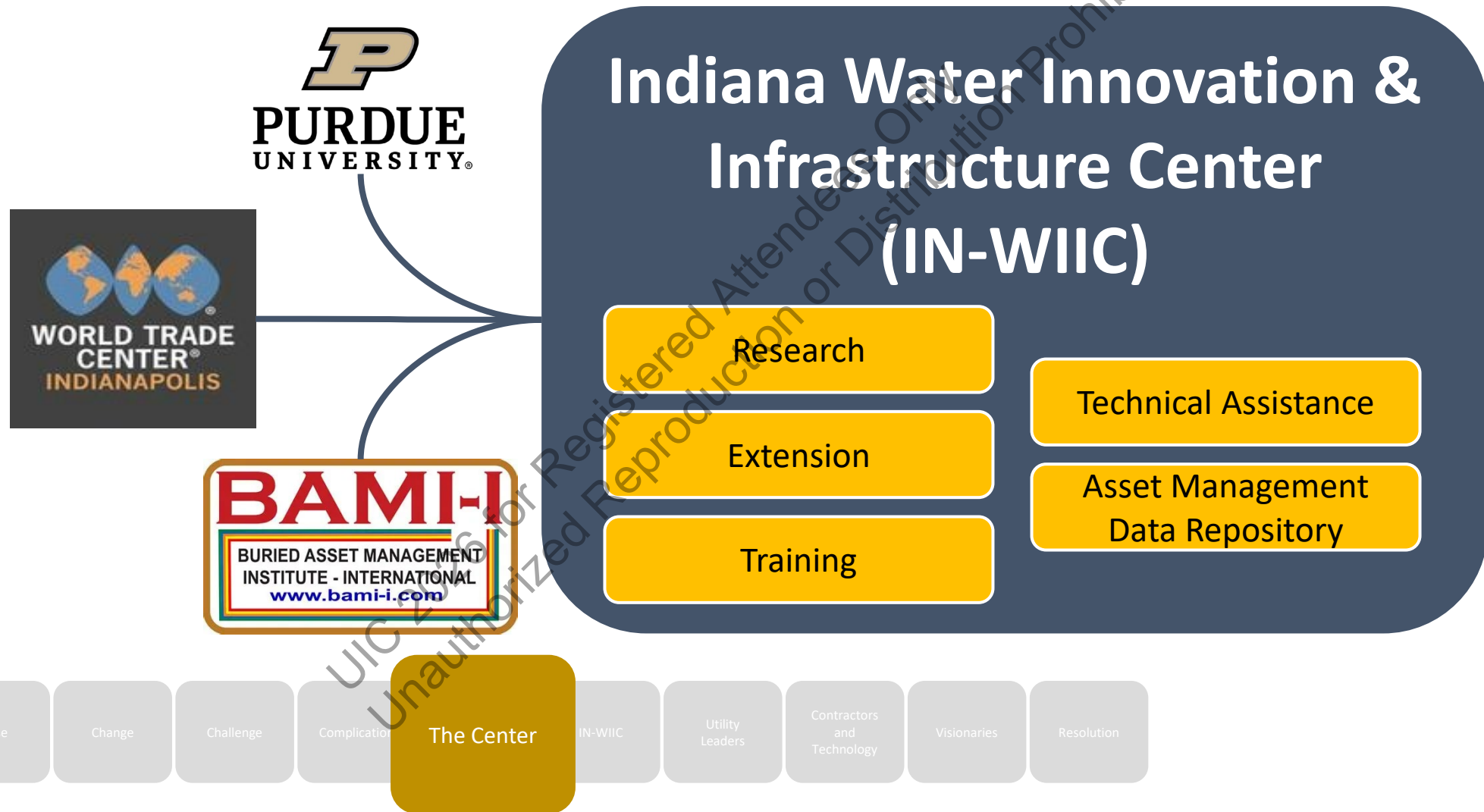
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# IN-WIIC Comes Into Being



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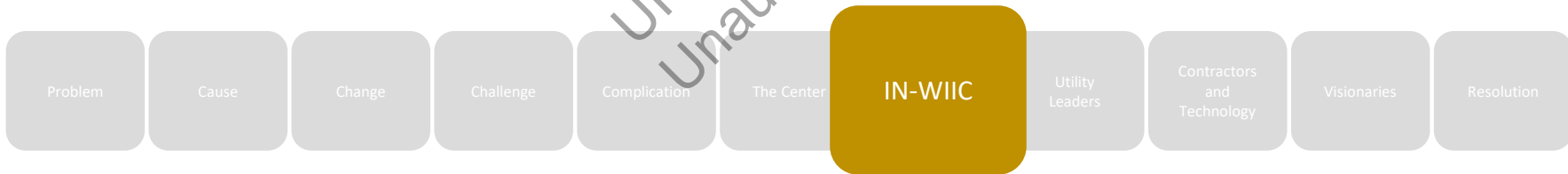
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# The Space IN-WIIC Occupies Today

- Shared standards and common language statewide
- Earlier alignment between planning, funding, and delivery
- Improved defensibility of long-term decisions
- Platform supporting utilities, markets, and innovation

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# What This Means for Utility Leaders

- Utility leader accountability remains local
- Support for boards, councils, and rate-setting discussions
- Practical guidance for sustainable asset management
- Reduced isolation in long-term decision-making



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# What This Means for Vendors and Contractors

- Clearer expectations for technology vendors and contractors
- More consistent planning across utilities
- Improved project definition upstream
- Healthier, more predictable market



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# What This Means for Visionaries

- Long-term vision carried forward over 15 years
- Persistence across studies, legislation, and partnerships
- Proof that institutional change can start with one person
- Vision translated into durable structure



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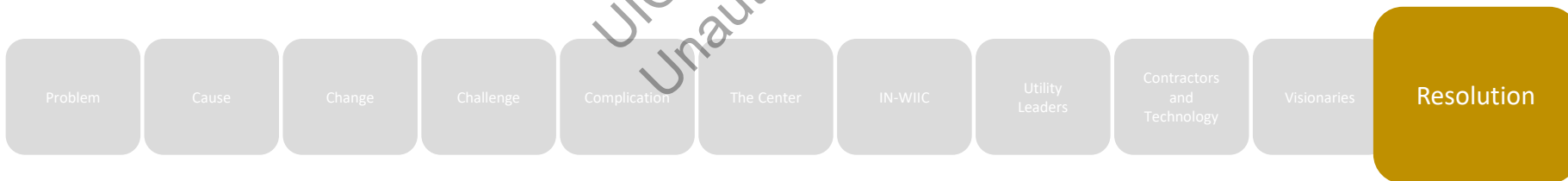
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# The Resolution: IN-WIIC

- IN-WIIC embedded in Indiana's water governance
- Continuity beyond election cycles and funding rounds
- Neutral connector between utilities, regulators, and markets
- Long-term planning normalized, not exceptional

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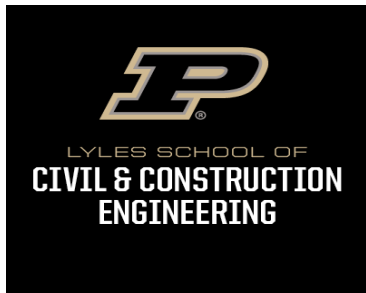
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