

Illinois Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy

2014 Illinois Water Conference
Tuesday, October 14, 2014
University of Illinois
Urbana, IL



Mississippi River/Gulf of Mexico Watershed Nutrient Task Force

- Task Force began in late 1990s
- Integrated Assessment
- 2001 Action Plan – *30% reduction target*
- Reassessment / USEPA Science Advisory Panel
- 2008 Action Plan – *45% reduction target*

Mississippi River/Gulf of Mexico Watershed Nutrient Task Force

● **3 Goals**

- **Coastal Goal** – reduce the five-year running average areal extent of the Gulf of Mexico hypoxic zone to less than 5,000 sq. kilometers by the year 2015
- **Within Basin Goal** – restore and protect the waters of the 31 states and tribal lands within the Mississippi/Atchafalaya River Basin
- **Quality of Life Goal** – improve the communities and economic conditions across the Mississippi/Atchafalaya River Basin

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○ *Principals*

- Encourage actions that are **voluntary, incentive-based, practical, and cost-effective**;
- Utilize **existing programs**, including existing state and federal regulatory mechanisms;
- Follow adaptive management;
- Identify additional funding needs and sources during the annual agency budget processes;
- Identify opportunities for, and potential barriers to, innovative and market-based solutions; and
- Provide measurable outcomes as outlined below in the three goals and eleven actions.

Mississippi River/Gulf of Mexico Watershed Nutrient Task Force

- **Overall Basin**
- **Sub-Basin Groups**
 - UMRESHNC
 - Ohio
 - Lower Mississippi
- **State Level Plans**
 - identified in 2008 Action Plan

March 16, 2011 “Stoner” Memo

- Provided framework for state nutrient (loss) reductions through 8 recommended elements:
 1. Watershed prioritization
 2. Watershed load reduction goals
 3. Effectiveness of point source permitting
 4. Agricultural practice targeting
 5. Storm water and septic systems
 6. Accountability and verification measures
 7. Annual public reporting
 8. N and P criteria development

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- **Policy work group** made up of various stakeholders including
 - Wastewater treatment works representatives
 - Environmental advocate organizations
 - Agricultural organizations
 - State & federal government representatives
 - University of Illinois researchers
- Met monthly over a 12-month period beginning in the summer of 2013

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- ◎ **Science Assessment** – Dr. Mark David, et al.
 - Describes current conditions
 - Identifies critical watersheds
 - Identifies agricultural practices and nutrient losses by major land resource area (MLRA)
 - Lists possible point source reductions with resulting cost estimates
 - Outlines possible non-point source nutrient losses with cost estimates
 - Lists statewide scenarios with associated costs
 - Conclusions

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- **Three subcommittees** with representatives from numerous interest groups –
 - Agricultural non-point sources
 - Urban point source
 - Urban non-point sources
- Met various times to draft specific strategy chapters

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○ Agriculture Subcommittee

- Representatives from numerous interest groups
 - Agriculture
 - Environmental NGOs
 - Waste water organizations
 - State and federal government
 - University researchers
- Met three times as a subcommittee
- Provided comments on a draft agriculture chapter twice before the document was distributed to the entire policy work group

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◉ Goals and Milestones

- **GOAL** = 45% reduction in the annual loading of nitrate-nitrogen and phosphorus compared to 1980-1996 (baseline conditions)
- **Milestones**
 - Nitrate-nitrogen 15% by 2025
 - Phosphorus 25% by 2025

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