



ILLINOIS
NUTRIENT LOSS
REDUCTION STRATEGY

Improving our
water resources
with collaboration
and innovation



Illinois Extension
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Illinois NLRS Dashboard Discussion

Trevor Sample, Illinois EPA



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Should Illinois adopt an online dashboard for NLRs Reporting?

- **Use Great Lakes to Gulf Virtual Observatory as the online platform.**
 - Current Data
 - Water Quality
 - Agriculture Implementation
 - Urban Stormwater (Green Infrastructure)
 - Expand datasets to include all information collected for Biennial Reports.
- **Dashboard would replace traditional Biennial Reports.**



Potential Dashboard Structure

- Steering Committee will work with Policy Working Group or subworking group(s) to guide development.
 - How to present data, development of supporting text.
- Data could be displayed spatially with interactive maps.
- Dashboard data could be uploaded annually or biennially.
- All data is public information and could be available for download.
 - Allow partner organizations to conduct their own data analyses.



Potential Dashboard Structure (cont.)

- Partner Updates
 - Partner organizations could utilize the Data Stories structure to convey their work on the NLRs.
 - Links to organizations' webpages.
- Provide tutorials on how to navigate the dashboards.



Dashboard—Potential First Steps

- Steering Committee would begin compiling databases from past Biennial Report periods.
- Work with National Great Rivers Research and Education Center and University of Illinois National Center for Supercomputing Applications to develop online dashboard.
- Populate Dashboard with existing data (baseline-2022).



Dashboard—Potential Timeline

- Populate Dashboard and go live by end of 2025?
- Might depend on 2025 reporting discussions.
- Potential to develop “Executive Summary” type of document for general public consumption to accompany annual or biennial dashboard updates.



Do we want a dashboard?
What thoughts or questions do you have?

OPEN DISCUSSION

Everyone: Please introduce yourself with your name and affiliation.

Online participants: Signal in the chat to speak or type comments for us to read.



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What concerns do we have about transitioning to a digital dashboard?

OPEN DISCUSSION

Everyone: Please introduce yourself with your name and affiliation.

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If we have a dashboard,
do we still want an Executive Summary?

OPEN DISCUSSION

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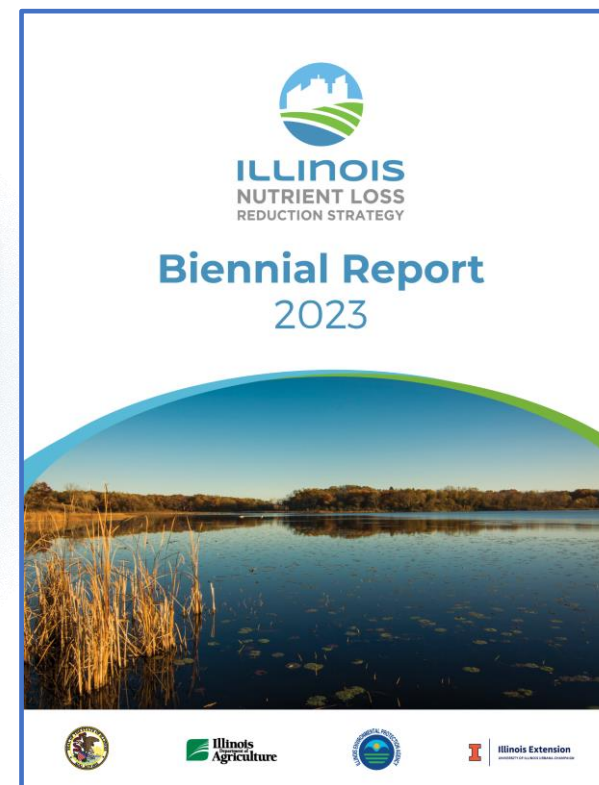
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2025 Report Discussion



Moderated by Joan Cox, Illinois Extension



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What should the 2025 report be?

Another Biennial Report?

An NLRs Report Update?

A Dashboard?

Other?

OPEN DISCUSSION

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Eliana Brown

Layne Knoche

Mark Schleusener

Michael Woods

Steve Stierwalt

Albert Ettinger

Andrew Margenot

Rachel Curry

Lisa Merrifield (she/her)

brian.rennecker

Trevor Sample

funkt

Kris Reynolds, AFI

Adrienne Marino

Megan Dwyer

Todd Rettig

Rick Manner - UCSD

Julie Hewitt

Laura Christianson

Joan Cox

Moderated by Joan Cox, Illinois Extension



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1. Current Structure Brief

2. Reflections

3. Open Discussion

4. Moving Forward



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2008: EPA Gulf Hypoxia Action Plan - Catalyst for State-Level Strategies

2011: EPA's Framework Recommendation - Guiding State Plans (Stoner Memo)

2013: Nutrient Science Assessment underway

2013: Formation of Illinois Policy Working Group - Diverse Stakeholder Collaboration

2015: Publication of Illinois Strategy - A Commitment to Reducing Nutrient Loss



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NLRS Policy Working Group

DIVERSE REPRESENTATION across key nutrient pollution sources:

Agriculture, Point Sources, Urban Stormwater

- local, state and federal agencies
- agricultural organizations
- municipal and industry wastewater treatment agencies
- environmental and conservation NGOs
- scientists and academic institutions

STRENGTH IN COLLABORATION

- pioneered with joint effort and shared decision-making
- emphasis on partnership and ownership among stakeholders

STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT JOURNEY

- Science assessment was initiated prior to group formation.
- U of I water resources staff catalyzed stakeholder engagement.
- Collaborative efforts shaped and launched the Illinois NLRS in 2015.



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NLRS Policy Working Group

- guide the implementation and adaptive management of the strategy
- consider policy issues
- explore funding opportunities
- identify needed legislative initiatives
- network with the appropriate groups and individuals
- provide feedback to the Steering Committee on action items



Illinois NLRs Policy Working Group Participants

Agriculture



Point Source



Stormwater and Potable Water System



Government



Environment/Conservation



Policy Working Group (2013)

Nutrient Monitoring Council (2015)

Nutrient Science Advisory Council (2015 – 2018)

- Council dissolved following completion of numeric nutrient criteria development

Agriculture Water Quality Partnership Forum (2015)

- *Technical Subgroup (2015)*

Urban Stormwater Working Group (2015)

- *Tracking Subgroup (2016)*
- *Education Subgroup (2018)*

Performance Benchmark Committee (2016)

Communication Subgroup (2018)

Archives

<https://epa.illinois.gov/topics/water-quality/watershed-management/excess-nutrients/nutrient-loss-reduction-strategy.html>



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1. Current Structure Brief

2. Reflections

- PWG: do we maintain current restricted membership balance of sector representatives or allow open membership?
- Subgroups: do we maintain the current open membership or restrict?
- Overall satisfaction with current groups
 - the intent and function of groups
 - group effectiveness
 - aligning with NLRs's current needs
 - group successes
 - areas for improvement and structural evolution
- Meeting frequency and formats: virtual, in person, hybrid
- Chairs
- Additional insights welcome

3. Open Discussion

Constructive feedback about the working groups

4. Moving Forward

- Consolidate feedback
- Implement actionable steps



POLICY WORKING GROUP

Do we maintain the current restricted membership balance of sector representatives, or do we allow open membership?

Everyone: Please introduce yourself with your name and affiliation.

Online participants: Signal in the chat to speak or type comments for us to read.



NLRS Policy Working Group

American Bottoms Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility
(Aubree Basso)

American Farmland Trust (Kris Reynolds)

Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts
(Steve Stierwalt)

Bloomington Normal Water Reclamation District (Tim Ervin)

City of Springfield - City Water, Light, and Power (Todd
LaFountain)

Downers Grove Sanitary District (Amy Underwood)

DuPage County Stormwater Management (Mary Beth Falsey)

Environmental Law and Policy Center (David McEllis)

GROWMARK (Liz Hobart)

Illinois Association of Drainage Districts (Richard Lyons)

Illinois Corn Growers Association (Megan Dwyer)

Illinois Department of Agriculture (Brian Rennecker)

Illinois Department of Natural Resources (Justin Ramey)

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Trevor Sample)

Illinois Environmental Regulatory Group (Kelly Thompson)

Illinois Farm Bureau (Amelia Cheek)

Illinois Fertilizer & Chemical Association (Dan Schaefer)

Illinois Pork Producers Association (Jennifer Tirey)

Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago
(Albert Cox)

Mississippi River Collaborative (Albert Ettinger)

Nutrient Research Education Council (Julie Hewitt)

Prairie Rivers Network (Robert Hirschfeld)

Sierra Club (Mila Marshall)

The Nature Conservancy (Megan Baskerville)

U.S. Department of Agriculture – Natural Resources
Conservation Service (Eric Gerth)

University of Illinois Extension (Dennis Bowman)

University of Illinois (Paul Davidson)

Urbana and Champaign Sanitary District (Rick Manner)

Village of Deerfield Public Works & Engineering (Brandon
Janes)

***Do we maintain the current restricted membership balance of
sector representatives, or do we allow open membership?***



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REFLECT ON:

- Subgroups: do we maintain the current open membership or restrict?
- Overall satisfaction with current groups
 - the intent and function of groups
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- Meeting frequency and formats: virtual, in person, hybrid
- Chairs
- Additional insights welcome

Open floor for constructive feedback
about the working groups



Policy Working Group

Communication Subgroup (??, Chair)

Agriculture Water Quality Partnership Forum (Michael Woods, Chair)
– *Technical Subgroup*

Urban Stormwater Working Group (Eliana Brown, Chair)
– *Education Subgroup*
– *Tracking Subgroup*

Nutrient Monitoring Council (Trevor Sample, Chair)

Performance Benchmark Committee (??, Chair)

Would anyone like to serve? Email NLRS@illinois.edu.



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3. Open Discussion

Constructive feedback about the working groups

Contact:

NLRs@Illinois.edu

4. Moving Forward

- Consolidate feedback
- Implement actionable steps



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THANK YOU!

Contact

Joan Cox: jesarey@Illinois.edu

Steering Committee: NLRS@Illinois.edu



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Extra Slides: NLRs Working Group Descriptions



AGRICULTURE WATER QUALITY PARTNERSHIP FORUM

- steers outreach and education efforts to help farmers and the agriculture industry address nutrient loss
- recommends the most appropriate agriculture conservation practices and programs

AWQPF TRACKING SUBGROUP

- determines the process and procedure for tracking and reporting agriculture conservation practices for the NLRS biennial updates



COMMUNICATIONS SUBGROUP

- provides input on efforts to educate elected officials, industry and government professionals, business community members, and residents throughout Illinois with a clear, coherent message on the Illinois NLRs and opportunities to participate.



NUTRIENT MONITORING COUNCIL

- comprised of representatives from agencies involved in monitoring nutrients
- addresses water quality monitoring issues related to nutrients and trends in nutrient loads



URBAN STORMWATER WORKING GROUP

- explores funding opportunities
- identifies legislative initiatives

EDUCATION AND TRACKING SUBGROUPS

- coordinates education and tracking of urban stormwater practices



PERFORMANCE BENCHMARK COMMITTEE

- develops measures and benchmarks for meeting implementation and water quality goals with an emphasis on adaptive management

