

POLICY WORKING GROUP

MEETING 5: FEB 7, 2017



Introductions – Sign in Sheet

Point Source

Rick Manner Kay Anderson Nick Menninga David St. Pierre Thomas Granato
Randy Stein Alec Davis Brenda Carter

Agriculture

Howard Brown Liz Hobart Lauren Lurkins Julie Armstrong
Jennifer Tirey Jean Payne Rodney Weinzierl Dick Lyons Kelly Thompson

Stormwater

Eric Schoeny

Drinking Water Supply

Ted Meckes Kevin Culver

University/Technical Assistance Providers

George Czapar Mark David Paul Davidson Laura Christianson Jonathan Coppes

Environmental Groups

Albert Ettinger Carol Hays Jessica Dexter Cindy Skrukrud

Government

Amy Walkenbach Warren Goetsch Gene Barickman

Review of Charge

- Explore funding opportunities
- Identify needed legislative initiatives
- Network with the appropriate people and groups
- Identify adaptive management adjustments and update the strategy (*after Biennial Report is complete*)



Photo by Oliver Burrus, Youth "Water Is..." Photo Contest

HYPOXIA TASK FORCE UPDATE

WARREN GOETSCH



Hypoxia Task Force Update

WINTER 2016 TASK FORCE MEETING

DECEMBER 5-7, 2016

New Orleans, LA

MISSISSIPPI RIVER / GULF OF MEXICO WATERSHED NUTRIENT TASK FORCE:

- Partnership of twelve states and five federal agencies
- Works collaboratively to reduce nutrient loading to the Mississippi River basin and the extent of the hypoxic zone in the northern Gulf of Mexico
- Working to reduce nutrient loading to the Gulf by 45% (compared to the 1980-1996 baseline), with the expected response to limit the average extent of the Gulf of Mexico hypoxic zone to less than 5,000 square kilometers by 2035
- Individual states have developed a nutrient reduction strategy through stakeholder participation

MISSISSIPPI RIVER / GULF OF MEXICO WATERSHED NUTRIENT TASK FORCE:

- Federal members have issued a unified federal strategy in September 2013 to guide assistance to states and continued science support
- HTF entered into an agreement with 12 land grant universities in May 2014 to reduce gaps in research and outreach/extension needs in the basin
- **Current approaches—**
 - Implement individual HTF State Nutrient Reduction Strategies;
 - Integrate, strengthen and quantify nutrient load reductions at the basin level from all sources;
 - Implement effective actions to reduce nutrient loadings using improved tracking, watershed monitoring, and modeling tools;
 - Identify funding needs;
 - Support research; and
 - Report to Congress on the progress being made.

KEY ACTION ITEMS FROM DEC 2016 MEETING:

- **Transition Planning**
 - Task Force letter to Trump Transition Team – Sent January 5, 2017 – includes history, purpose, goals, collaboration, request for continuance
 - EPA drafted talking points use by HTF members to foster consistent, basic messages on the importance of HTF work – federal state partnership
- **Branding and Communication Tools**
 - During discussions with SERA-46 it was suggested that HTF develop common communication and branding tools describing HTF purpose and specific accomplishments
 - IN and IA beginning conversations with NASDA colleagues
- **Progress on Non-point Source (NPS) Metrics and a First NPS Report**
 - NPS workgroup working on common reporting metrics
 - Walton Family Foundation / SERA-46 project (\$344,954 grant to Land Grant Universities)

KEY ACTION ITEMS FROM DEC 2016 MEETING:

- **Progress on Point Source (PS) Metrics/Reporting**
 - Workgroup conducting pilot tests with an upgraded Discharge Monitoring Report Loading Tool using permit data routinely submitted to USEPA by states
- **Report to Congress**
 - Report being finalized – final draft to states in early February for approval
 - Submittal to OMB by March 1
 - June 30, 2017 deadline for submittal to Congress

MISSISSIPPI RIVER / GULF OF MEXICO WATERSHED NUTRIENT TASK FORCE:

- Questions / Discussion



Photo by Marilyn Sanders

SCIENCE COMMITTEE

- **Addition of BMPs to Illinois Strategy**
 - SERA-46 Illinois representatives to serve as leads for science committee to review proposed BMPs and relevant research
 - Addition of researchers from other state universities as needed
 - Recommendation to Illinois Policy Working Group for formal inclusion in state strategy if warranted
- **Questions / Discussion**

A photograph of a forest stream with fallen leaves and tree reflections in the water. The water is calm, creating a clear reflection of the surrounding trees and foliage. The leaves on the ground are in various stages of autumn, ranging from green to yellow and orange. The background shows a dense forest of tall trees with green foliage.

BIENNIAL REPORT AND STATUS OF NLRS WORKGROUPS, FORUMS, & COUNCILS

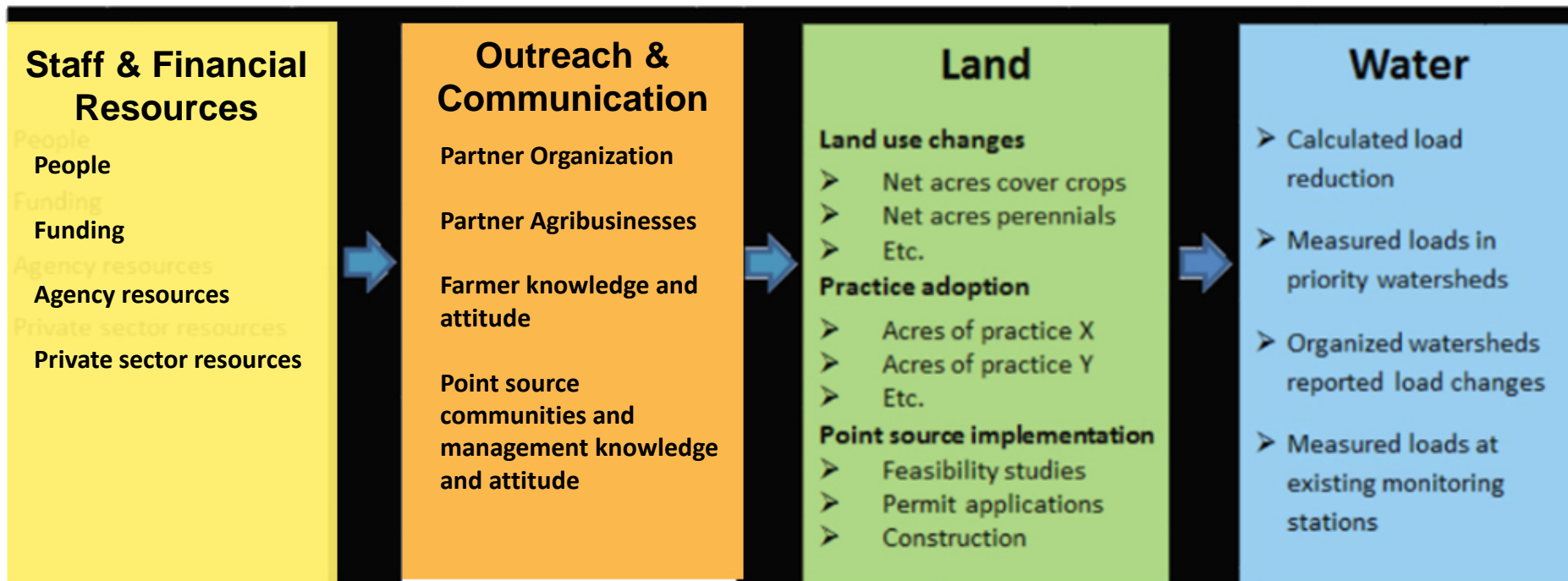
BIENNIAL REPORT TIMELINE

Eliana Brown

	DUE DATE
Update paragraphs/Tables	January 31
Draft released to Policy Working Group	March 31
Comments due back	April 15
Release to public	August 30

Process and timeline for 1st biennial report

Measurable indicators of desirable change



Status of NLRs Workgroups, Forums, and Councils

AGRICULTURE WATER QUALITY PARTNERSHIP FORUM (AWQPF)

Warren Goetsch

AWQPF Meetings:

May 22, 2015
Sep 22, 2015
Feb 23, 2016
May 17, 2016
Sep 27, 2016

Technical Subgroup Meetings:

Aug 26, 2015
Sep 21, 2015
Jan 26, 2016
Mar 29, 2016
Jun 14, 2016
Dec 8, 2016

2016 Outreach Activities (are still receiving input items)

	Number	Attendance	Example
Field Days	55	1,815	<i>Soil Health Field Day</i>
Workshops	197	2,938	<i>Water Testing Workshop</i>
Conferences	7	1,126	<i>Residue Management Conf</i>
Presentations	63	5,201	<i>“Three Fates of Nitrates”</i>
Total	321	20,080	

Knowledge of Nitrogen BMPs – NASS Survey Result

	% Not at all	% Slightly	% Somewhat	% Knowledge- able	% Very	Total % Somewhat to Very Knowledgeable
Four R strategy	10.7	13.1	22.9	31.3	22.0	76.2%
MRTN strategy	11.5	18.6	26.1	28.8	15.0	69.9%
Drainage water management	8.1	20.6	35.8	22.2	13.3	71.3%
Bioreactors	43.1	22.3	24.8	7.9	1.9	34.6%

Fertilizer Application Strategies for corn on tiles acres – NASS Survey Result

Fertilizer Application Strategies for corn on tiled acres (NASS Survey)	Acres in 2011	Acres in 2015
Fall / Winter nitrogen was applied with a nitrification inhibitor	3,240,000	2,970,000
Fall / Winter nitrogen was 50% or less of total Nitrogen	940,000	950,000
Fall / Winter nitrogen was 0% of total Nitrogen (all Spring applications)	2,480,000	2,660,000
Less than 50% FALL / WINTER applications, with remaining Nitrogen applications split between pre-plant and side-dress applications	1,730,000	2,220,000

Cover Crop acres – NASS Survey Result

Cover Crop acres	2011 Acres	2015 Acres
Corn / Soybean acres planted to cover crops on tiled ground.	220,000	490,000
Corn / Soybean acres planted to cover crops on non-tiled ground.	380,000	630,000
Acres where pattern tiling was installed.	310,000	110,000

Edge of Field Practices and perennial crops – NASS Survey Result

Edge of Field Practices and perennial crops	2015 Acres
Tiled acres draining into Bioreactors	(D)
Tiled acres draining into Constructed Wetlands	160,000
Tiled acres planted to perennial crops, including CRP plantings, hay, and miscanthus	230,000

(D) – Number withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual farms.

Wetlands, Buffers, Perennial/Energy Crops

FSA BMP (acres)		
BMP (acres)	2011	2015
Cover	768	11,064
CRP Wetlands	57,463	45,790
CRP Buffers	145,813	279,534
Perennial/Energy/Pasture	985,531	1,524,379

IDNR CREP Easements-Statewide BMP (acres)		
BMP (acres)	2011	2015
Wetlands	483	22,609
Buffers	202	17,893
Perennial/Energy	81	6,043

Illinois Natural Resource Conservation Service Statewide Wetland Reserve Program/ Wetland Reserve Easements Program

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	TOTAL
Wetland Easements	19	12	8	7	3	49
Total Wetland Acres	1788	1420	469	305	396	4378

NRCS Program Information

Illinois Natural Resource Conservation Service: Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) 2009-2015

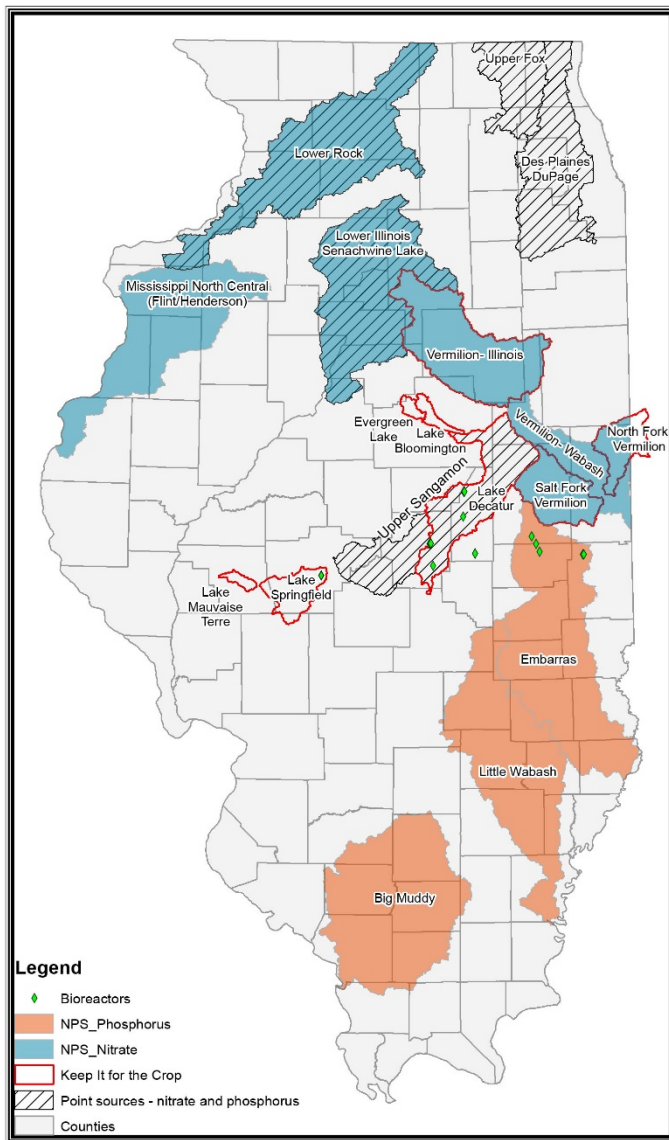
Conservation Practice	Certified Amount (acres)
Nutrient Management	49931.5
Cover Crops	80658.6
Buffers	18.8
Residue and Tillage Management	22387.5
Wetland Restoration	0.7

USDA Conservation Stewardship Program

General Contract Totals	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Acres Obligated	165416	229815	188731	399024	214557	260172
Number of Contracts	221	334	251	558	277	327

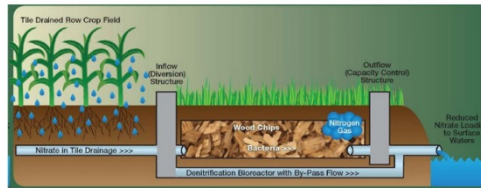
Currently Illinois has 661 unfunded CSP applications.

Location of Bioreactors in Illinois



Bioreactor	HUC 8	AcresTreated
1	05120112	50
2	05120112	50
3	05120112	11
4	07140201	74
5	07140201	74
6	07140201	55
7	07140201	20
8	07140201	27
9	07140201	19
10	07130006	39
11	07130006	28
12	07130006	34
13	07130006	15
14	07130006	5
15	07130006	16
16	07130006	unknown
17	07130006	70
18	05120112	unknown
19	05120112	18
20	07130007	6

Note: Some locations contain multiple bioreactors



Illinois EPA Section 319 Grant

Illinois EPA Section 319 Grant		2002-2011			
AGRICULTURE	Acres	Nitrogen Load Reduction (lbs/year)	Phosphorus Load Reduction (lbs/year)	Total Suspended Solids Load Reduction (lbs/year)	Sediment Load Reduction (tons/year)
Conservation Tillage (329)	9998	47169	23691		21461
Cover and Green Manure Crop (340)	3924	14827	1190		955
Filter Strip (393)	8	1360	725		567
Nutrient Management (590)					
Wetland Restoration (657)	936	5028	2103	248227	1542
TOTAL	-	68,384	27,709	248,227	24,525

Illinois EPA Section 319 Grant		2011-2015			
AGRICULTURE	Acres	Nitrogen Load Reduction (lbs/year)	Phosphorus Load Reduction (lbs/year)	Total Suspended Solids Load Reduction (lbs/year)	Sediment Load Reduction (tons/year)
Conservation Tillage (329)	734	3913	2005		1798
Cover and Green Manure Crop (340)					
Filter Strip (393)	13882	329813	167170		106748
Nutrient Management (590)	107061	109915	54325		36522
Wetland Restoration (657)	464	2,760	1668	619968	6868
TOTAL	-	446,400	225,168	619,968	151,936

Schedule of future AWQPF meetings

April 4, 2017

Status of NLRs Implementation Workgroups, Forums, and Councils

URBAN STORMWATER WORKING GROUP

Amy Walkenbach

Meetings:

Jul 20, 2015

Dec 11, 2015

Apr 19, 2016

Aug 8, 2016

Nov 15, 2016

2016 Outreach Activities (are still receiving input items)

	Number	Attendance	Example
Field Days			
Workshops			
Conferences			
Presentations			
Total			

Illinois EPA Section 319 Grant

Illinois EPA Section 319 Grant URBAN			2002-2011 Baseline				
	No.	Acres	Feet	N Load Reduction (lbs/yr)	P Load Reduction (lbs/yr)	Total Suspended Solids Load Reduction (lbs/yr)	Sediment Load Reduction (tons/yr)
Oil and Grit Separator (10)							
Green Roof (11)							
Rain Garden (13)	24			189	47	63,011	
Street Sweeping (17)							
Critical Area Planting (342)							
Sediment Basin (350)							
Grade Stabilization Structure (410)	21			29,163	14,600		14,600
Recreation Area Improvement (562)							
Terrace (600)							
Tree Planting (612)							
Water and Sediment Control Basin (638)							
Urban Stormwater Wetlands (800)	6			1526	231	231,076	17
Bio-retention Facility (812)		0.10		70	9	5,991	
Bioswale (814)		2.66		2192	322	287,187	
Urban Filter Strip (835)		4.07		57	5	3,802	
Grass-Lined Channels (840)							
Infiltration Trench (845)	14			16	22	2,752	
Level Spreader (870)							
Porous Pavement (890)		4.48		124	12	16,188	
Rock Outlet Protection (910)	9						
Subsurface Drain (945)							
TOTAL	-	-	-	29,352	15,248	610,007	14,617



Illinois EPA Section 319 Grant

Illinois EPA Section 319 Grant URBAN				2011-2015			
	No.	Acres	Feet	Nitrogen Load Reduction (lbs/year)	Phosphorus Load Reduction (lbs/year)	Total Suspended Solids Load Reduction (lbs/year)	Sediment Load Reduction (tons/year)
Oil and Grit Separator (10)	12			36	1	7,417	
Green Roof (11)		1		2	11	23,285	
Rain Garden (13)	42			184	87	74,649	
Street Sweeping (17)	1				1	4,730	
Critical Area Planting (342)		0.21				46	
Sediment Basin (350)	10			2,793	953	157,755	7,695
Grade Stabilization Structure (410)	209			68,555	34,274		34,284
Recreation Area Improvement (562)		6					
Terrace (600)			4000	1		267	
Tree Planting (612)		5		36	18		14
Water and Sediment Control Basin (638)			2000				58
Urban Stormwater Wetlands (800)	45			6,569	1,618	1,441,252	0.00
Bio-retention Facility (812)		0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	
Bioswale (814)		2.5		0.00	0.00	0.00	
Urban Filter Strip (835)		6.6		242	47	59,217	
Grass-Lined Channels (840)		3.2		296	118	72,615	33
Infiltration Trench (845)	28			34	9	17,543	
Level Spreader (870)	7			124	27	19,120	
Porous Pavement (890)		10.96		426	41	52,492	
Subsurface Drain (945)				3		339	
TOTAL	-	-	-	79,301	37,206	1,930,727	42,084

Illinois EPA IGIG

Illinois EPA Illinois Green Infrastructure Grant Program (IGIG) 2015						
	Number	Acres	Nitrogen Load Reduction (lbs/year)	Phosphorus Load Reduction (lbs/year)	Total Suspended Solids Load Reduction (lbs/year)	Sediment Load Reduction (tons/year)
Cistern(12)	1		25		3238	
buffer zone enhancement / installation(35)		0.2			15	0.0
Rain Garden(13)	11		11	2	1291	0.4
Tree Planting(612)		1			40	
Bio-retention Facility(812)		0.02			24	
Bioswale(814)		0.524	48	4	5804	0.1
Porous Pavement(890)		5.69	112	11	14964	
TOTAL	-	-	196	17	25,376	0.5

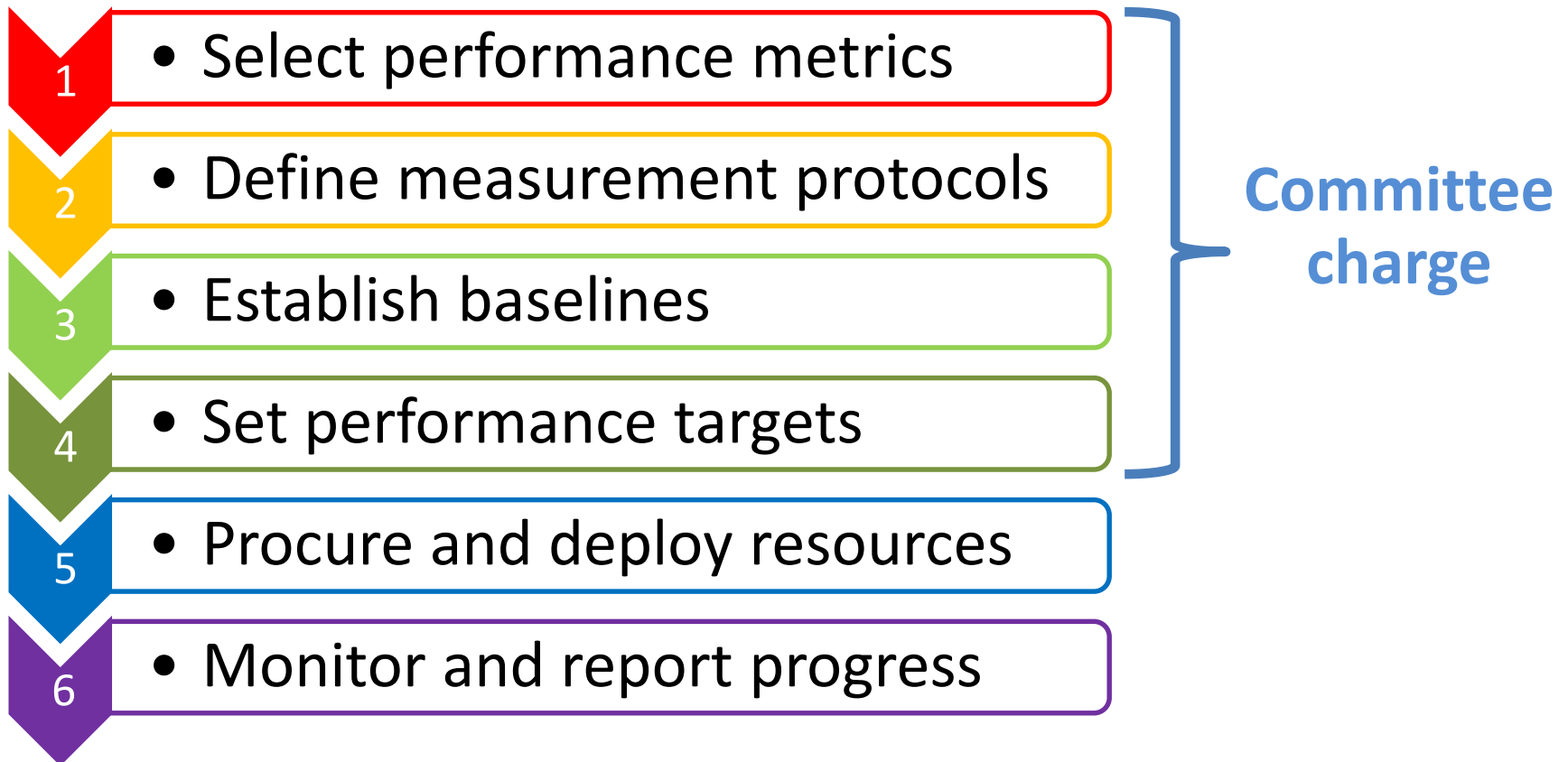
Status of NLRs Workgroups, Forums, and Councils

PERFORMANCE BENCHMARKS + POINT SOURCE WORKING GROUP

Albert Cox

Committee Charge on Action Plan of ILNLRs

Work with sector work groups to identify steps to meet the 2025 interim milestones and ultimate Strategy goals



Committee Activities

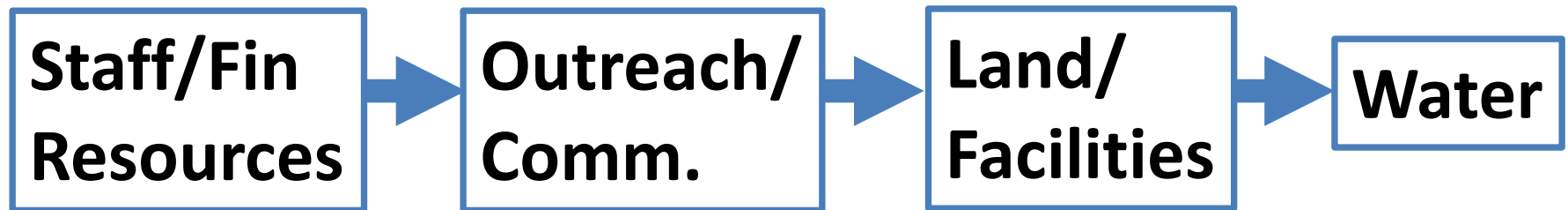
1. Meetings – Four meetings during 2016
2. Establish baseline for tracking progress
3. Developed list of performance metrics based Iowa model
4. List type of data for each metric and sources of data
5. Outreach to encourage participation and get data that not available through IEPA - **IAWA Survey Spreadsheet**
 - Websites – IWEA, IAWA, IEPA
 - Other communication with groups and meetings- FRSG, IL Water Conference
 - IAWPCO

Baseline for Performance Tracking

1. 1996 – Gulf Hypoxia Plan
2. 2009 – Baseline (15 years after GH Plan)
3. 2015 – Begin tracking activities towards the goal
4. 2025 – This is 15 years after baseline

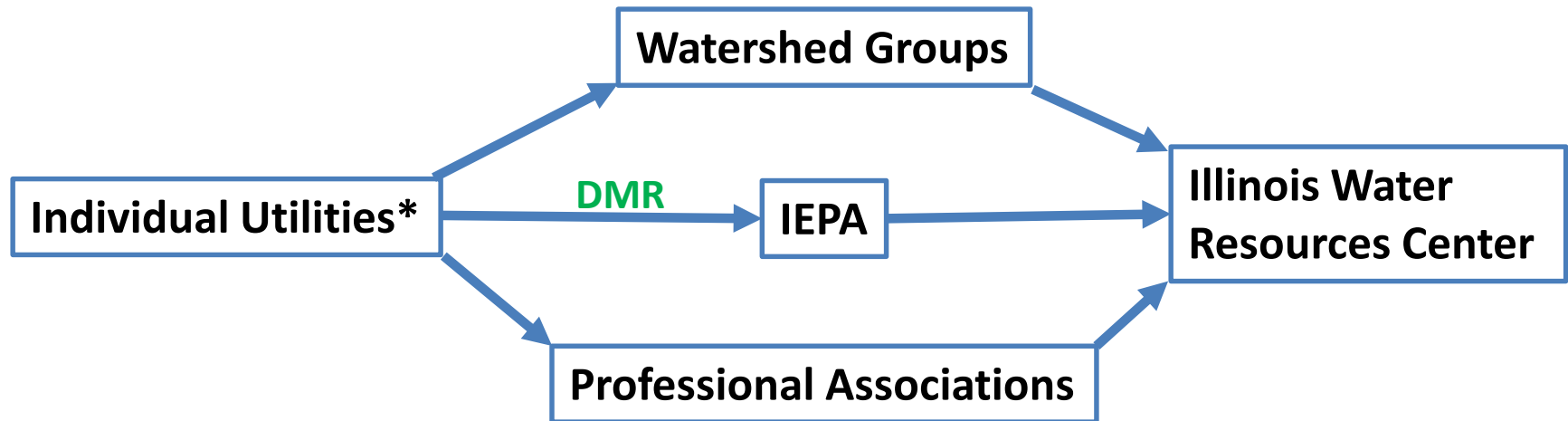
Performance Metrics

Measurable Indicators of Desirable Change



Activity & Performance Reporting

Flow chart of annual data and information reporting



*Utilities not associated with watershed group or professional association report directly to IWRC

2016 Outreach Activities

	Number	Attendance	Example
Partnerships	20		RCP, Watershed Utility, MWRDGC Res. & Demo
Conferences	--	--	
Workshops	7	140	Biosolids Nutrient Management
Print or Media	31	--	MWRDGC press release and media coverage on Ostara
Surveys	1	--	IAWA Survey
Total	39	140	

Facilities & Land Measures

(to be populated with data from IEPA)

Facility Measures	Planned	Completed
Permits require nutrient reduction feasibility studies		
Permits with Nutrient compliance schedules		
Permits with nutrient limits		
Facilities with nutrient removal (N and/or P)		
Number of facilities monitoring N and P		
Other practices (e.g.. Ostara at MWRD, BMPs)		

Water Measures - Current and projected phosphorus reductions from major municipal point sources (most data available from IEPA)

Region	No. Facilities	Flow (MGD) DAF	TP (Million lb/yr)*				Reduction
			1996	Baseline (2009)	2015	2025	
MWRDGC	3	1887		5.67		2.58	3.09
Des Plaines	29	249		0.92		0.44	0.48
Fox River	30	165		0.31		0.26	0.05
DuPage/SC	31	212		1.32		0.36	0.96
Downstate	124	676		5.09		1.12	3.97
Totals	217	3189		13.31		4.76	8.55

*2009 loads reported in strategy instead of 2011; 2015 = most recent year; 2025 projection will change as P reduction practices are implemented over time.

Future Activities

- 1. Identify approaches to increase participation and info from other utilities**
- 2. Improve guidelines for reporting “Staff and Financial Resources” and “Outreach and Communication”**
- 3. Work with nonpoint source sector**

NUTRIENT MONITORING COUNCIL (NMC)

Gregg Good

*6th Meeting: 9/13/16
Springfield*

*7th Meeting: 12/6/16
Urbana*



Overview

- Statewide Continuous Monitoring Nutrient Loadings Network – Super Gage Update
- Where to go with the NMC Charge of Monitoring for “Local Water Quality Outcomes”
- Next Meetings
- Above Stuff Discussed in NMC Biennial Report Submitted to IWRC on 1/27/17
- Q & A



NMC Charge #1

1. Coordinate the development and implementation of monitoring activities (e.g., collection, analysis, assessment) that provide the information necessary to:



- a. Generate estimations of 5-year running average loads of Nitrate-Nitrogen and Total Phosphorus leaving the state of Illinois compared to 1980-1996 baseline conditions; and
- b. Generate estimations of Nitrate-Nitrogen and Total Phosphorus loads leaving selected NLRS identified priority watersheds compared to 1997-2011 baseline conditions; and
- c. Identify Statewide and NLRS priority watershed *trends in loading over time* using NMC developed evaluation criteria.

Basins cover almost 75% of the land area in the State



Source: US National Park Service

Stream Name	Location	Station Drainage Area in Illinois only, in mi ²	Mean Nitrate-nitrite mg/l
Rock River	Joslin	3,973	3.6
Green River	Geneseo	1,000	4.1
Illinois River	Florence	22,651	4.3
Kaskaskia River	New Athens	5,189	0.89
Big Muddy River	Murphysboro	2,168	0.35
Vermilion River	Danville	1,199	6.9
Embarras River	Lawrenceville	2,348	4.6
Little Wabash River	Carmi	3,102	0.9

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Vermilion River	Danville	1,199	6.9
Embarras River	Lawrenceville	2,348	4.6
Little Wabash River	Carmi	3,102	0.9

Source: US National Park Service

USGS 05537980 DES PLAINES RIVER AT ROUTE 53 AT JOLIET, IL

Available data for this site

Location map

Will County, Illinois

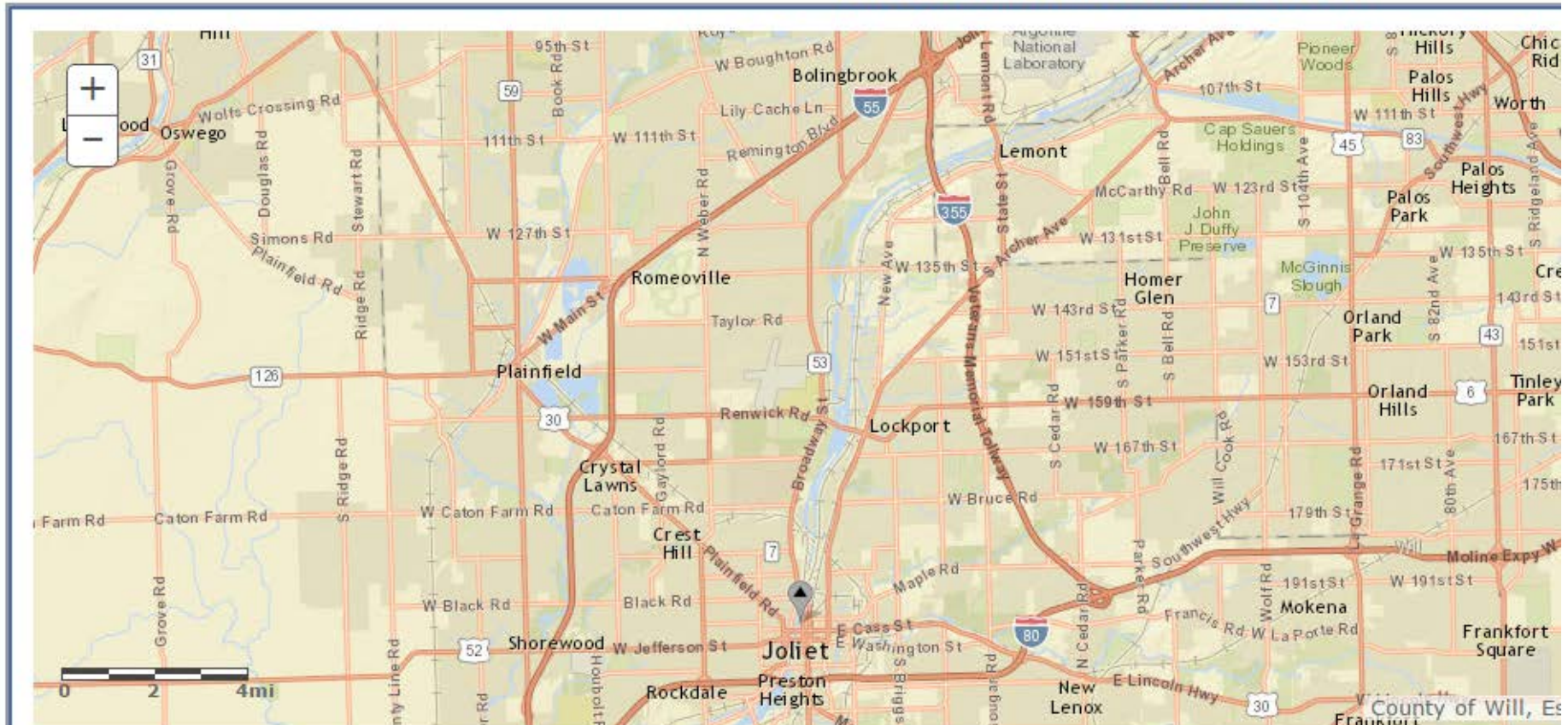
Hydrologic Unit Code 07120004

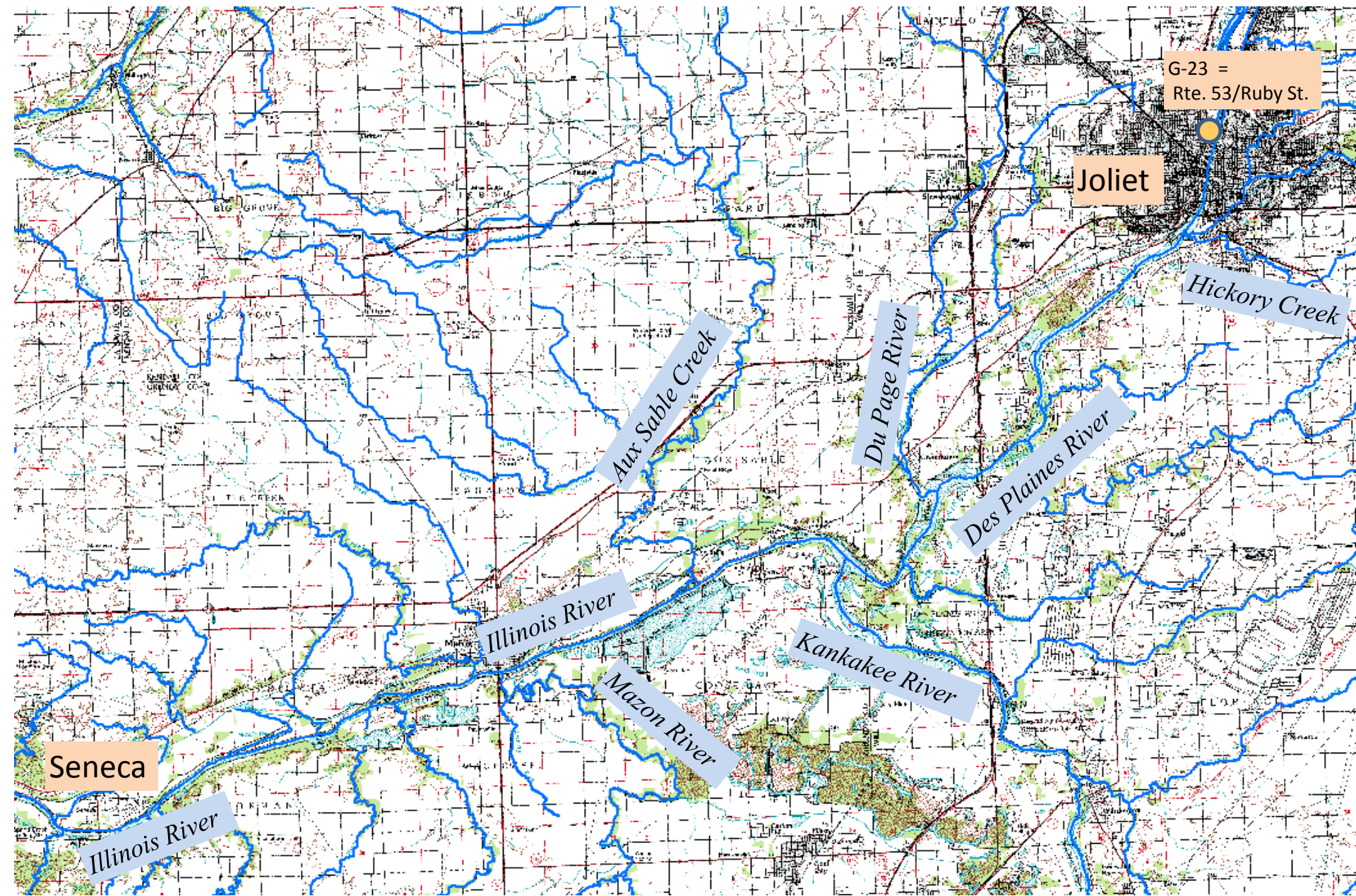
Latitude 41°32'11", Longitude 88°04'57" NAD83

Drainage area 1,502 square miles

Gage datum 0.00 feet above NGVD29

Location of the site in Illinois





G-23 =
Rte. 53/Ruby St.

Joliet

Hickory Creek

Aux Sable Creek

Du Page River

Des Plaines River

Illinois River

Kankakee River

Mazon River

Seneca

Illinois River

Super Gage #9 Questions

- **What's the specific goal?**
 - “Monitoring to capture nitrate-nitrogen and total phosphorus loads coming from the concentrated urban environment in Northeastern Illinois. Annual loading estimates would be calculated at this station (that encompass the Chicago River and Des Plaines River watersheds) to track the impacts of NLRs implementation such as point source controls, stormwater management, and other activities.”
- **Des Plaines River at Rte. 53 in Joliet Selected**
- **Cost???**
- **How to Fund???**



Voila!



Settlement Agreement

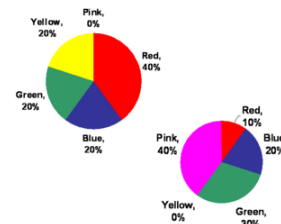
- Environmental Orgs., MWRDGC, & Illinois EPA
- Continuous Monitoring at:
 - Joliet, Rte. 53, “Super Gage” on the Des Plaines River
 - *MWRD funded for D.O, Chlorophyll, and Nutrients*
 - Marseilles, Starved Rock, and Peoria Pools on the Illinois River
 - *Illinois EPA funded for D.O. and Chlorophyll*



NMC Charge #2

2. Document local water quality outcomes in selected NLRs identified priority watersheds, or smaller watersheds nested within, where future nutrient reduction efforts are being implemented. Examples:

- Increase in fish or aquatic invertebrate population counts or diversity
- Fewer documented water quality standards violations
- Fewer algal blooms or offensive conditions
- Decline in nutrient concentrations in groundwater



Grand Idea: Lets develop *Watershed Nutrient Monitoring Plans!*

- *Watershed Nutrient Monitoring Plans* would serve as a guide for current and new collection efforts.
- Need data in order to tell a story (e.g., show success).
- Did BMP implementation work to (1) reduce nutrients and (2) effectuate water resource quality change?
- Develop a template for what a *Watershed Nutrient Monitoring Plan* should look like.
- Pick a pilot watershed, meet with WQ and Biology partners, ID current programs, determine likely continuance, suggest new monitoring efforts, etc.



Brainstormed what a *Watershed Nutrient Monitoring Plan* “Template” should look like.



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2 Second chapter	5
2.1 First section	5
2.2 Second section	5
2.3 Last section	5
3 Last chapter	7
3.1 First section	7
3.2 Second section	7
3.3 Last section	7

Examples of Template Elements

- Executive Summary
- Introduction
- Goals/Objectives
 - N & P Load Estimation
 - Trends in Loads Over Time
 - Resource Quality Outcomes
- Public Participation
- Study Area Description
- Historic/Existing Monitoring and Baseline Data
- Needed Additional Monitoring
- Monitoring Design
- Implementation
- Data Management
- Quality Assurance/Control
- Assessment and Evaluation Methodologies
- Results and Reporting
- Monitoring Entities
- Monitoring Costs
- Potential Funding/In-Kind
- Milestones/Timelines
- Limitations/Constraints
- Next Steps
- Appendices
- Other_____

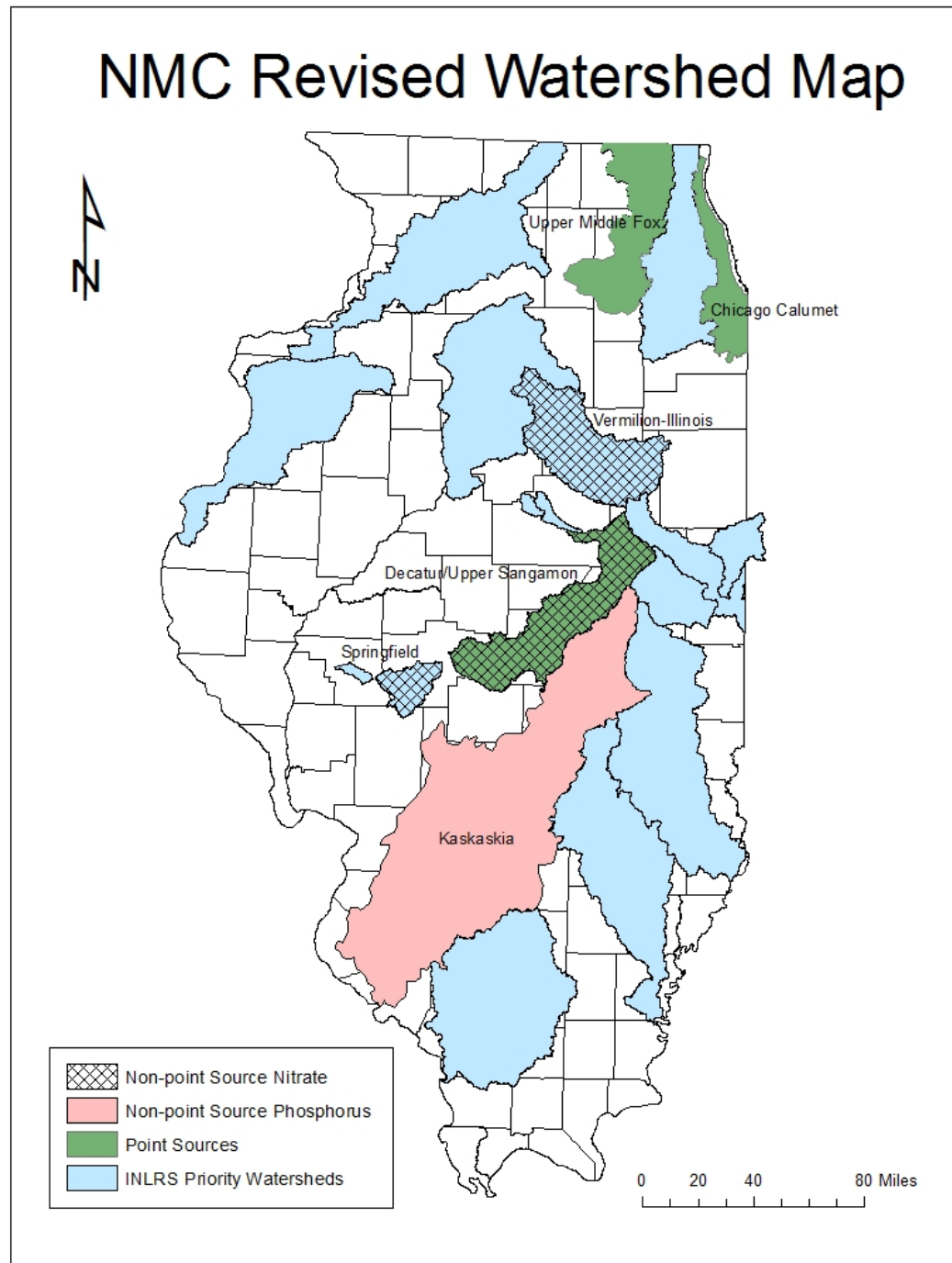
Measurement Criteria Needed to Assess Change

- Top *“Water Quality”* data parameters
 - Nutrients
 - Flow
- Top *“Biological”* data parameters
 - Taxa Richness
 - Focal Species Abundance and Distribution
 - Aquatic Life Designated Use
 - Primary Production



NMC Revised Watershed Map

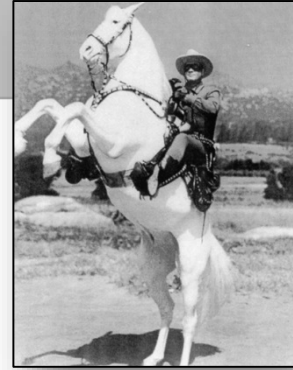
We picked the Vermilion (Illinois) River Watershed as a place to start with development of a *Watershed Nutrient Monitoring Plan*



Google docs



Hold your horses cowboy. I have questions!



- ***Who will ultimately develop the monitoring plans?***
 - Do we, the NMC, develop the plans?
 - Do we contract development of the plans out to someone, and we, the NMC, provide review and approval/blessing?
 - If contracted out, any idea what one might cost?
 - If contracted out, what are the potential funding sources?
 - Is the development of these plans a dumb idea to start with?
- ***Who will ultimately implement the monitoring plans?***



ILLINOIS
NUTRIENT LOSS
REDUCTION STRATEGY

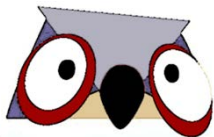
Improving our water resources with
collaboration and innovation

Challenges When it Comes to Documenting Local Water Quality Outcomes

- Where is the \$100,000,000 check written out to the Policy Working Group to fund large-scale implementation of BMPs in NLRs identified Priority Watersheds? Did it get lost in the mail?
- Many variables exist (e.g., flow, habitat, nutrient concentration, temperature, extreme events) making it difficult to tease out whether or not nutrient reduction via BMP implementation is improving aquatic life (e.g., fish and macroinvertebrates).
- Years or even decades of monitoring are needed to document a true change or trend.
- Who has the overall responsibility to measure local water quality outcomes? The NMC, or local communities or agencies?
- Does the right hand know what the left hand is doing? NMC needs to do a better job of understanding what other NLRs Working Groups are doing (e.g., PWG, AWQPF, NSAC, Urban Stormwater, Performance Benchmark). This is where a fall workshop would be extremely advantageous!

Questions for You, the PWG!

- Lacking that \$100,000,000 BMP implementation check, at this time, do you see the need to develop Priority Watershed Nutrient Monitoring Plans?
- Do we simply supplement existing monitoring activities in smaller watersheds where expanded BMP implementation is taking place (e.g., Lake Springfield, Evergreen Lake, Lake Bloomington, Fox River)?
- Is documenting nutrient load or chlorophyll *a* reductions good enough to tell a “local water quality outcomes” story? Or do we need to advocate for the extra time and resources necessary to tell that aquatic life *response* story as well?

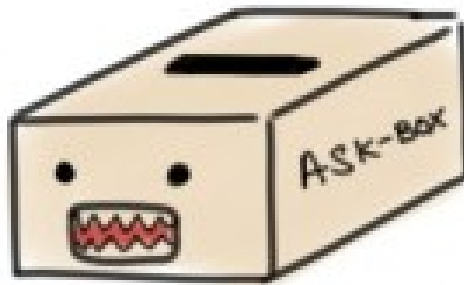


Guidance
Counselor

Next NMC Meetings

- March 14, 2017
- June 6, 2017





NOW ACCEPTING

PERSONAL QUESTIONS

RANDOM QUESTIONS

ODD QUESTIONS

CREEPY QUESTIONS

ANY KIND OF ASK :)



Status of NLRs Workgroups, Forums, and Councils

NUTRIENT SCIENCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Chris Peterson, Todd Royer & Candice Bauer

Nutrient Science Advisory Committee (NSAC)

Convened November 2015

Monthly teleconferences: ~ 10 to date

Quarterly face-to-face meetings: 4 to date (next week)

Dr. Walter Hill resigned from the committee

New member: Dr. Chris Peterson (Aquatic Ecologist)

Loyola University Chicago

- **18-24 month timeframe; expected to conclude early 2018**
- Summary of activities and meetings available on the IEPA's NLRS website.

NSAC – Workplan

Based upon Environmental Risk Assessment principles

1. Planning / Problem Formulation

- ✓ Develop conceptual model(s) of biological response to potential stressors – initial model developed, refinement in process

2. Analysis

- ✓ Identified and evaluated potential data sets to use in updated stressor-response analysis. (solicited suggestions and hosted webinar on July 19, 2016)
- ✓ Determined Illinois EPA and US EPA / USGS NRSA data sets (2006-15) were most appropriate for the initial analyses, but several watershed- or regionally-based data sets can be valuable for watershed or site-specific standards.
- ✓ Many questions / clarifications / implications of data set characteristics have been and continue to be evaluated.

NSAC – Workplan

2. Analysis (continued)

- ✓ US EPA has provided funding and a contract with Tetra Tech, Inc. to provide an updated analysis of Illinois EPA data. This is a considerable iterative and ongoing discussion and analysis effort.

3. Synthesis / Characterization

- ✓ Refine and evaluate candidate criteria
- ✓ Evaluate uncertainties
- ✓ Consider combined criterion approaches (seasonal, response variables, multiple stressors)
- ✓ Ensure all uses are considered and consistent with the CWA and State regulations

4. Report – Candidate standards and supporting data, methodology, and analyses.

NSAC

Future: Summer 2017 webinar

Questions?



Photo by Paul Gierhart, "Water Is..." Photo Contest

LEGISLATOR OUTREACH DISCUSSION

LAURA SINCLAIR, IDOA



LEGISLATOR OUTREACH CONSIDERATIONS

- What is the ultimate goal for reaching out to the General Assembly?
 - Is the goal to build awareness of an issue or to request a change in a statute or rule?
 - Is the goal to request for the State provide additional resources for a particular program?

LEGISLATOR OUTREACH – WHO TO FOCUS ON

- **Legislative Leaders**
- **House & Senate Committees**
 - House Agriculture and Conservation
 - House Environment
 - House Appropriations – General Services

 - Senate Agriculture
 - Senate Environment and Conservation
 - Senate Appropriations II

LEGISLATOR OUTREACH OPTIONS – HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Agriculture & Conservation Committee - Members

100th General Assembly

Members	Notice of Hearing	Bills
Role	Representative	Party
Chairperson :	Jerry Costello, II	D
Vice-Chairperson :	Sue Scherer	D
Republican Spokesperson :	Charles Meier	R
Member:	Michael Halpin	D
Member:	Sonya M. Harper	D
Member:	Sara Wojcicki Jimenez	R
Member:	Dave Severin	R
Member:	Brian W. Stewart	R
Member:	Litesa E. Wallace	D

LEGISLATOR OUTREACH OPTIONS – HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Environment - Members

100th General Assembly

Members	Notice of Hearing	Bills
Role	Representative	Party
Chairperson :	Daniel V. Beiser	D
Vice-Chairperson :	Carol Sente	D
Republican Spokesperson :	John Cavaletto	R
Member:	Carol Ammons	D
Member:	Patricia R. Bellock	R
Member:	Tim Butler	R
Member:	Jerry Costello, II	D
Member:	Laura Fine	D
Member:	Robyn Gabel	D
Member:	Sonya M. Harper	D
Member:	Chad Hays	R
Member:	Emily McAsey	D
Member:	Margo McDermed	R
Member:	Charles Meier	R
Member:	Bill Mitchell	R
Member:	Anna Moeller	D
Member:	Thomas Morrison	R
Member:	Brandon W. Phelps	D
Member:	Allen Skillicom	R
Member:	Arthur Turner	D
Member:	Lawrence Walsh, Jr.	D



LEGISLATOR OUTREACH OPTIONS - SENATE

Agriculture - Members

100th General Assembly

Members	Notice of Hearing	Bills
Role	Senator	Party
Chairperson :	Napoleon Harris, III	D
Vice-Chairperson :	Scott M. Bennett	D
Member:	Thomas Cullerton	D
Member:	Bill Cunningham	D
Member:	Linda Holmes	D
Member:	David Koehler	D
Member:	Andy Manar	D
Minority Spokesperson :	Neil Anderson	R
Member:	Dale Fowler	R
Member:	Wm. Sam McCann	R
Member:	Paul Schimpf	R
Member:	Jil Tracy	R



LEGISLATOR OUTREACH OPTIONS - SENATE

Environment and Conservation - Members

100th General Assembly

Members	Notice of Hearing	Bills
Role	Senator	Party
Chairperson :	David Koehler	D
Vice-Chairperson :	Melinda Bush	D
Member:	Daniel Biss	D
Member:	Pat McGuire	D
Member:	Julie A. Morrison	D
Member:	Heather A. Steans	D
Minority Spokesperson :	Kyle McCarter	R
Member:	Wm. Sam McCann	R
Member:	Jim Oberweis	R



LEGISLATOR OUTREACH OPTIONS

- **Wide array of options—**
 - IEPA and IDA *letters to Legislative Leaders and key Committee members* with copies of strategy and biennial report
 - Individual *stakeholder visits* with key legislators regarding strategy and progress – *local connections are imperative*
 - ***Agriculture Legislative Day*** – Providing copies of the strategy in the baskets being delivered to all legislators by their local FFA chapters
 - ***Subject Matter Hearings*** in appropriate Senate and House Committees
 - Agriculture and Conservation
 - Environment

SUBJECT MATTER HEARING CONSIDERATIONS

POSITIVES:

- Provide a forum to publicly advance the goals and successes of the strategy
- Provide the ability to contact numerous legislators at once to promote an issue, legislative need or want

NEGATIVES:

- Often used for highly contentious issues with opposition
- Not often utilized to solely educate on the benefits, achievements or goals of an initiative
- Increase the risk of legislative involvement dictating the future direction of the strategy

LEGISLATOR OUTREACH

- **Questions / Discussion**

COMMUNICATION OUTREACH

- **Questions / Discussion**

Do we need a coordinated communication plan to complement the strategy release and leg briefing

WORKSHOP PLANNING CONCEPTS

BRIAN MILLER



Workshop

- December 6-7
- Location TBA: Springfield or Illini Union, Urbana

Workshop – Possible Topics

- Keynote: representative from Hypoxia Task Force
 - Bill Northey (IA Secretary of Ag) or USEPA staff
- Implementation Lessons Learned (Wisconsin, Minnesota, etc.)
- How IL stacks up to other states (presentations given at the Hypoxia Task Force meeting)
- Stakeholder Showcase

Review of Charge

- Explore funding opportunities
- Identify needed legislative initiatives
- Network with the appropriate people and groups
- Identify adaptive management adjustments and update the strategy (*after Biennial Report is complete*)



Photo by Oliver Burrus, Youth "Water Is..." Photo Contest

Thank you!



Photo by Paul Gierhart "Water Is" Photo Contest