



Fox Waterway Agency Chain O' Lakes Watershed-Based Plan

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Brian Valleskey



Agenda

- Introductions
- Objective
- Definition, Description & Benefits
- Stakeholders
- Project Examples
- Next Steps

Introduction

- Speakers
 - Joe Keller Executive Director
 - Rob Bowman Superintendent
- Contributors
 - Brian Vallesky Manhard Consultant
 - Randy Sweet Chairman FWA Advisory Committee
 - Pat Smarto FWA Advisory Committee

Why are we here?

- We are all here today as stewards of the waterway.
- In that light we need to to create a plan for the improvement and long term preservation of the water bodies (Lakes, rivers, creeks, etc).
- The livelihood of businesses and continued economic growth is dependent on this waterway resource, e.g. property values, tax revenues, etc
- That plan does not exist today.
- More can be done as partners than any one of us individually



To be accomplished...

Establish a Watershed Based Plan approved by the EPA to facilitate access to 319 funding and bring communities & entities together for a common goal of water quality and water management best practices.

9 Elements for Watershed Based Plans EPA Nonpoint Source (Section 319) Program



- Identify cause and sources of pollution
- Estimate pollutant loading into the watershed and the expected load reductions
- Describe management measures that will achieve load reductions and target critical areas
- Estimate amounts of technical and financial assistance and the relevant authorities needed to implement the plan
- Develop an information/education component
- Develop a project schedule
- Describe the interim measurable milestones
- Identify indicators to measure progress
- Develop a monitoring component



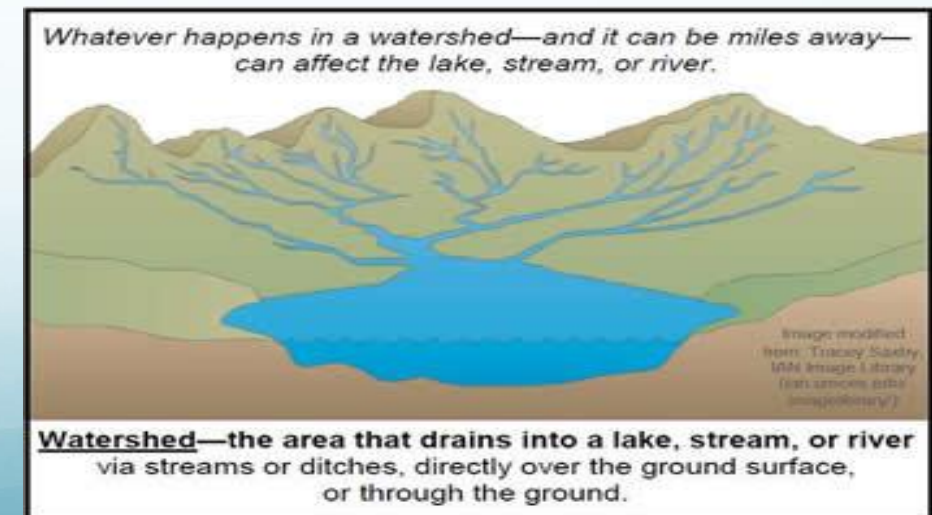
What is Watershed Planning?

Watershed planning and management comprise an approach:

- to protecting water quality for the whole watershed
- manage polluted runoff
- pollution is caused by a variety of land use activities including development, transportation, and agriculture

Watershed planning and management involves a number of activities including:

- targeting priority problems in the watershed;
- promoting a high level of involvement by interested and affected parties;
- developing solutions to problems through the use of the expertise and authority of multiple agencies and organizations;
- measuring success through monitoring





Major Benefits

- Improves water quality through project implementation
- Opens door to additional funding mechanisms
- Comprehensive plan to effectively prevent/limit the sediment and material loading from reaching our system thus reducing dredging needs
- Mechanism to help further promote proactive stewardship vs. reactive through sound science instead of crisis management
- Identify stakeholders and work as a cohesive unit towards common goal
- Provide forum for betterment of the system while prioritizing appropriate projects
- Educate the public and promote community involvement



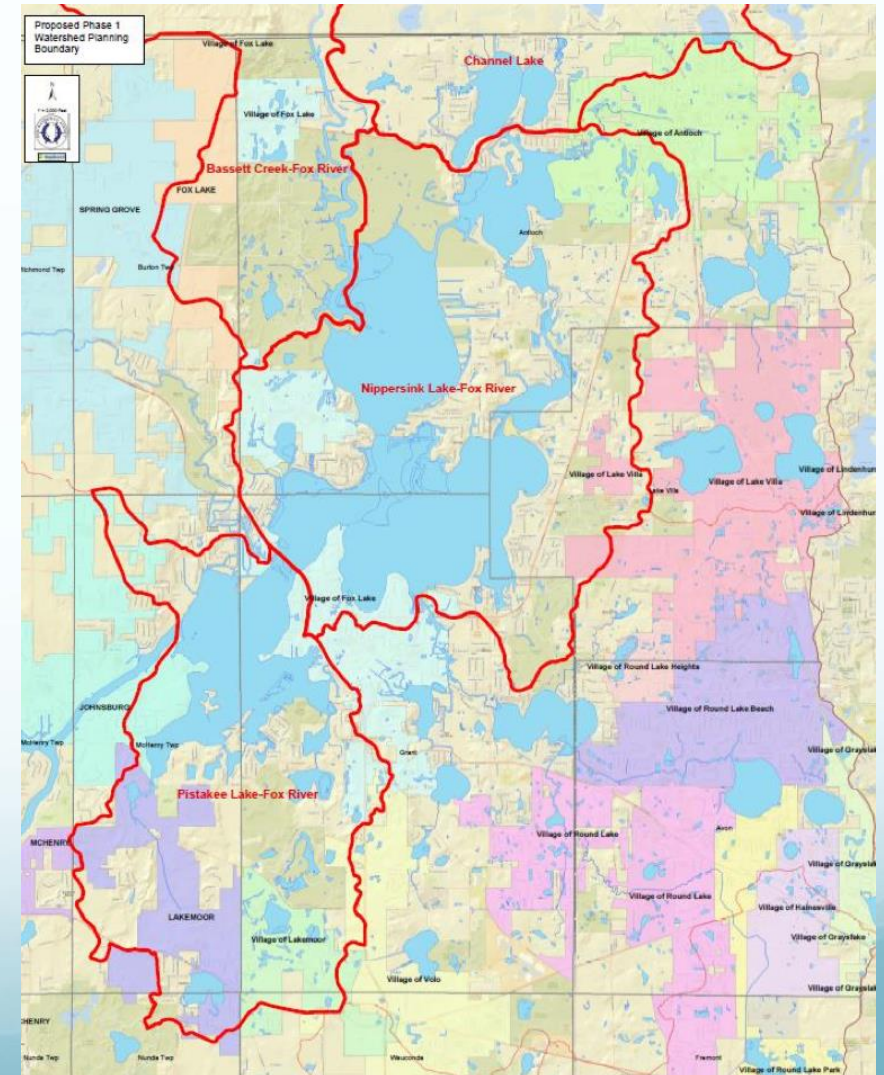
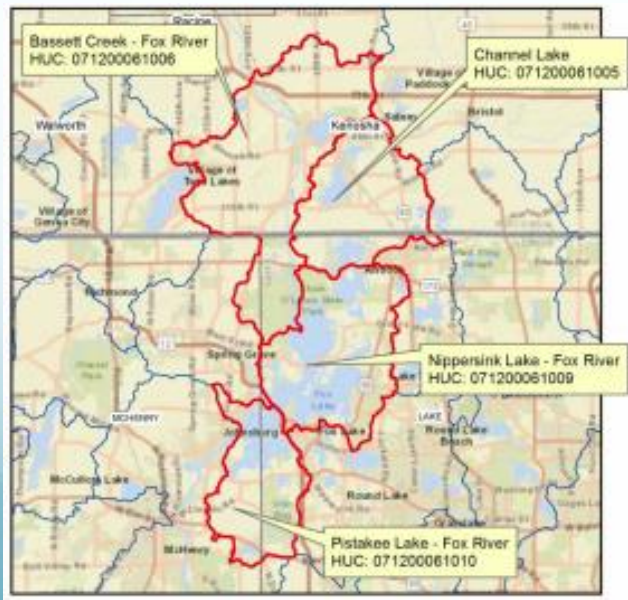
What a watershed based plan does

-
- Identifies stakeholder projects for 319 grant funding (FWA implemented and other)
- Identifies projects for prioritization and the subsequent implementation to address impairments
- Helps to identify sources of water pollution
- Roadmap to sustainable maintenance of the waterway and done in a way to improve water quality

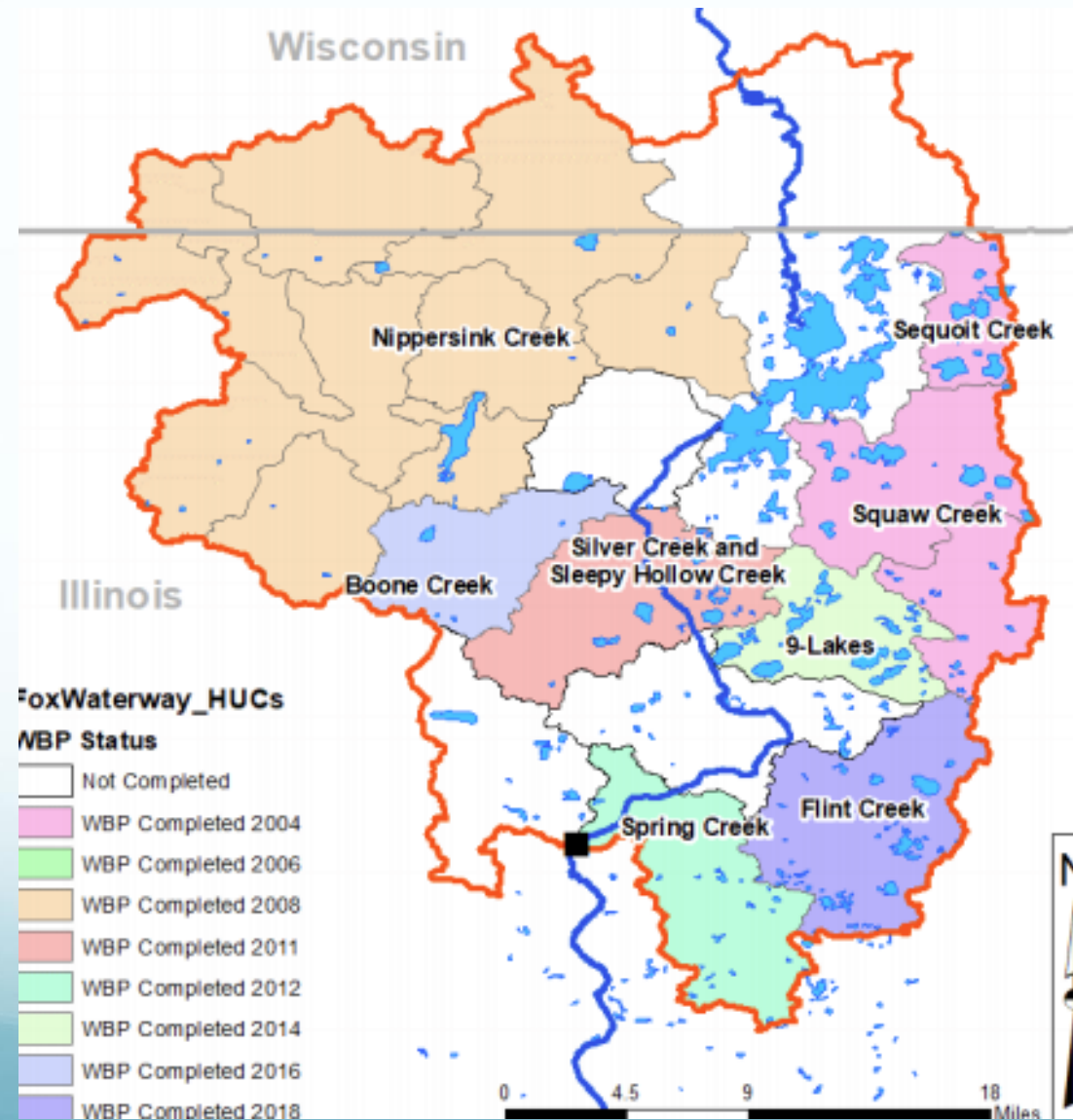
Geographical Scope



- Northern boundary: Wisconsin state line
- HUCs (Hydrologic Unit Codes)
 - Channel Lake
 - Bassett Creek-Fox River
 - Nippersink Lake-Fox River
 - Pistakee Lake Fox River



Existing Adjoining Watershed Plans





Stakeholders

- Townships (7)
 - Lake Villa
 - Wauconda
 - Grant
 - Antioch
 - Burton
 - McHenry Township
 - Nunda
- Municipalities (8)
 - McHenry
 - Ingleside
 - Lake Villa
 - Fox Lake
 - Volo
 - Lakemoor
 - Johnsburg
 - Antioch
- County (6)
 - Lake County (Stormwater, Public works, etc)
 - Lake County Forest Preserve
 - Lake County Preservation Foundation
 - McHenry County (Stormwater, Public works, Conservation, etc)
 - Lake County DOT
 - McHenry DOT
- State (4)
 - IEPA
 - IDOT
 - IDNR
 - IL Historical Preservation Assoc
- Federal (3)
 - USCG
 - USDA
 - Army Corp of Eng.
- Businesses
 - 25 HOAs (Home Owners Associations)
 - 12 Marinas
 - 17 Restaurants/Bars
 - Ancillary businesses
- Lake Associations
 - Friends of Lake Catherine
- Recreational Users
 - ~ 23,000 Sticker holders

Project example Tower Lakes

(slide from recent ILMA Conference)



The Budget

- Total Project Value ~\$260k over three years
- IL EPA Funded 319h Grant of ~\$160k
- Lake County SMC Grants of \$10k and \$12k
- Remainder funded by volunteer value matching and split between VoTL and TLIA (The community)

The slide displays two panels of information. The left panel features three logos at the top: the Illinois Department of Transportation, the Village of Tower Lakes, and the Lake County Stormwater Management Commission. Below these is a yellow banner for the "NONPOINT SOURCE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL PROGRAM". The main title is "Tower Lakes Bioswale/Raingarden", followed by a description: "Best management practices have been installed to improve the water quality of the Upper Fox River watershed." It also includes funding details: "Funded, in part, under Section 319 of the Federal Clean Water Act. Grant No.: C86520016." and contact information: "For more information, contact the Illinois EPA at 217/782-3362. FAX Number: 217/7815." The right panel contains text stating: "This Raingarden/Bioswale is a project of the Tower Lakes Improvement Association in partnership with the Village of Tower Lakes. This project will protect water quality and manage stormwater as recommended in the 9-Lakes Watershed Plan." It also mentions funding sources: "Funding for this project is provided in part by grants from Lake County Stormwater Management Commission through a Watershed Management Board Grant and Illinois Environmental Protection Agency Section 319 grant funds." At the bottom right, there is a small logo for the "Illinois Environmental Protection Agency".



What makes for a good project?

- Restoration based activities:
 - Stream restoration, stabilization, enhancement & protection
 - Shoreline restoration, stabilization, enhancement & protection
 - Wetland restoration, stabilization, enhancement & protection
 - Stormwater pond retrofits and restoration
 - Landscape based water quality protection measures such as rain gardens, bioswales, native vegetation enhancement, bioretention
 - Runoff based protections and initiatives

Next step(s)

- Acquire financial commitments from stakeholders to actively participate and fund the match requirements of the Section 319 grant.
- Apply for Section 319 grant
- Continue to gather support from additional stakeholders
- Coordinate approval of the Grant with the IEPA
- **Begin the planning process to take advantage of NEW funding for projects**



Closing Thoughts

Basis for true long term effective and notable stewardship of the waterway

“Think of not the way it is now, but rather than what it could be. A foundation and structure to build on together”



End



Addendum

9 Lakes Watershed Plan (Example)

200 projects identified by stakeholders and leadership team during planning process, many lake-centr



← Untitled

description

FID 163
Name
Descript shoreline stabilization at Bangs Lk
COMMENT
category Hydrologic
BMP_Type_C 580
NumberOfUn 0
RemEff_N 0
RemEff_TP 0
RemEff_TSS 0
Subunit Bangs Lk
Units feet
MapNumber 189
BMP_Jeff
BMP_Type Shoreline Protection
Landowner private (multiple), HOAs, Wauconda Pk Dist
Partners Vlg of Wauconda
load_reduc
POINT_X -88.137353
POINT_Y 42.266093

