

**New York State Soil & Water Conservation Committee**  
10B Airline Drive, Albany, NY 12235 -- Telephone (518) 457-3738

**State Committee Meeting**  
Farm Credit East  
4363 Federal Drive, Batavia, NY 14020  
October 15th 2015

**Meeting at a Glance:**

- The State Committee passed a resolution officially approving the formation of the Genesee River Watershed Coalition. The Coalition already has lots of plans in the works for securing funding to implement water quality improvement projects in the watershed.
- There are a number of other Great Lakes initiatives, including NRCS's Great Lakes Restoration Initiative and the DEC's Great Lakes Action Agenda.
- The State Committee approved a \$3.1M AEM allocation for AEM Year 12 from the 2014-2015/Round 22 AgNPS funding.
- The Climate Resilient Farming RFP is available, and applications are due Dec. 14.

**Present:**

D. Stein, Chair; J. Dickinson, C. Colby, D. Brass, Voting Members; B. Steinmuller, Assistant Director; V. DiGiacomo, S. Fickbohm, B. Bzduch, R. Bush, R. Cunningham, L. Lyons-Swift, G. Spitzer, SWCC; G. Kist, D. Mortensen, B. Schmidt, P. Youngstrum, NRCS; T. K. O'Donnell, EPA-Great Lakes; T. Sweeney, S. Richmond, DAM; L. Williams, Farm Bureau; J. Lendrum, K. Stainbrook, DEC; D. Cummings, NYACD; M. Graham, Senator Gallivan's office; R. Perello, Niagara County SWCD; G. McKurth, D. Heiby, Wyoming County SWCD; M. Gaston, Erie County SWCD; D. Kirby, J. Bennet, Orleans County SWCD; PJ Emerick, Orleans County SWCD/CDEA; K. Emerick, Monroe County SWCD; S. Stein, T. Konieczka, J. Chamberlain, Genesee County SWCD; D. Kelley, C. Pinkoski, Chautauqua County SWCD

**Review/Approval of Minutes**

**D. Brass moved to approve the August 2015 minutes; seconded by C. Colby. Motion passed; carried.**

**Staffing Update**, B. Steinmuller

Welcome to Ryan Cunningham, who just started with the State Committee working with Ron as a CNMP Specialist. They will be working together on rebuilding a quality assurance/quality control program for nutrient management planning.

Welcome to Scott Richmond, who just started as an Excelsior Fellow with the Division. He is currently working with the Agricultural Protection unit, but he will work with the State Committee as well in the upcoming months.

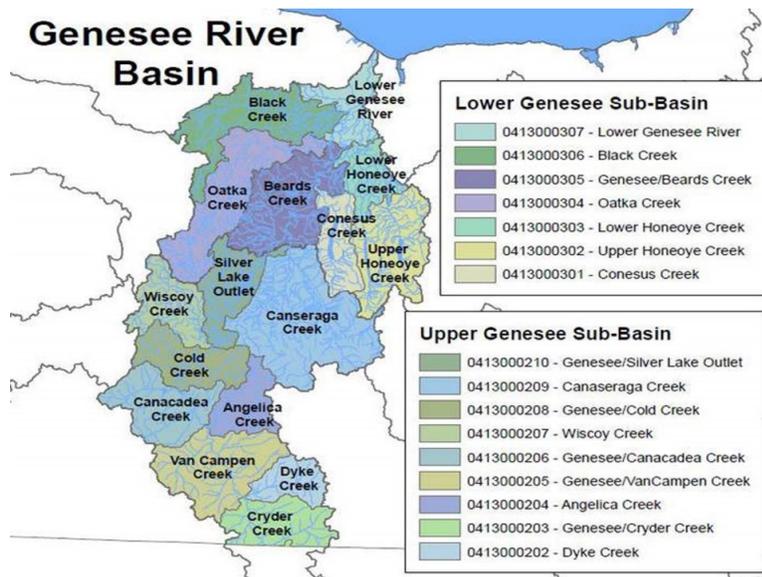
Now that Jennifer has taken over the Southeast region (Region 5), all five regional coordinator positions are filled, and the Division is currently in the process of backfilling what was previously Ron's position as Agricultural Non-Point Source Program Assistant. Gabriella Spitzer is continuing with the State Committee as the Climate Resilient Farming program manager and SharePoint administrator, and there are plans to move Lauren Lyons-Swift's position to the State Committee (it is currently a contract position with Cortland County SWCD). The State Committee is generally doing very well for staffing and is happy to be able to serve the Districts more effectively with more hands.

[THIS DRAFT DOCUMENT IS PROPOSED ONLY AND HAS NOT BEEN ACTED UPON BY THE STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE. THIS DOCUMENT IS MADE AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC PURSUANT TO OPEN MEETINGS LAW §103(e)]

**Genesee River Watershed Coalition of Conservation Districts**, G. McKurth (Wyoming County SWCD) and V. DiGiacomo (State Committee)

The Genesee River flows north for 144 miles before emptying into Lake Ontario at Rochester. The watershed includes more than 5000 miles of freshwater rivers and streams. Water quality concerns include urban and industrial runoff, agricultural runoff, and municipal storm overflow.

Soil and Water Conservation Districts in the watershed include Livingston, Allegany, Monroe, Genesee, Wyoming, Ontario, Orleans, Steuben, and Cattaraugus Counties in New York State, as well as 15 miles of the source of the river in Potter County, PA.



The Districts have been very active in mitigating water quality concerns in a variety of areas, including through the State Committee’s Agricultural Non-Point Source and Soil Health Mini-Grants programs, erosion and sediment control work, and Trees for Tribs efforts. Joining together to create a coalition will allow them to coordinate their efforts, leverage their authority for increased funding rather than competing with each other for the same funds, and ultimately improve the water quality of the river and watershed.

See attached PowerPoint presentation for more information.

The Soil and Water Conservation Committee supports the efforts of the Conservation Districts and the Genesee River Watershed Coalition of Conservation Districts. The following resolution was passed to formally acknowledge and support the creation of the Coalition:

Whereas the Genesee River Watershed Coalition of Conservation Districts (“GRWCCD”) has been proposed as a network of county Soil and Water Conservation Districts (“Districts”) to cooperatively promote and implement, on a watershed scale, the conservation and improvement of natural resources on lands within the Genesee River Watershed; and

Whereas the proposed members comprising the GRWCCD include nine Districts in New York and one District in Pennsylvania; and

Whereas the member Districts of the GRWCCD propose to enter into a “Memorandum of

Understanding Between and Among the Conservation Districts that comprise the Genesee River Watershed Coalition” (“MOU”); and

Whereas the New York Districts within the GRWCCD seed conceptual approve by the New York State Soil and Water Conservation Committee (“State Committee”), pursuant to Soil and Water Conservation Districts Law (“Districts Law”) §4(4)(c), of the programs to be undertaken on a watershed scale by such Districts pursuant to the MOU.

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the State Committee that:

The watershed scale programs of the New York Districts to be undertaken pursuant to the GRWCCD MOU are approved pursuant to Districts Law §4(4)(c), subject to the following conditions:

1. The programs are:
  - a. Undertaken pursuant to a duly executed MOU which is consistent with Districts Law §9, Powers of districts and directors; and
  - b. Are incorporated into each District’s annual plan of work submitted to the State Committee
2. In conjunction with the adoption of each District’s annual plan of work, the District adopt a Resolution which generally explains and approves the activities and programs expected to be undertaken by the District pursuant to the MOU for that year; and
3. The New York Districts within the GRWCCD, pursuant to Districts Law §10, may cooperate with one another in the exercise of any or all powers conferred by the Districts Law, but shall not exercise any of the powers granted to the pursuant to Districts Law or expend any funds for projects and activities in the State of Pennsylvania.

**J. Dickinson moved to approve the resolution as written above; seconded by D. Brass. Motion passed; carried.**

**Great Lakes Area of Concern Restoration—Eighteen Mile Creek**, R. Perello (Niagara County SWCD)

Eighteenmile Creek flows directly into Lake Ontario. It was designated an “Area of Concern” because of water quality concerns and bottom sediments associated with past industrial and municipal discharge practices, disposal of waste, and use of pesticides. The Eighteenmile Creek Corridor is also designated a Superfund site, and it is also mentioned in the Great Lakes Action Agenda.

Niagara County SWCD is working to coordinate all of the different efforts to clean the Creek and make sure all partners are aware of what the others are doing.

See attached PowerPoint presentation for more information.



Wyoming County SWCD – Silver Lake/Genesee River Drinking Water Protection – Round 17 – C701048

Start Date: 11/1/11 Current End Date: 9/1/2015

Request: Time Extension to 10/31/16

Reason: Three of the proposed BMP systems have been completed and all other participants are in the process of developing and/or finalizing engineering plans. One participant has withdrawn from the project and another could not be reached. Several attempts have been made to contact the landowner (correspondence is included with the packet). All other participants have signed revised letters of commitment.

*Note: Victor DiGiacomo, Region 1 AEA, supports the time extension*

*Previous Amendments: None*

**D. Brass motioned to approve the amendment, seconded by J. Dickinson. Motion passed; carried.**

**Region 2**

Cayuga County SWCD – Owasco Lake Watershed – Round 17 – C701002

Start Date: 11/1/11 Current End Date: 9/1/2015

Request: Time Extension to 3/1/2016

Reason: Excessive water during the Spring and Summer of 2015 caused issues with implementation for three landowners. Additionally, all three landowners have had difficulty coming up with their portion of the grant due to erosion issues during June/July 2015.

*Note: Scott Fickbohm, Region 2 AEA, refers to State Committee*

*Previous Amendments: None*

**J. Dickinson motioned to approve the amendment, seconded by D. Brass. Motion passed; carried.**

Cayuga County SWCD – Cayuga Lake Watershed – Round 17 – C701004

Start Date: 11/1/11 Current End Date: 9/1/2015

Request: Time Extension to 3/1/2016

Reason: Excessive water during the Spring and Summer of 2015 caused issues with implementation for one landowner. The landowner experienced issues with erosion in the pasture and laneway that required repair making the project harder implement. The landowners has also had difficulty coming up with the financial means to fund his portion of the project.

*Note: Scott Fickbohm, Region 2 AEA, refers to State Committee*

*Previous Amendments: None*

**J. Dickinson motioned to approve the amendment, seconded by D. Brass. Motion passed; carried.**

Cayuga County SWCD – Cover Crops – Round 17 – T701005

Start Date: 11/1/11 Current End Date: 9/1/2015

Request: Time Extension to 3/1/2016

Reason: Excessive water during the Spring and Summer of 2015 caused issues with implementation for the cover crops due to late spring planting. Excessive erosion forced later than normal plantings. The last date for planting cover crops is October 5 and the current end of the contract is September 1. A time extension is needed for two landowners.

*Note: Scott Fickbohm, Region 2 AEA, refers to State Committee*

*Previous Amendments: None*

**J. Dickinson motioned to approve the amendment, seconded by D. Brass. Motion passed; carried.**

**Region 3**

Montgomery County SWCD – Caroga – Round 17 – C701023

Start Date: 7/12/11 Current End Date: 5/13/15

Request: Time Extension to 12/31/16

Reason: The project is currently under construction. The manure storage has been completed and the grading for the barnyard has been completed. Construction is set to begin after the corn harvest. The District is confident that, with the time extension, all projects will be completed. There was difficulty getting this project started but all the engineering has been completed and approved.

*Note: Cliff Frasier, Region 3 AEA, refers to State Committee*

*Previous Amendments: None*

**C. Colby motioned to approve the amendment, seconded by J. Dickinson. Motion passed; carried.**

**Region 4**

Washington County SWCD – Hoosic-Walloomsac Farmstead Source Control – Round 17 – C701045

Start Date: 11/1/11 Current End Date: 9/1/15

Request: Time Extension to 9/1/2016

Reason: A contractor has been selected on one farm and construction will begin soon, but will likely not be complete by the current end of the contract. A second landowner is in the process of selecting a contractor and the third landowner has stated financial issues as a reason for delay. The extra year would allow the landowners the extra time they need to complete their projects.

*Note: Bob Brower, Region 4 AEA, supports the time extension.*

*Previous Amendments: None*

**C. Colby motioned to approve the amendment, seconded by D. Brass. J. Dickinson abstained. Motion passed; carried.**

Washington County SWCD – Southern Champlain Basin Farmstead Source Control – Round 19 – C701138

Request: Change in Landowner

Reason: The original Landowner sold the operation to his son. The same BMP System will still be implemented.

*Note: Bob Brower, Region 4 AEA, approves the change in landowner.*

*Previous Amendments: Change in BMPs*

**AgNPS Status Report, L. Lyons-Swift**

The full status report is attached. A summary table of the full AgNPS program is below.

Activity	Number	Funds
Completed	546	\$73,063,791.00
Active	203	\$54,515,053.00
Pending	40	\$13,634,515.46
Cancelled	28	\$0.00
	<b>817</b>	<b>\$141,213,359.46</b>

**Round 21 Update**

The successful applications for Agricultural Non-Point Source projects have been officially announced, and Districts have been notified. There are 40 projects in 26 Districts, on approximately 150 farms.

**Round 22 AgNPS and AEM Base Program**

**Note: All District staff and board members left the room for this discussion.**

B. Bzduch is planning to work on the Round 22 RFP and will have more details at the next meeting. The TAC meeting on AgNPS discussed the expansion related practices, especially manure storages. The current policy is that there is no requirement for the size/length of storage, and CNM Planners, Districts and Farmers work together to determine what an "expansion related practice" is and generally raise the farm's contribution to those applications. Discussion ensued regarding what a policy about those practices should entail, and that expansion related practices come in two forms: those that are submitted prior to the expansion, in order to mitigate any potential resource concerns associated with the expanded farm, and those that are submitted after the expansion, in order to correct a resource concern created by the recent expansion. The State Committee will follow the TAC's recommendation to gain more information on this issue in order to make more informed decisions in future rounds.

The AEM program has been growing. Year 9 (the last year with data available) was highest thus far in total funds earned. It saw an increase in Tier 3 Planning (up 10%), technical assistance for Tier 4 Implementation (up 10%), and Tier 5B Plan and BMP Evaluation (up 20%).

The AgNPS appropriation in the 2014-2015 budget, which will fund AEM Year 12 and AgNPS Round 22, was a total of \$14.2 million. The projected Year 12 AEM needs were calculated by G. Albrecht:

Anticipate 53 Districts will participate	
Anticipate 15 Districts to request Option B funding (\$85K):	<b>\$1,275,000</b>
Anticipate 4 Districts to request Option C funding (\$65K):	<b>\$260,000</b>
Anticipate 24 Districts to request Option A funding (\$50K):	<b>\$1,200,000</b>
Anticipate 5 Districts to participate between \$50K and \$30K:	<b>\$201,000</b>
Anticipate 5 remaining Districts to request a total of:	<b>\$61,000</b>
Estimated total anticipated need for Year 12:	<b>\$2,997,000</b>
<b>Total requested for AEM Base Year 12:</b>	<b>\$3,100,000</b>

[THIS DRAFT DOCUMENT IS PROPOSED ONLY AND HAS NOT BEEN ACTED UPON BY THE STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE. THIS DOCUMENT IS MADE AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC PURSUANT TO OPEN MEETINGS LAW §103(e)]

**J. Dickinson motioned to approve the \$3,100,000 Year 12 AEM allocation, seconded by D. Brass. Motion passed; carried.** The total Round 22 AgNPS allocation is expected to be \$11,100,000 (excluding returned funds).

**Climate Resilient Farming**, G. Spitzer

The RFP has been released! Applications are due Dec 14, 2015, at 4:30 pm. Application materials are available on the [Department website](#) and the [SharePoint site](#), but the application must be submitted through the [Grants Gateway](#).

Grants are available for Climate Resilient Farming practice systems in three categories: manure storage cover and flare systems (\$1,100,000); on-farm riparian, floodplain, and upland water management systems (\$150,000); and soil health systems (\$150,000).

Questions about the content of the RFP should be submitted to Gabriella Spitzer at [gabriella.spitzer@agriculture.ny.gov](mailto:gabriella.spitzer@agriculture.ny.gov). Questions about using the Grants Gateway should be submitted to [grantsreform@its.ny.gov](mailto:grantsreform@its.ny.gov) or 518-474-5595.

**Partnership Reports**

**SWCC**, D. Stein

The Soil and Water Conservation Committee joined Commissioner Ball for the Capital for a Day event held in the Syracuse area on September 30. Capital for a Day is an initiative by the Governor to bring members of his cabinet and other important policy makers to listen to local concerns. As part of the festivities, local Districts were invited to meet with the State Committee and Commissioner Ball to discuss how the State can best serve the Districts. Topics covered included concerns about agricultural assessment and local assessor training, conservation buffers, agricultural protection/right to farm issues, and working more closely with federal partners.

**SWCC**, B. Steinmuller

The State Committee is hosting a statewide managers and administrative meeting at Greek Peak Resort in Cortland, NY, November 17 and 18. Up to three District staff and/or Board members are welcome to come from each District. There will be sessions on District Aid and contracting as well as a panel of AgNPS reviewers. Anyone with questions should reach out to Lauren Prezorski.

**NRCS**, G. Kist

Dave Mortensen will be beginning as Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations in Walton on November 15. There are a number of other positions that NRCS is trying to fill, including the State Engineer position recently vacated by Peter Wright's retirement.

The Federal Budget has been funded through Dec 11, so NRCS is functioning at normal levels.

RCPA applications that have been selected to move forward into the full application stage are pending. There are also Chesapeake Bay and GLRI programs moving forward, as well as projects in coordination with the Forest Service in the Chesapeake Bay watershed and the Finger Lakes region.

[THIS DRAFT DOCUMENT IS PROPOSED ONLY AND HAS NOT BEEN ACTED UPON BY THE STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE. THIS DOCUMENT IS MADE AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC PURSUANT TO OPEN MEETINGS LAW §103(e)]

**DEC, J. Lendrum**

Welcome to Karen Stainbrook, the new Non-Point Source coordinator for the DEC.

The DEC is working on providing more guidance for 9 Element Watershed planning. Federal funding is dependent on the 9 Element protocol, so the DEC is working to move current watershed plans into that format. The Genesee River Watershed 9 Element plan was recently approved, and the DEC is excited to see the efforts of the Coalition.

**NYACD, D. Cummings**

The NYACD Annual Meeting will be held in Utica on October 21-22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Farm Bureau, L. Williams**

The WOTUS ruling is currently in limbo because a stay was issued while the discussions proceed in court. The Farm Bureau is involved in a number of important state and federal policy issues impacting farmers.

**Cornell, E. Claypool**

Upstate Revitalization planning conducted by Regional Economic Development Councils include items for agricultural economic development in a number of the regions. Seeing agriculture as an economic driver is an important development of this administration. E. Claypool encouraged the group to look into these plans as an important tool to enhance agriculture in NYS.

**CDEA, PJ Emerick**

Thank you very much for allowing me to provide a brief report on the NYS CDEA.

This month's report will be brief and focus mostly on the 2016 Water Quality Symposium.

A conference call with all of the Conservation partners was held on October 8th. The call was very productive and included members from the NYS CDEA and the NYS SWCC. The 2016 course selections were chosen from the previous Water Quality Symposium evaluations forms, suggestions from employees, the Conservation District Technical Development plan and from the SWCC staff.

CDEA Vice President Jordan Clements will have the DRAFT 2016 WQS schedule completed by October 25th and all of the FINAL course descriptions, instructors and times completed by November 23rd. Then, at the December 3rd-4th CDEA meeting the complete registration packet will be formally approved and the full registration packet will be sent out in late December.

I am very excited about the 2016 Water Quality Symposium. There are several cross over courses being offered for Managers and Clerical staff as well as several new courses for District Technicians, and a very exciting Conservation Education track this year also.

At this time, Vice President Jordan and I will be contacting the Crown Plaza to begin scheduling the food, class rooms, and other activities for the 2016 Symposium. The Crowne Plaza was a great partner last year and we are looking forward to incorporating some suggestions from last year's event into the 2016 event. I am confident these changes will make the event even more enjoyable for our partners and guests.

[THIS DRAFT DOCUMENT IS PROPOSED ONLY AND HAS NOT BEEN ACTED UPON BY THE STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE. THIS DOCUMENT IS MADE AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC PURSUANT TO OPEN MEETINGS LAW §103(e)]

Lastly, the next CDEA Board meeting will be December 3rd and 4th in the Oneonta area. We are finalizing the location at this time. Once the location is chosen, I will send an agenda to everyone.

**Genesee County SWCD**, T. Konieczka

Welcome to the State Committee! Western NY is diverse and has a lot going on, and we hope you enjoy visiting.

# **GENESEE RIVER WATERSHED COALITION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS (GRWCCD)**

**NYS SWCC Meeting**

**Batavia, NY**

**October 15, 2015**

**Greg McKurth – Wyoming County SWCD**

**Victor DiGiacomo – NYS SWCC**

# PRESENTATION OVERVIEW

- Background Watershed Information
- Completed/Active Projects in the Basin
- Coalition Development/Formation
- Future Initiatives / New Directions
- Questions

# THE GENESEE RIVER WATERSHED

The Genesee River Watershed is almost entirely within Western NYS, except for the upper 15 miles of the river and its drainage area which originate in the Allegheny Plateau (Potter County, PA).

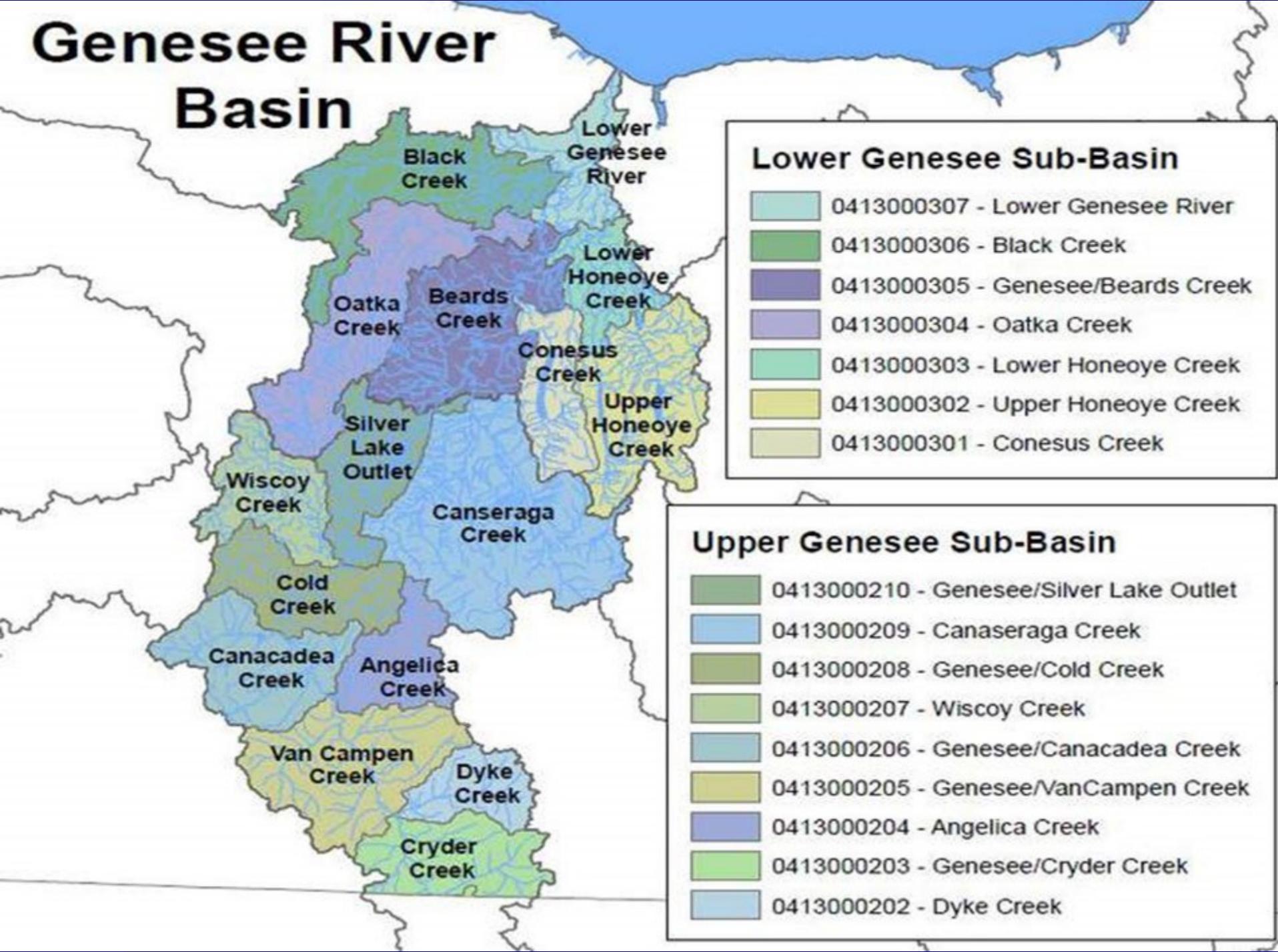
## **NYS Watershed Includes:**

- Most of Livingston & Allegany Counties,
- Much of Monroe, Genesee & Wyoming Counties,
  - Portion of western Ontario County, &
- Small parts of Orleans, Steuben & Cattaraugus Counties



Pennsylvania

# Genesee River Basin



# THE GENESEE RIVER WATERSHED

## Watershed Facts

- The river flows north for 144 miles before emptying into Lake Ontario at Rochester.
  - 5,048 miles of freshwater rivers and streams.
  - 2,373 square miles of land area within NY.
- 31 significant freshwater lakes, ponds, and reservoirs (13,288 acres), including:
  1. Conesus Lake
  2. Mount Morris Reservoir
  3. Hemlock Lake
  4. Honeoye Lake

# THE GENESEE RIVER WATERSHED

Major water quality concerns are associated with urban and industrial sources in the northern part of the watershed and agricultural and other nonpoint sources elsewhere in the upper watershed.

## Major water quality concerns include:

- Urban Stormwater and Industrial Runoff in Rochester
- Agricultural and Other Nonpoint Sources of nutrients and various other pollutants
- Protection of Municipal Water Supply in the Hemlock Lake watershed

# THE GENESEE RIVER WATERSHED

## PAST SWCD ACTIVITY IN THE BASIN

- Scores of AG-NPS Projects
- Stormwater Pollution Prevention Projects
  - Erosion & Sediment Control Projects
    - Invasive Species Eradication
      - FLOWPA
  - GLAA planning efforts
- Basin and sub-basin planning efforts

# THE GENESEE RIVER WATERSHED

## PLANNING EFFORTS

- Rochester Embayment Remedial Action Plan (2002)
- Conesus Lake Watershed Management Plan (2003)
  - Genesee River Basin Action Strategy (2004)
- Honeoye Lake Watershed Management Plan (2007)
- Black Creek Watershed Management Plan (2015)
- Oatka Creek Watershed Management Plan (2015)
  - GENESEE RIVER BASIN 9 KEY ELEMENT WATERSHED PLAN (2014, 2015)
  - NYS GREAT LAKES ACTION AGENDA

# THE GENESEE RIVER WATERSHED

## **CURRENT/ONGOING ACTIVITIES**

- AEM deployed throughout the Basin
  - Watershed & Lake Planning
    - Stormwater Activities
    - Water Quality Monitoring
  - NRCS Edge of Field Monitoring

**ALSO.....**



**Great Lakes Commission Funded**

**Erosion and Sediment Control in Black and Oatka Creeks**



**Genesee River Erosion/Sediment  
Control Implementation Projects (25  
projects in 4 counties)**

# TREES FOR TRIBS (Lower Watershed)

**TREES FOR TRIBS**  
A program of the NYSDEC Saratoga Tree Nursery

**Replanting the Streams of New York State**  
In partnership with local volunteers, the Trees for Tribs program is conserving tributary streams. Trees planted along streams protect water quality, fish and wildlife, and also reduce erosion and flooding.



# Genesee River Soil Health



**GENESEE RIVER COALITION OF**  
**CONSERVATION DISTRICTS**

**GRWCCD**

# **GENESEE RIVER COALITION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS**

## **SWCDs WORKING TOGETHER!**

Pursuant to Soil and Water Conservation Districts Law §10, New York Districts may cooperate with one another in the exercise of any or all powers conferred by the Districts Law.\*\*

\*\* This authority does not extend to Districts in Pennsylvania.

**WORKING TOGETHER TO ACHIEVE THE SAME  
GOALS/OUTCOMES**

# **GENESEE RIVER COALITION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS**

**A partnership between SWCDs with an interest  
in protection of the Genesee River.**

## **Membership to Include:**

- Allegany Co. SWCD
- Cattaraugus Co. SWCD
- Genesee Co. SWCD
- Livingston Co. SWCD
- Monroe Co. SWCD
- Ontario Co. SWCD
- Orleans Co. SWCD
- Wyoming Co. SWCD
- Steuben Co. SWCD
- Potter Co. SWCD (Pennsylvania)\*\*

# **GENESEE RIVER COALITION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS**

## **Why Form a Genesee River Coalition?**

To address: Known water quality issues; Agriculture and other non-point source pollution; Onsite septic issues and community wastewater discharges; Urban runoff, municipal wastewater and CSO's; Protection of priority drinking water supplies.

### **Tentative Benefits**

1. Make it easier to acquire project funding.
2. Greater coordination/collaboration at the Basin level

# GENESEE RIVER COALITION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

**Tentative Mission:** To implement conservation initiatives that protect, promote and enhance the natural resources of the Genesee River watershed in partnership with local, state and federal stakeholders.

# **GENESEE RIVER COALITION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS**

## **Tentative Coalition Goals**

- To develop effective solutions on a watershed-wide basis through establishment of an appropriate institutional mechanism.
- To work together on a cooperative basis in order to maintain communication among the Districts, establish a forum where Genesee River watershed issues may be addressed.
- Improve the quality and ecology of water resources.
- Increase awareness of human impacts on the watershed.

# **GENESEE RIVER COALITION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS**

## **Tentative Outcomes**

- Bringing community members together to educate them about watershed management and important environmental and economic initiatives.
- A comprehensive plan in place to protect the resources of the watershed.
- Greater protection of the Genesee River.

# GENESEE RIVER COALITION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

## NEAR TERM OPPORTUNITIES

- More Trees for Tribs Projects
  - More Soil Health Projects
- 2<sup>nd</sup> round of EBM funded erosion/sediment control projects
- AGNPS Projects (\$1.3 million in projects funded under Round 21)
  - Genesee River RCPP EQIP ?
  - Basin-wide AG BMP Tracking ?
  - Full CWMP via NYSDOS grant ?
- Genesee River Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration ?

# GENESEE RIVER COALITION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

END

**Great Lakes Area of Concern**  
**Restoration – Eighteenmile**  
**Creek AOC**

**State Committee Meeting**  
**October 15, 2015**

**Ryan Perrello**  
**Niagara County Soil & Water Conservation District**

# PRESENTATION OVERVIEW

- Great Lakes Areas of Concern (AOC)
- Eighteenmile Creek Area of Concern (AOC)
  - Eighteenmile Creek Superfund Site
- AOC Connection with GLAA
- Questions

# GREAT LAKES AREAS OF CONCERN (AOC)

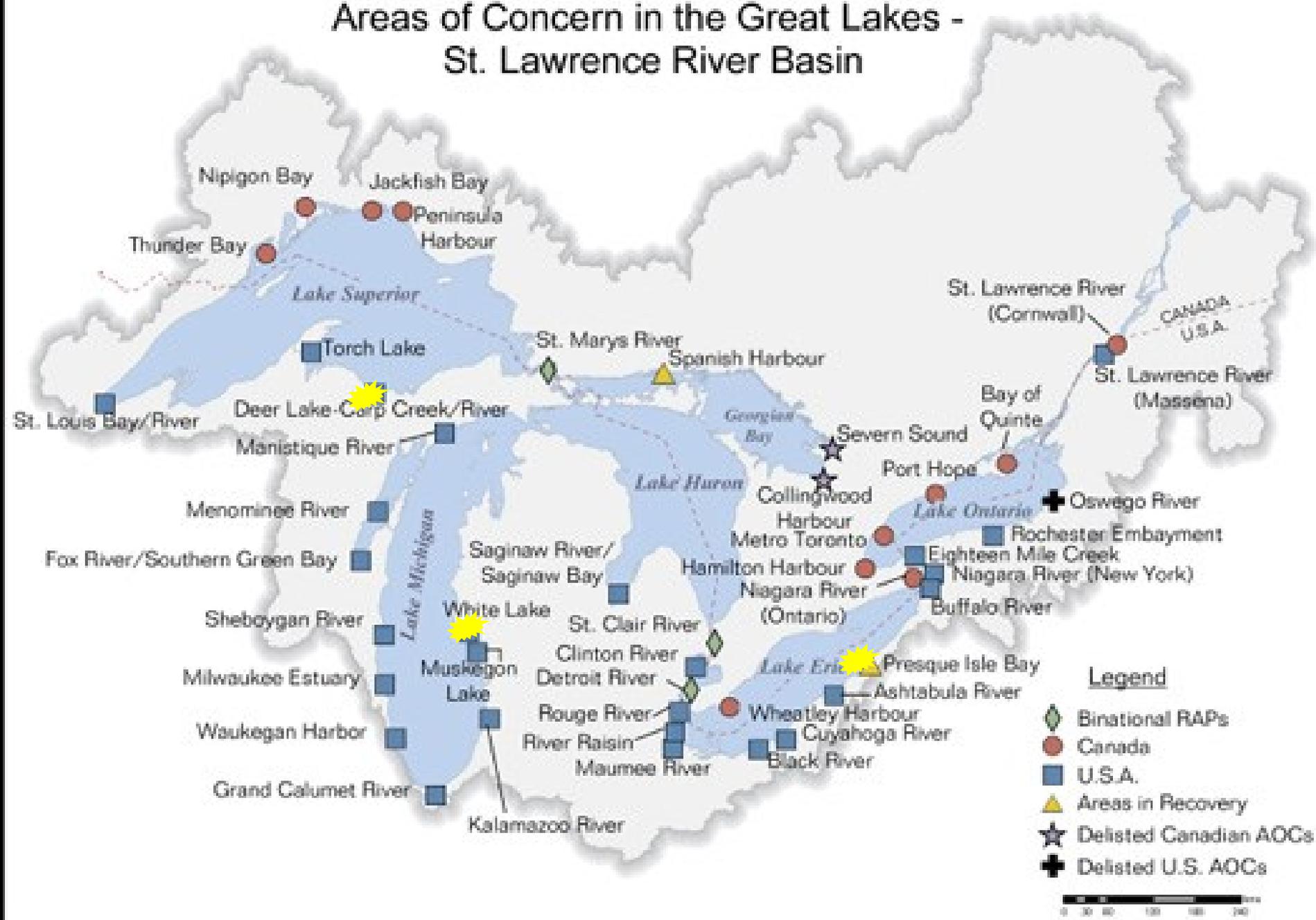
## Definition:

“Geographic areas that fail to meet the general or specific objectives of the agreement where such failure has caused or is likely to cause impairment of beneficial use of the area's ability to support aquatic life.” (GLWQA Annex 2, 1987)

## Forty-three AOCs have been identified

- 26 located entirely within the United States
  - 12 located wholly within Canada
  - 5 are considered bi-national AOCs

# Areas of Concern in the Great Lakes - St. Lawrence River Basin





*Lake Ontario*

**Canada**

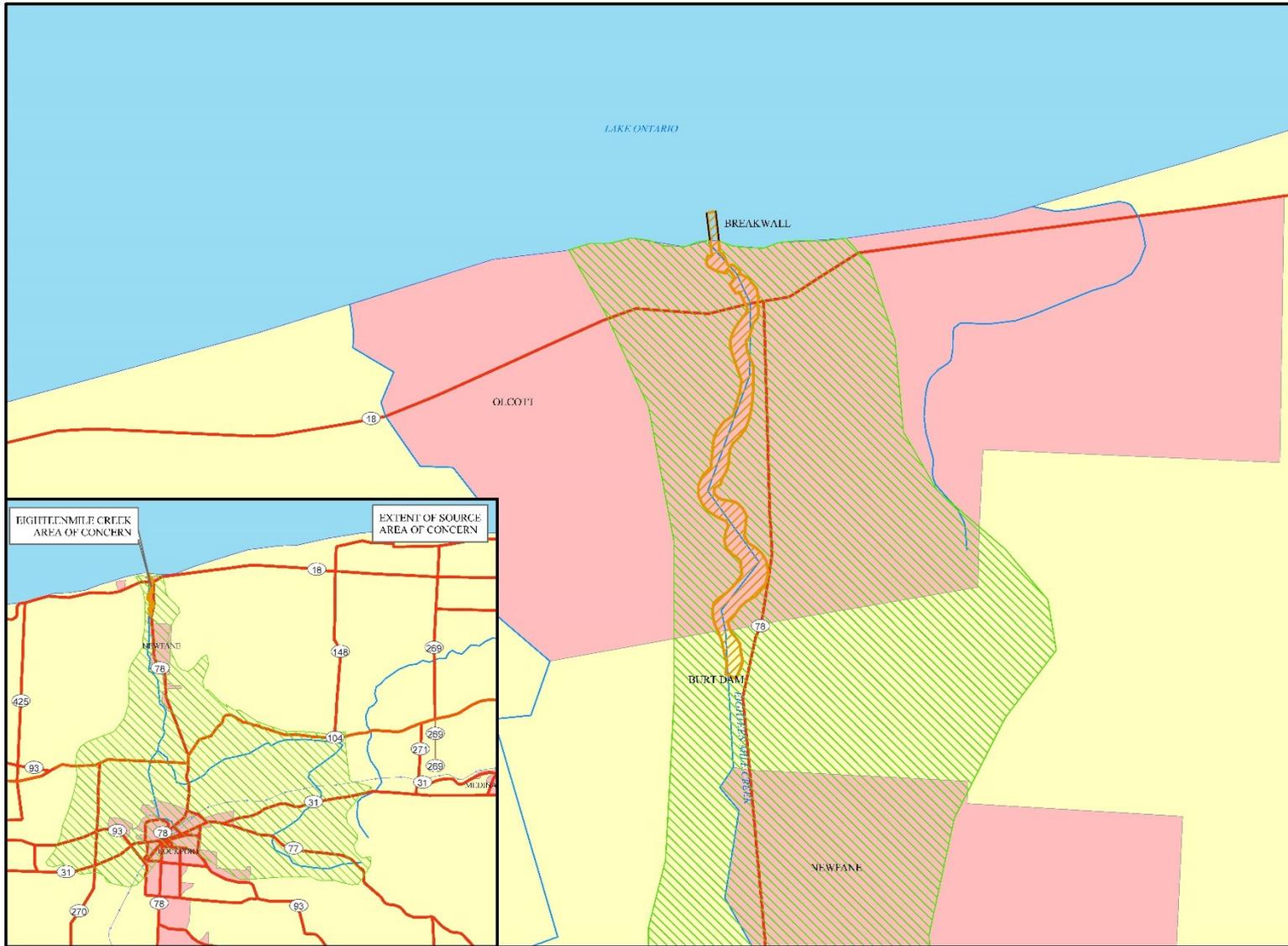


**Eighteenmile Creek**

**New York**

*Lake Erie*

**Pennsylvania**



**LEGEND**

-  MAJOR ROADS
-  SURFACE WATER
-  URBAN AREAS
-  EXTENT OF AREA OF CONCERN (EIGHTEENMILE CREEK REMEDIAL ACTION PLAN, AUGUST 1997)
-  EXTENT OF SOURCE AREA OF CONCERN (EIGHTEENMILE CREEK REMEDIAL ACTION PLAN, AUGUST 1997)

**NOTES:**

AREA OF CONCERN BOUNDARY AS APPROVED BY THE NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION ON JULY 27, 2005.

THE SOURCE AREA OF CONCERN DESIGNATED FOR THE EIGHTEENMILE CREEK AREA OF CONCERN IS DEFINED BY THE 1997 REMEDIAL ACTION PLAN AS THE EIGHTEENMILE CREEK WATERSHED, AND WAS DERIVED FROM FIGURE 2.2 OF THE 1997 REMEDIAL ACTION PLAN.

SOURCE: MODIFIED FROM THE NEW YORK DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION, 1997 AND USGS, 2005.



**EIGHTEENMILE CREEK, NEW YORK AREA OF CONCERN**

Great Lakes National Program Office



# EIGHTEENMILE CREEK AOC

- Eighteenmile Creek was designated as an AOC because of water quality and bottom sediment issues associated with past industrial and municipal discharge practices, the disposal of waste and the use of pesticides.
- Legacy contaminants identified in Eighteenmile Creek include:
  - **Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs)**
    - **Mercury**
    - **Dioxins**
    - **Mirex**
    - **Dieldrin**
  - **dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane (DDT)**

# EIGHTEENMILE CREEK AOC

Eighteenmile Creek sediments contaminated with these Legacy contaminants have contributed to:

- Restrictions on Fish & Wildlife Consumption
  - Degradation of Benthic organisms
  - Restrictions on Dredging
- Degradation of Fish & Wildlife Populations
  - Bird or Animal Deformities/Reproduction Problems

# EIGHTEENMILE CREEK SUPERFUND SITE

Eighteenmile Creek was listed on the National Priorities List in March 2012.

- The whole creek, from the Erie Canal to its discharge at Lake Ontario is a Superfund Site.
- EPA delineated Eighteenmile Creek into 3 Operable Units (OU).

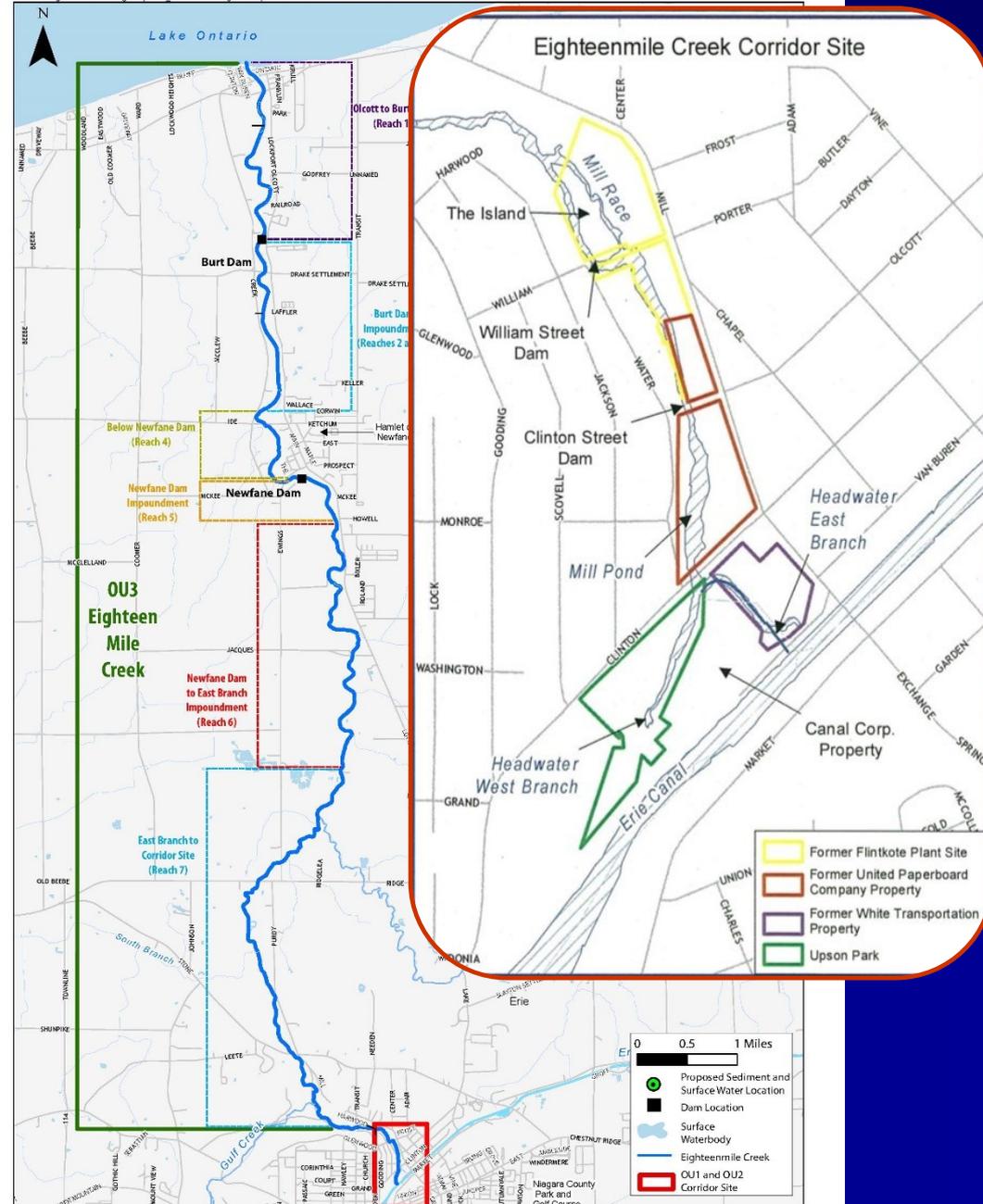


Figure 2 Eighteen Mile Creek Operable Unit Overview

# Operable Unit (OU1)

- Contaminated Residential Properties in the Creek Corridor and demolition of the former Flintkote building.



# Completion of Operable Unit (OU1)

- Contaminated Residential Properties in the Creek Corridor and demolition of the former Flintkote building.





# GLAA - AOC CONNECTION

NYS Great Lakes Action Agenda – A synthesis of existing plans, developed over many years, that established a range of important restoration, protection, and sustainable development goals for New York's Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River region.

- Ecosystem-based management approach
- 10 Priority Goals for restoration, protection, and sustainable development goals for the great lakes

Remedial Action Plans – Plans developed by states and province of Ontario to serve as a step towards restoring and maintaining the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the AOC and entire great lakes.

- Define environmental problems within AOC
- Identify remedial measures to restore Beneficial Use Impairments
  - Identify a monitoring process to track remediation

- RAP/AOC coordination is a piece of the puzzle to the Great Lakes Action Agenda
  - RAP progress helps achieve long term goals put forth by the NY GLAA by implementing locally led decisions for the restoration of the AOC.





Contact Information

Ryan Perrello  
Niagara County Soil & Water Conservation  
District

Phone 716 434 4949

Fax 855 347 7122

[ryan.perrello@ny.nacdnet.net](mailto:ryan.perrello@ny.nacdnet.net)

# Natural Resources Conservation Service

## Delivering Results for Agriculture and Conservation

by: **Ben Schmidt**  
**Assistant State Conservationist - Field Operations**  
**Li Kui – Student Intern**  
**NRCS GLRI Project Update – Oct 2015**

**Original Research by:**  
**Joe Makarewicz and Ted Lewis**  
**Department of**  
**Environmental Science and Biology**  
**The College at Brockport**  
**State University of New York**

Science

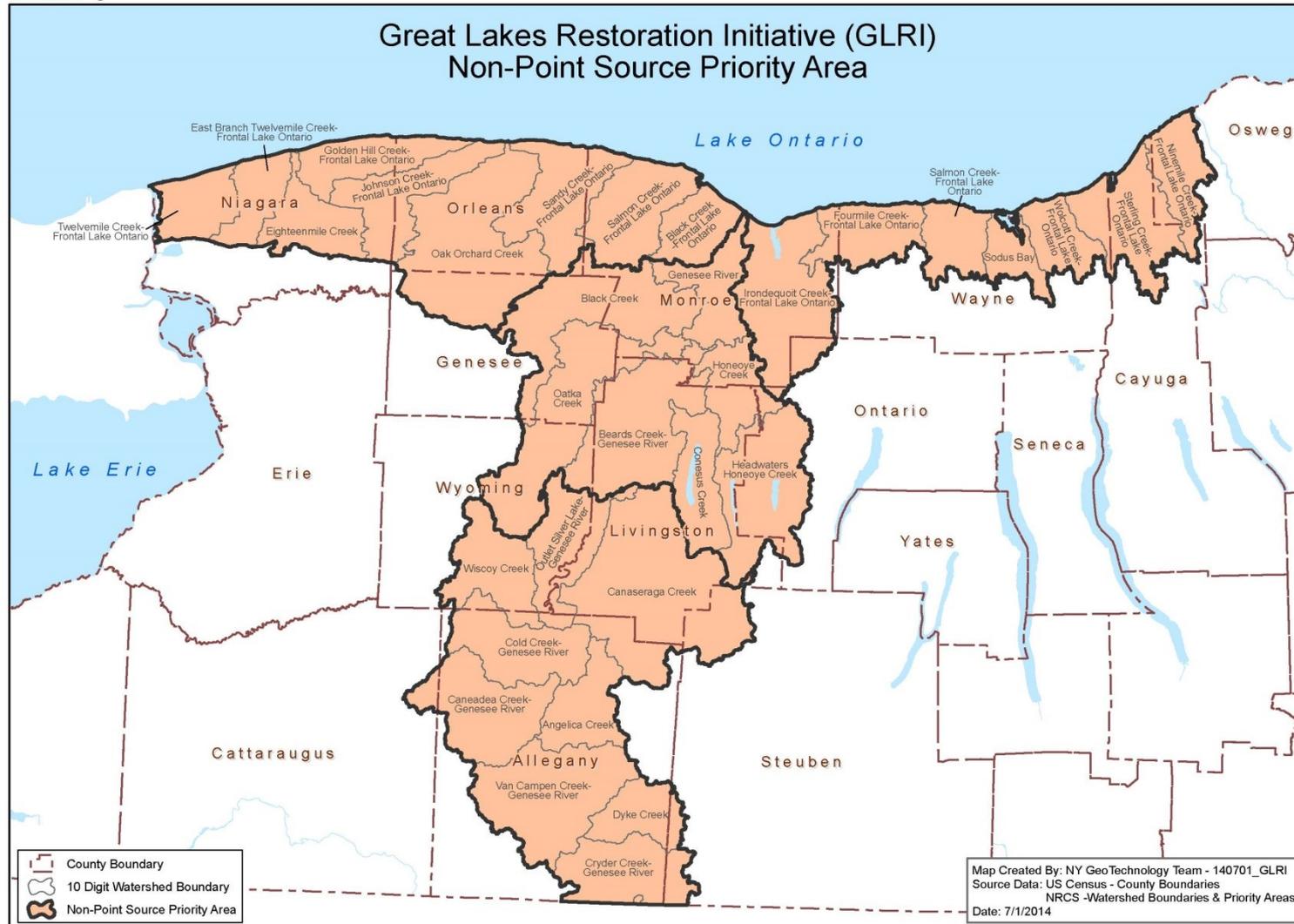
# Enhancing food security in the Northeast

by Madeline Fisher

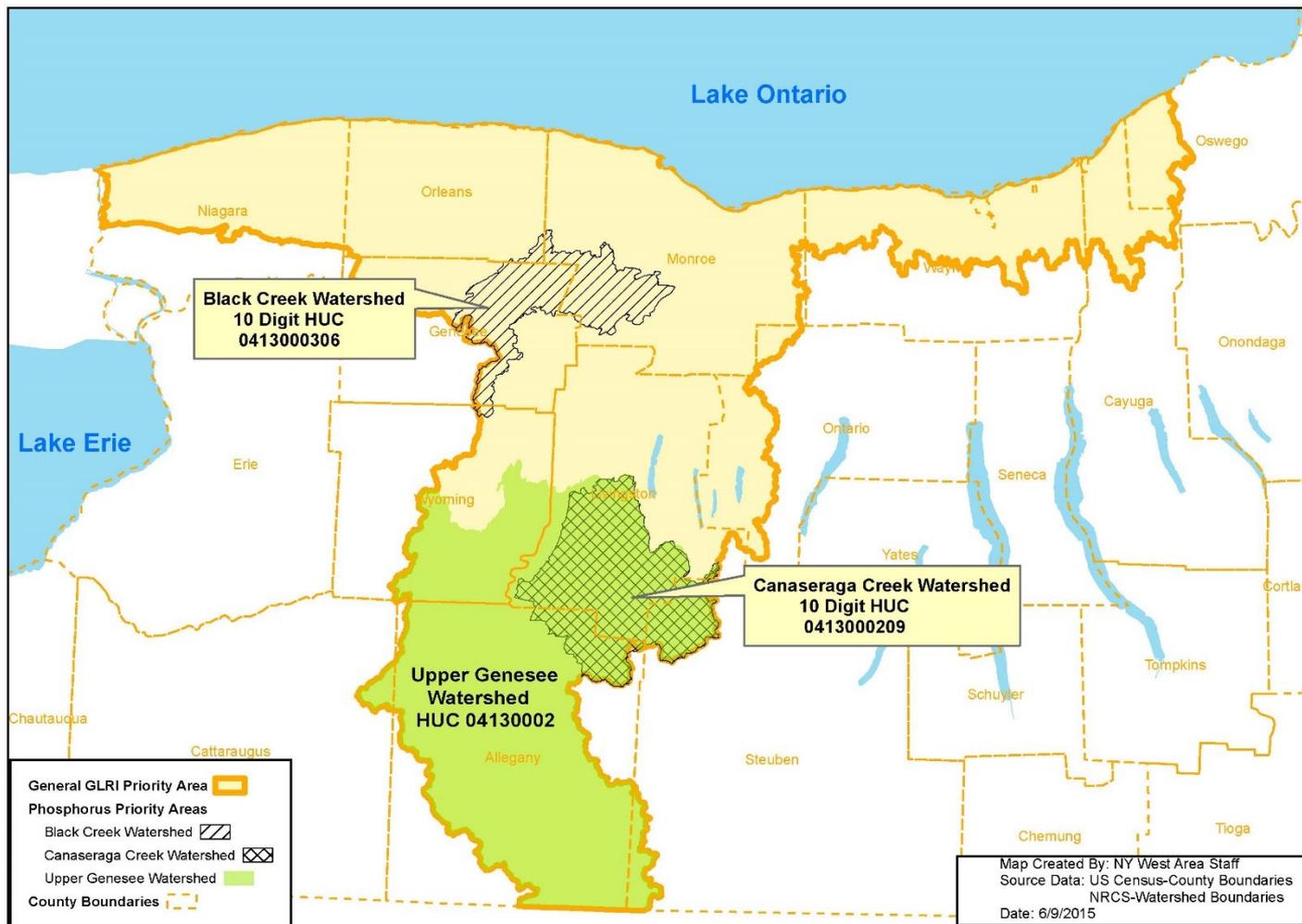
- Between '82 & '07:
  - 5 NE states lost above average amount of farmland to development.
- Northeast - has 20% of population.
- Only 5 to 6% of the farmland.
- 75 to 80% of fruits and veggies are “imported” from places like California.
- California’s drought continuation will make NE vulnerable.
- Soil health will matter for food and water quality...

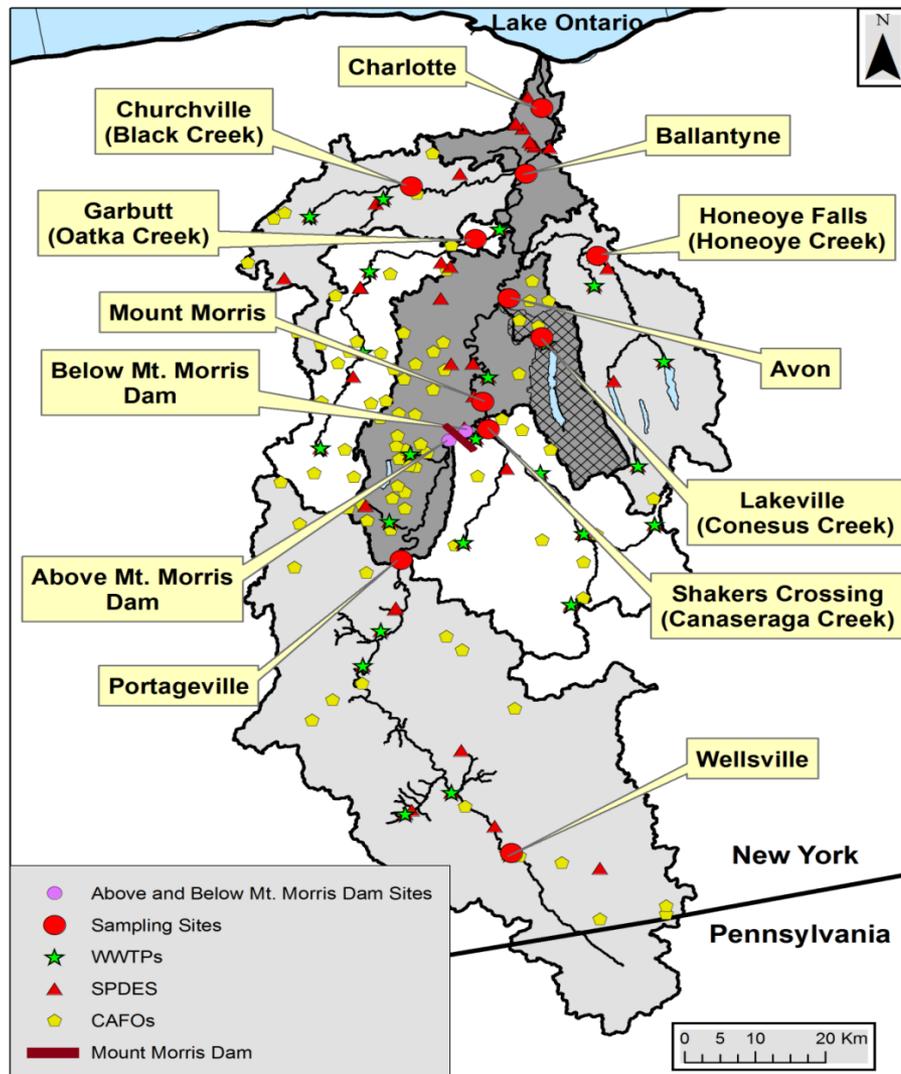
# New York GLRI

## Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) Non-Point Source Priority Area



## Phosphorus Priority Areas Great Lakes Restoration Initiative





## Study Funded by USDA and completed by SUNY-Brockport...

- Largest increase in SRP occurred between Wellsville and Portageville (increase of 9,900 kg P/yr).
- It also had the largest increase in TP load (increase of 212,128 kg P/yr).
- Much of the sediment load is acquired between the same sites (375,129 Mt/yr).
- Canaseraga Creek sub-basin delivered the highest loads of SRP, TP, TSS, TC and TN.

Percent Effectiveness of BMPs (%) – Main Stem Genesee River

PREMINARY Management Scenario			TP Reduction, Charlotte	
Category	Subcategory	BMP	Percent	kg P/yr
Forest	Forest	Natural Watershed	38.1	157,058
Agriculture	Cropland	Buffer Strips	11.6	47,651
		Grassed Waterways	23.4	96,594
		Fertilizer Reduction (100%)	2.4	9,712
	Animals	Alternative Manure Use	7.1	29,400
Point Source	STP	Upgrade STP -Tertiary	9.2	37,764
	Septic	Remove all Septic	3.4	13,952
Streambanks	Stabilization	Basinwide Stabilization	11.6	47,725
Combined Scenario 2		Best BMPs – all	29.6	122,268
Combined Scenario 3	Upper Genesee	Grassed Waterways +Stream Bank Stabilization	18.9	77,457
		Grassed waterways + Upgrade Waste Water Treatment Plants	32.9	135,714

## What we can do now:

1. FY15 – NY NRCS received \$1,936,414 in financial assistance for GLRI focus area.
  - a) Near-shore Health (entire area) = \$763,694.
  - b) Phosphorus watersheds = \$471,000.
  - c) Near-shore Health to obligate in early FY16 = \$701,720.
  - d) More to come during next 4 years with P \$s probably going up.

## How we do this:

1. Through EQIP – Environmental Quality Incentives Program.
  - a) Work with local NRCS field office.
  - b) Identify resource concerns and develop a conservation plan.

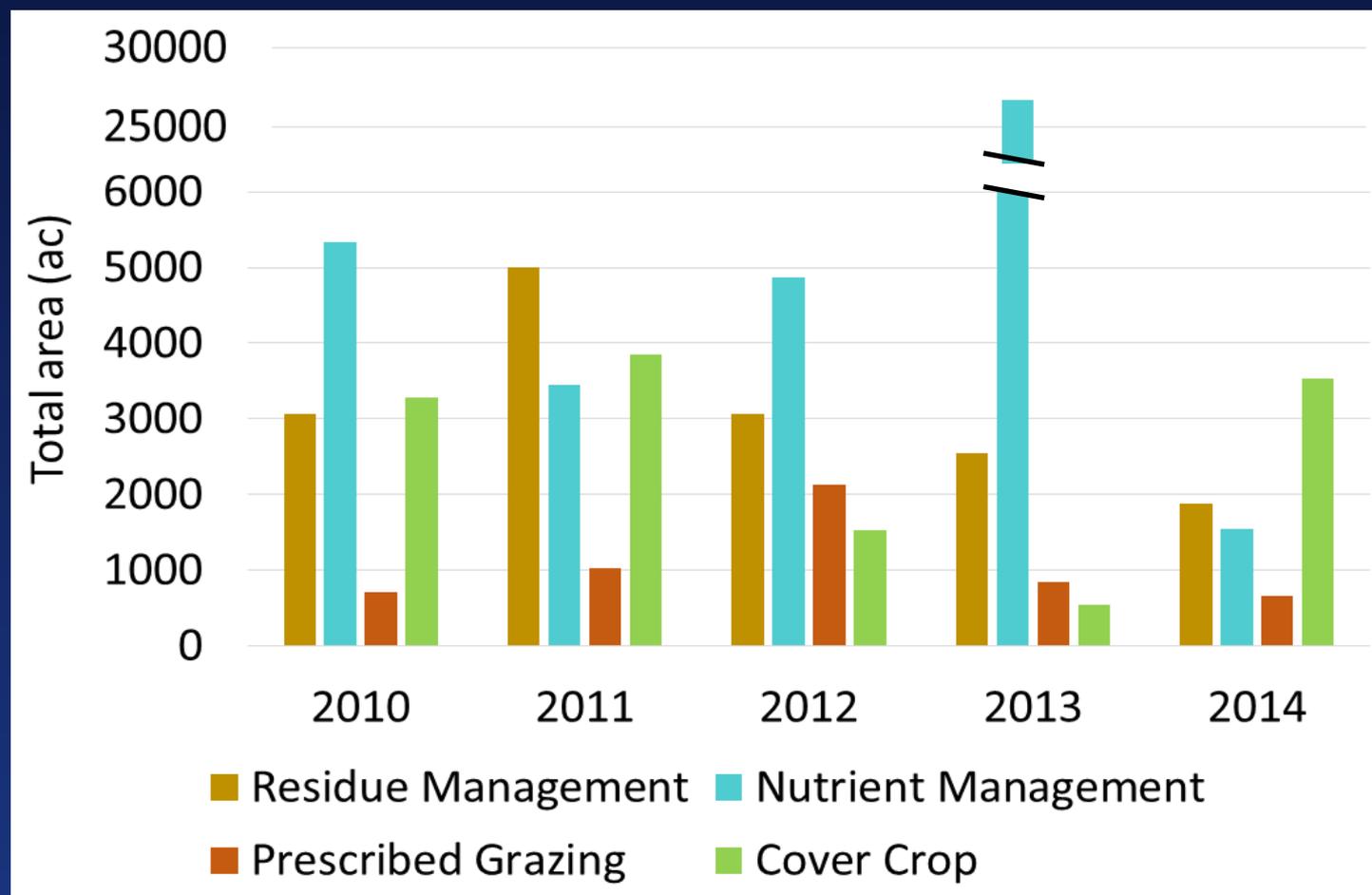
## Target/core conservation practice examples:

1. Residue & Tillage Management (e.g min tillage/no-till).
2. Cover Crops.
3. Critical Area Planting.
4. Grassed Waterways.
5. Drainage Water Management.
6. Nutrient Management.
7. Prescribed Grazing.
8. Waste Storage Facility.
9. Denitrifying Bioreactor.
10. Phosphorus Removal System – for FY16 hopefully.

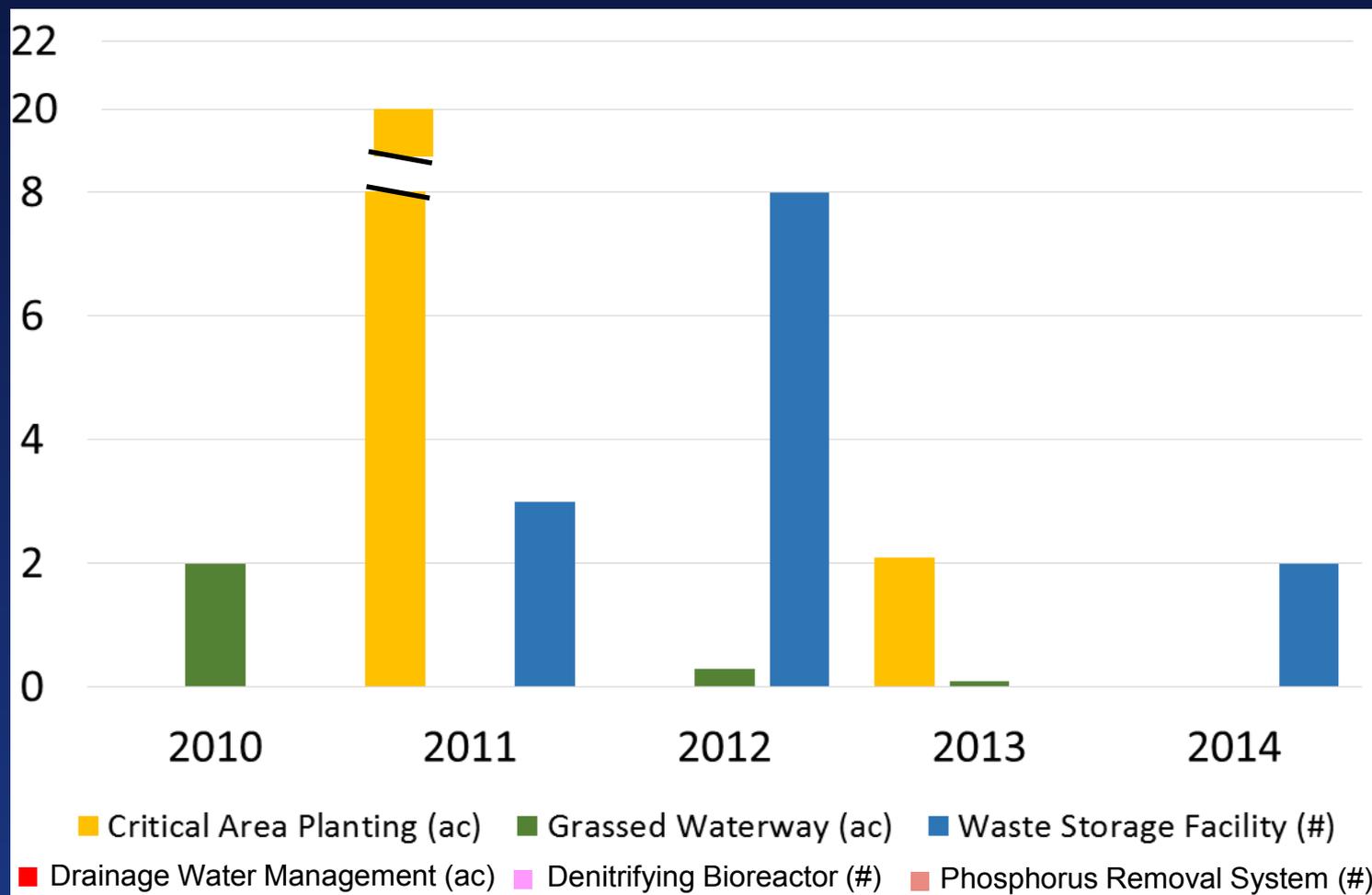
## More GLRI conservation practices:

1. 34 additional supporting conservation practices...

## Conservation completed & Opportunities in Genesee River Valley:



## Conservation completed & Opportunities in Genesee River Valley:





## GLRI Successes

Additional ag waste projects can be funded because of GLRI funds.



Before



After



High Flow Outlet



Gully Stabilized



## Cover Crops

Additional soil and water quality projects  
can be funded because of GLRI funds.

PRIORITY  
WATERSHEDS

## EDGE of FIELD STUDY



### WHAT IS EDGE OF FIELD MONITORING?

The principle objective is to develop an understanding of the effect of differing agriculture practices on the quality and quantity of runoff water from monitored farmland, including edges of fields and subsurface drains and the effect of this water on streams receiving runoff water.

### BACKGROUND

The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative is an interagency effort that seeks to address the most pressing issues in the Great Lakes. As part of the initiative, the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) have partnered to conduct environmental research on privately owned farms across the Great Lakes to demonstrate the effectiveness of agricultural best-management practices in diverse landscape settings.

### SITE SELECTION CRITERIA

- Located in the Genesee River basin
- Paired fields (Not > 80 acres)
- Similar soil types
- Slope between 2% and 10%
- Needs to be accessible

#### Contacts

Brett Hayhurst [bhayhurst@usgs.gov](mailto:bhayhurst@usgs.gov)

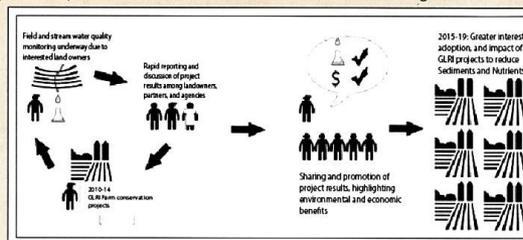
Ben Schmidt [ben.schmidt@ny.usda.gov](mailto:ben.schmidt@ny.usda.gov)

### SAMPLE COLLECTIONS AND MONITORING

The typical edge of field USGS monitoring station collects water levels, weather data, groundwater levels and temperature, and has the capability to collect samples, based on flow, automatically. Each site is custom made to fit the location and requires annual operations for data collection of water-quality and discharge measurements. The site would require field visits on a regular interval and may be required to be opened for potential tours for local farmers and interested colleagues.

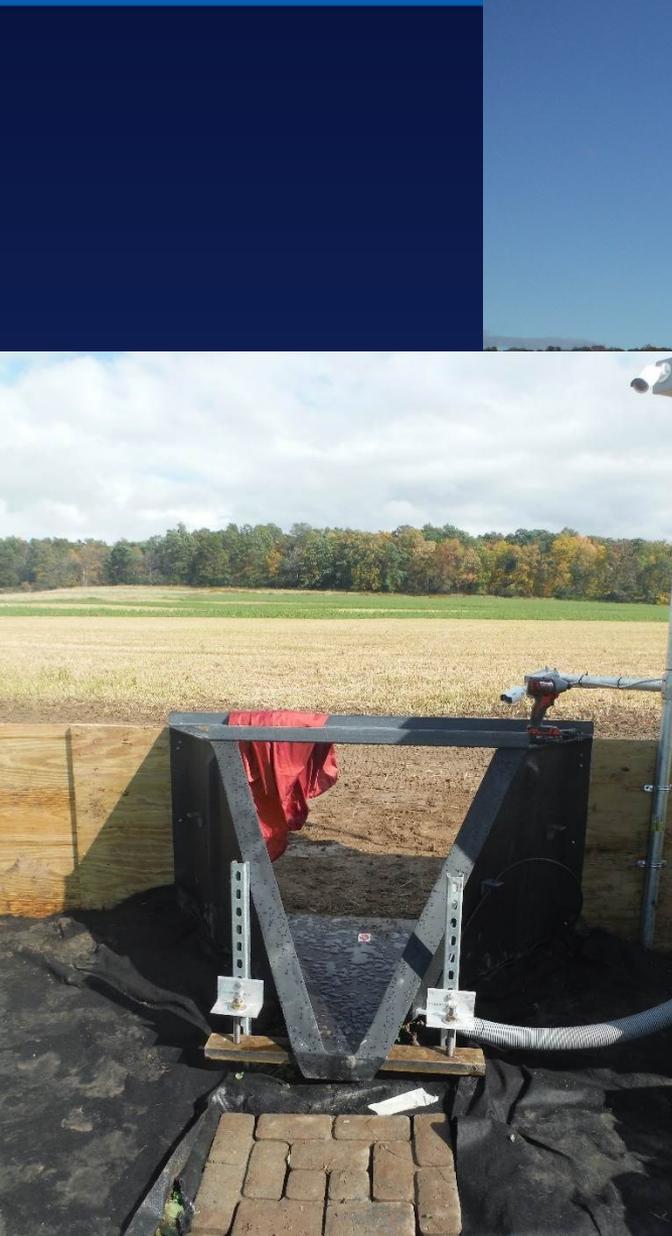
#### Collaborative Effort

1. Identify current practice
2. Producer engagement in the study
3. Willingness to share information and work with multiple agencies
4. Willingness to try new practices and allow USGS monitoring station at edge of field









# P FILTER BACKGROUND AND BENEFITS

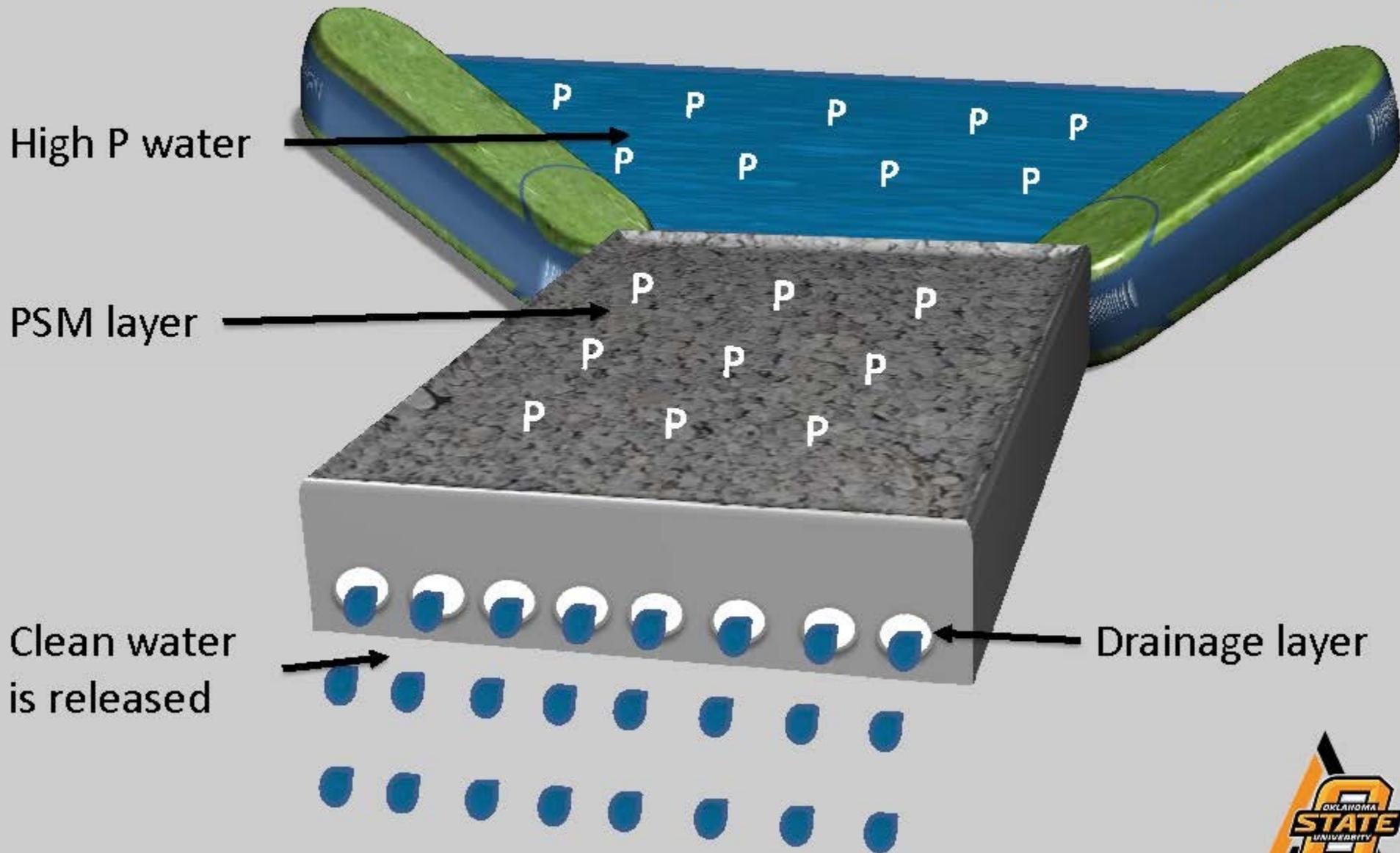


# Target: Dissolved P

- Soils built up with “legacy” P will continue to release dissolved P for many years
  - Conventional best management practices do little for DP
- Objective: construct P removal structures to trap dissolved P in runoff and tile drainage



# P Removal Structure Theory



# Phosphorus Sorption Materials



**Acid mine  
drainage  
residuals**



**Manufactured  
PSM**



**Steel slag**



**Fly ash**



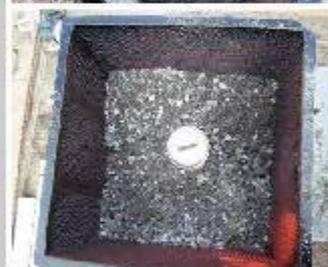
**Drinking  
water  
treatment  
residuals**



**Waste  
recycled  
gypsum**

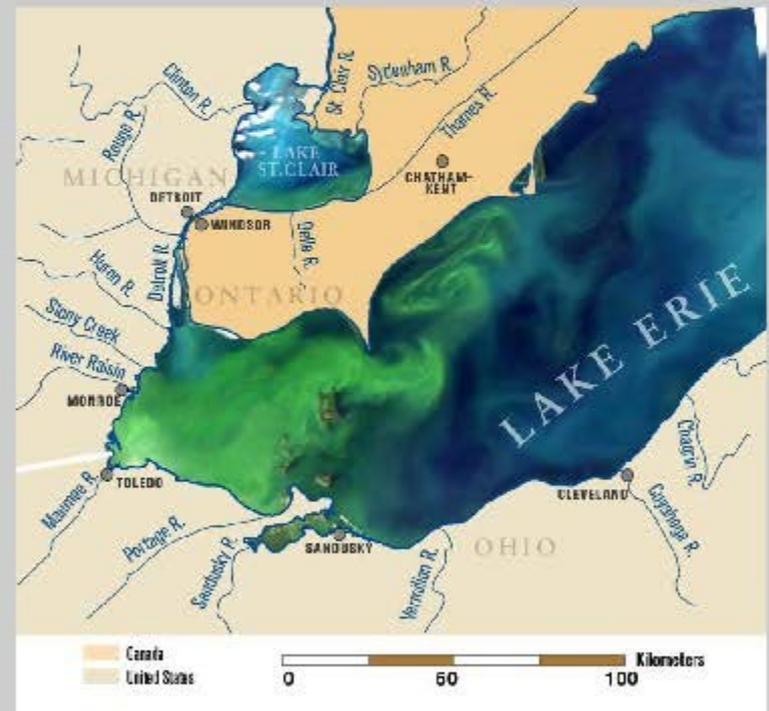
*Photo Credit: K.D. Chamberlain*

# Many Types of Structures



# Lake Erie: Blue-Green Algae

## Economic loss: \$40 million

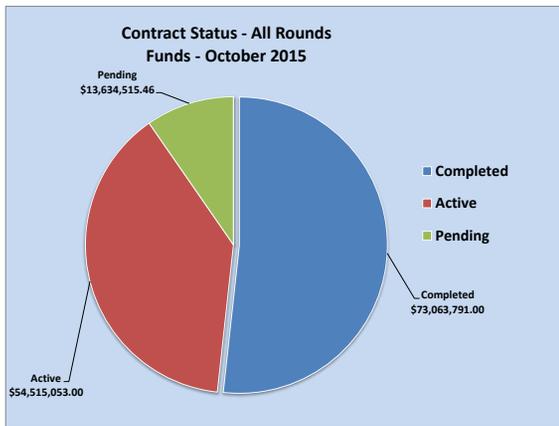
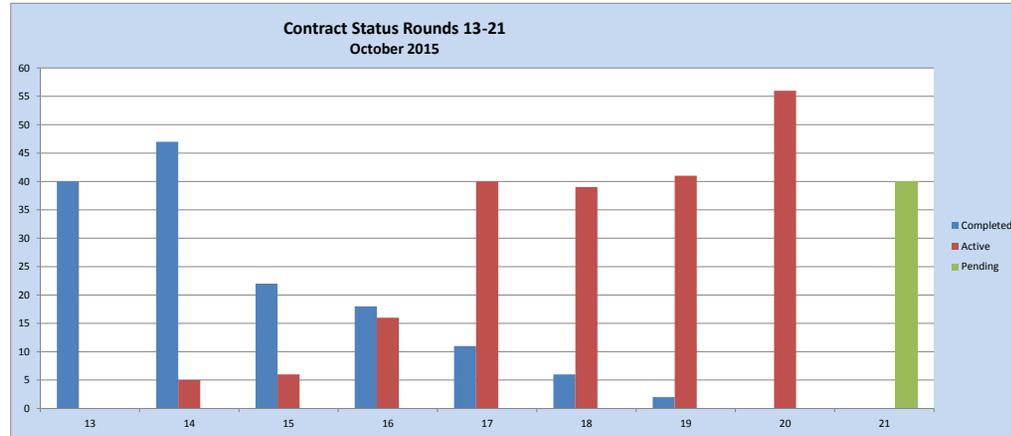
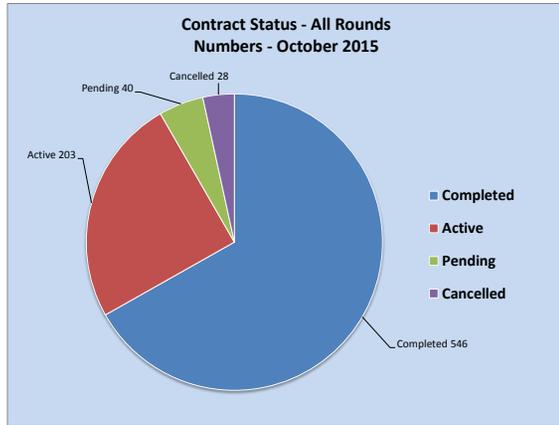


# Looking to the Future...

- **Working with USGS to set-up Edge-of-Field monitoring.**
  - **One site installed for grassed waterways. Need another site for cover crops.**
- **Getting word out about P watersheds and keeping projects moving.**
  - **Higher percentage of GLRI money will shift to P watersheds.**
- **Trying some new ideas like P-Removal structures.**
- **Improve focus on P and keep soil in the fields or on the stream-banks.**
- **Developing a culture of more intense conservation.**
  - **Partnerships, partnerships, partnerships...**

**USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.**

**October 15, 2015 SWCC Meeting, Batavia, NY**



Round	Completed	Completed Funds	Active	Active Funds	Pending	Pending Funds	Total
13	40	\$7,557,564.69	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	\$7,557,564.69
14	47	\$9,560,272.83	5	\$2,160,669.07	0	\$0.00	\$11,720,941.90
15	22	\$4,990,335.23	6	\$1,827,419.95	0	\$0.00	\$6,817,755.18
16	18	\$3,701,155.48	16	\$4,659,735.65	0	\$0.00	\$8,360,891.13
17	11	\$1,300,559.78	40	\$10,140,562.38	0	\$0.00	\$11,441,122.16
18	6	\$1,754,984.65	39	\$9,878,742.45	0	\$0.00	\$11,633,727.10
19	2	\$464,634.45	41	\$12,160,178.05	0	\$0.00	\$12,624,812.50
20	0	\$0.00	56	\$13,687,745.11	0	\$0.00	\$13,687,745.11
21	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	40	\$13,634,515.46	\$13,634,515.46
<b>Totals</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>\$29,329,507.11</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>\$54,515,052.66</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>\$13,634,515.46</b>	<b>\$97,479,075.23</b>

Activity	Number	Funds
Completed	546	\$73,063,791.00
Active	203	\$54,515,053.00
Pending	40	\$13,634,515.46
Cancelled	28	\$0.00
	<b>817</b>	<b>\$141,213,359.46</b>