

Nutrient issues-what environmental groups hope to achieve

Dr. Cindy Skrukrud, Clean Water Advocate
Sierra Club, Illinois Chapter

Goals

- An established timeline for reducing Illinois nitrogen and phosphorus output to the Gulf of Mexico by 45% by 2040
- Assure that discharges of phosphorus and nitrogen do not cause or contribute to violations of Illinois' dissolved oxygen standards or the narrative standard against plant or algal growth of other than natural origin
- Address impacts to Illinois waters from nutrient pollution through—
 - NPDES permits
 - TMDLs or alternative nutrient pollution reduction plans
 - Fairly including reductions from non-point sources not covered under Clean Water Act permits

Recommendations

- Move forward and establish statewide phosphorus standard for river and streams in Illinois
- Conduct a scientific review to begin development of nitrogen standard for lakes, rivers and streams
- Consistently list rivers and streams as impaired by phosphorus when dissolved oxygen and narrative standards on unnatural plant and algal growth are violated

Recommendations

- Develop TMDLs or alternative clean-up plans for bodies of water impaired by nutrient-related causes (low oxygen levels, unnatural plant and algal growth, etc)
 - Establish a mechanism by which non-point sources contribute their fair share of reductions
- Address NPDES discharges that cause or contribute to nutrient-related impairment through appropriate permit limits

Recommendations

- Set five-year interim agricultural % necessary management practice adoption targets—
 - 20% by 2020, 40% by 2025, 60% by 2030, 80% by 2035, 100% by 2040
- Review existing programs and rules and make changes to help achieve agricultural nutrient loss reduction goals
 - Livestock Management Facilities Act
 - Partners for Conservation Program
 - Streambank Stabilization and Restoration Program
 - Comprehensive Nutrient Management Committee

Recommendations

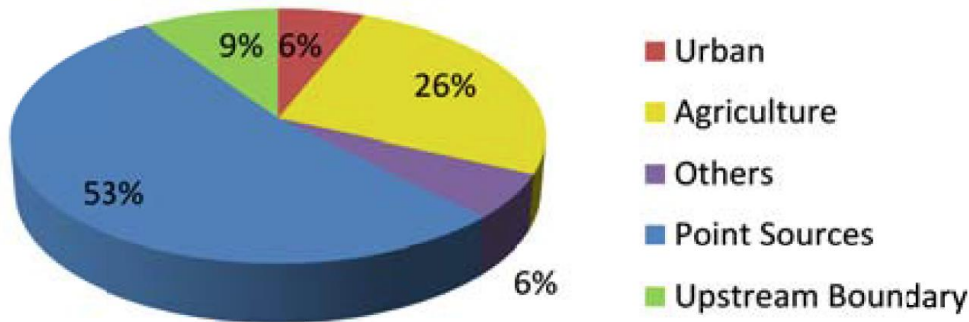
- Expand authority to all Illinois counties to establish countywide stormwater management plans/ordinances and stormwater utility fees
- Encourage innovation through—
 - Nutrient Research and Education Council, Keep It for the Crop, Illinois Council on Best Management Practices
 - Locally-led watershed efforts
 - Lake Bloomington constructed wetlands
 - City of Bloomington, Environmental Defense Fund, USDA, NRCS, McLean Co. SWCD, University of Illinois, Illinois State University, The Nature Conservancy, farmers
 - Fox River Study Group
 - City of Aurora, City of Elgin, Fox Metro Water Reclamation District, Fox River Ecosystem Partnership, Fox River Water Reclamation District, Friends of the Fox River, Kane County, Sierra Club, Tri-Cities (Batavia, Geneva, St. Charles) and many others

Nutrient-related Impairments of the Fox River

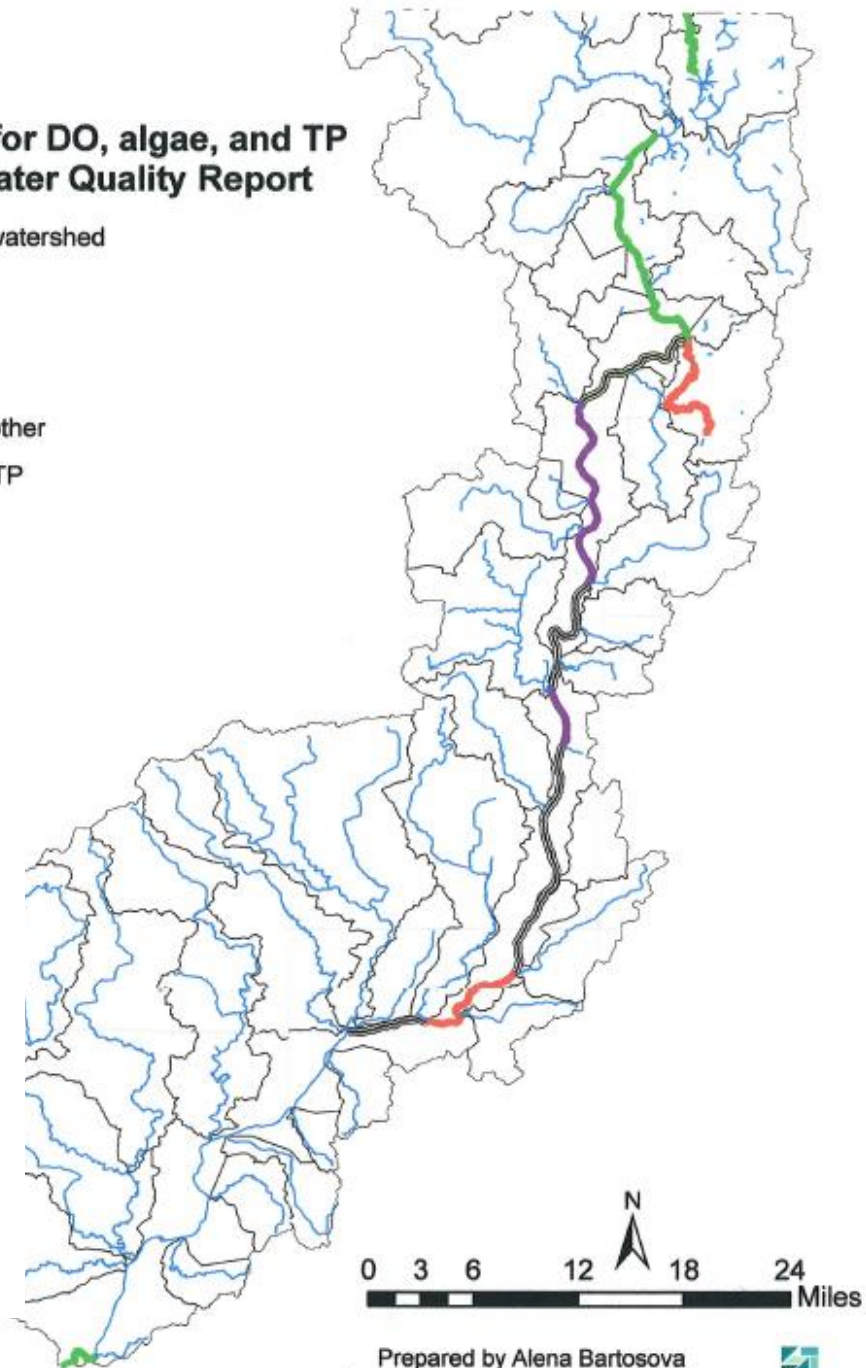
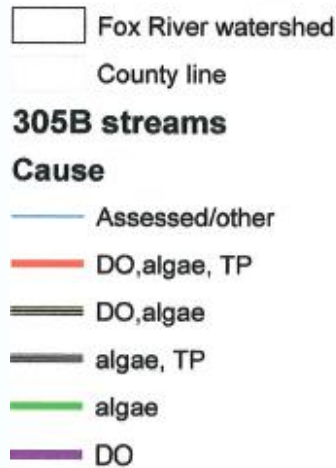
ISWS

- Monitoring
- Computer models to assess management alternatives

Fox River 1997-2010 average annual TP load

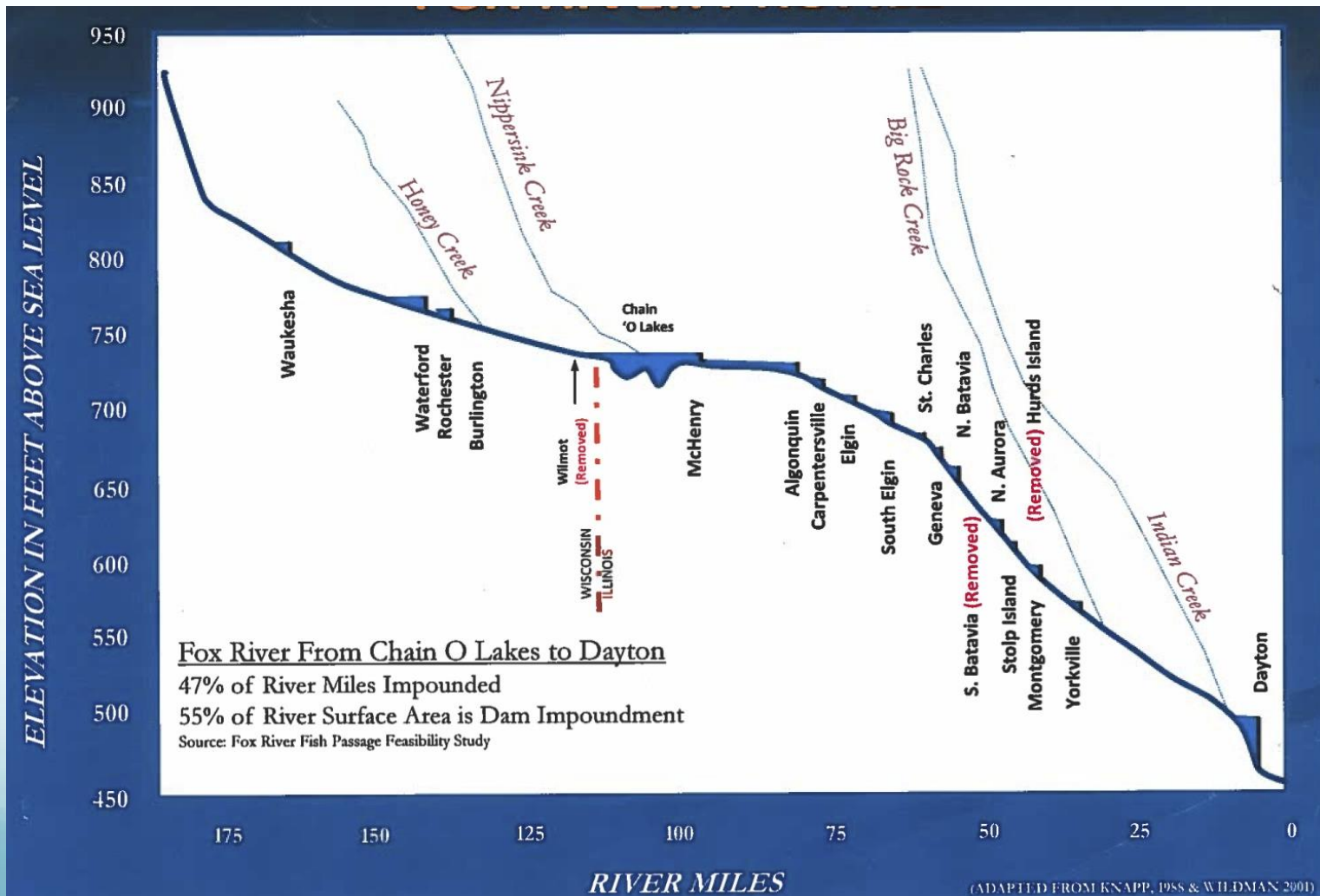


303d listing for DO, algae, and TP 2010 IEPA Water Quality Report



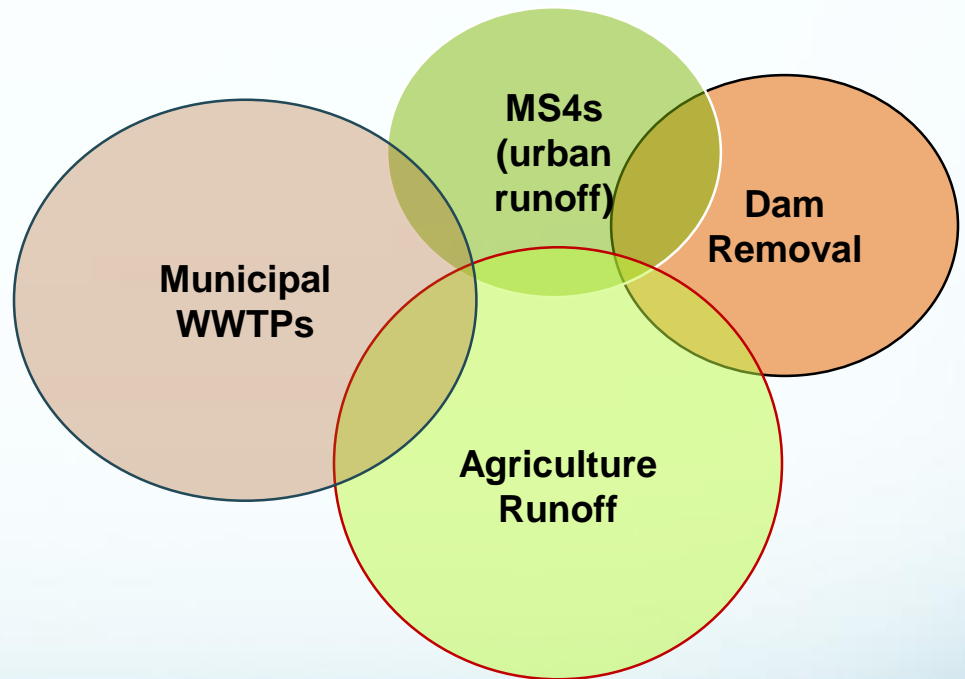
Prepared by Alena Bartosova
for the Fox River Study Group, Inc.
13 February 2012

Fox River 55% Impounded



Fox River Implementation Plan

- Led by diverse group of watershed stakeholders since 2001
- By Fall 2015 lay out a mix of phosphorus reductions and removal of dam impoundments to resolve low dissolved oxygen and nuisance algae problems in Fox River



THANK YOU!