

Water Quality Taskforce Hearing

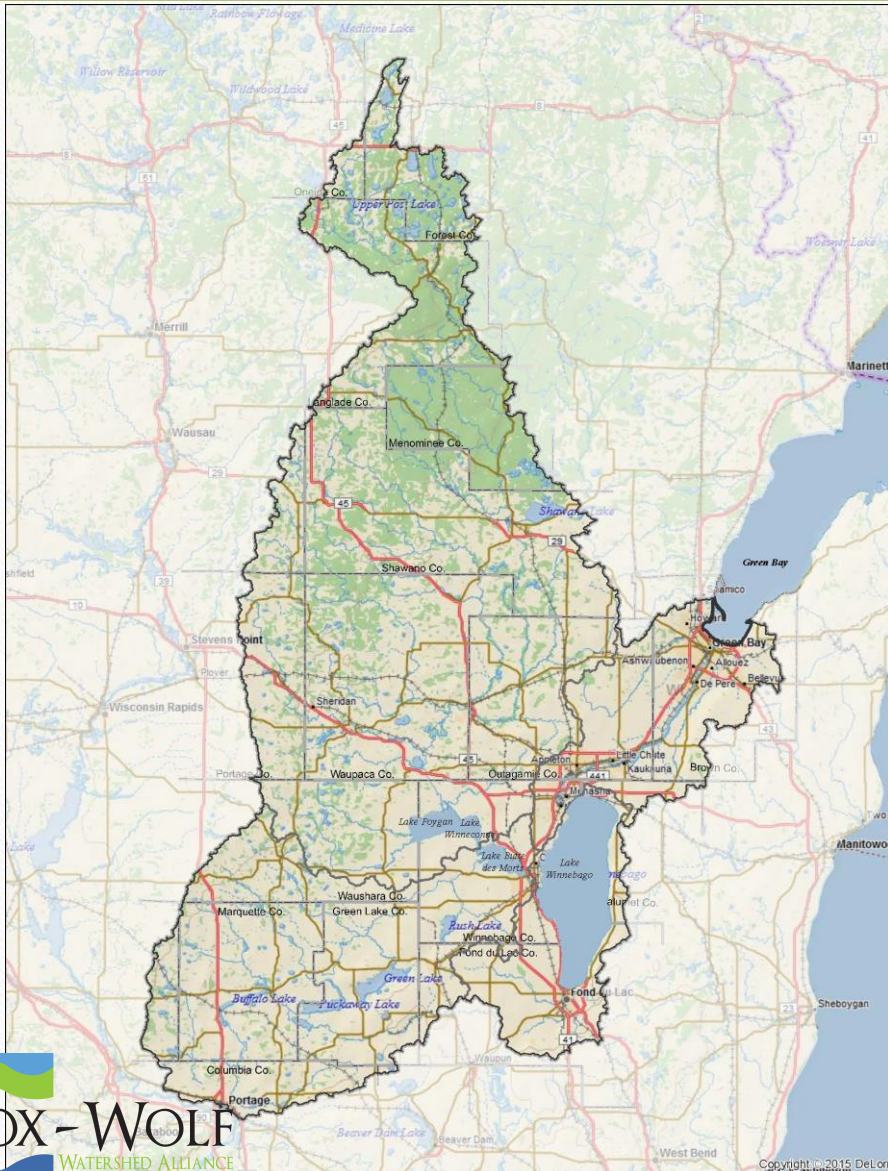
Green Bay, August 28, 2019



Jessica Schultz
Executive Director
Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance

The Fox-Wolf Basin

- Covers over 6,300 square miles, approximately 10% of Wisconsin's land base
- Boasts 17% of Wisconsin's inland lake surface water in the Winnebago System alone
- Drains to the Bay of Green Bay, the largest freshwater estuary in the world.
- Is the largest drainage basin to Lake Michigan and the third largest to the Great Lakes.



Value of Northeast Wisconsin Waters



Photo Credit: Jim Pinkham



Photo Credit: Eagle Creek Renewable Energy



Photo Credit: Winnebago County



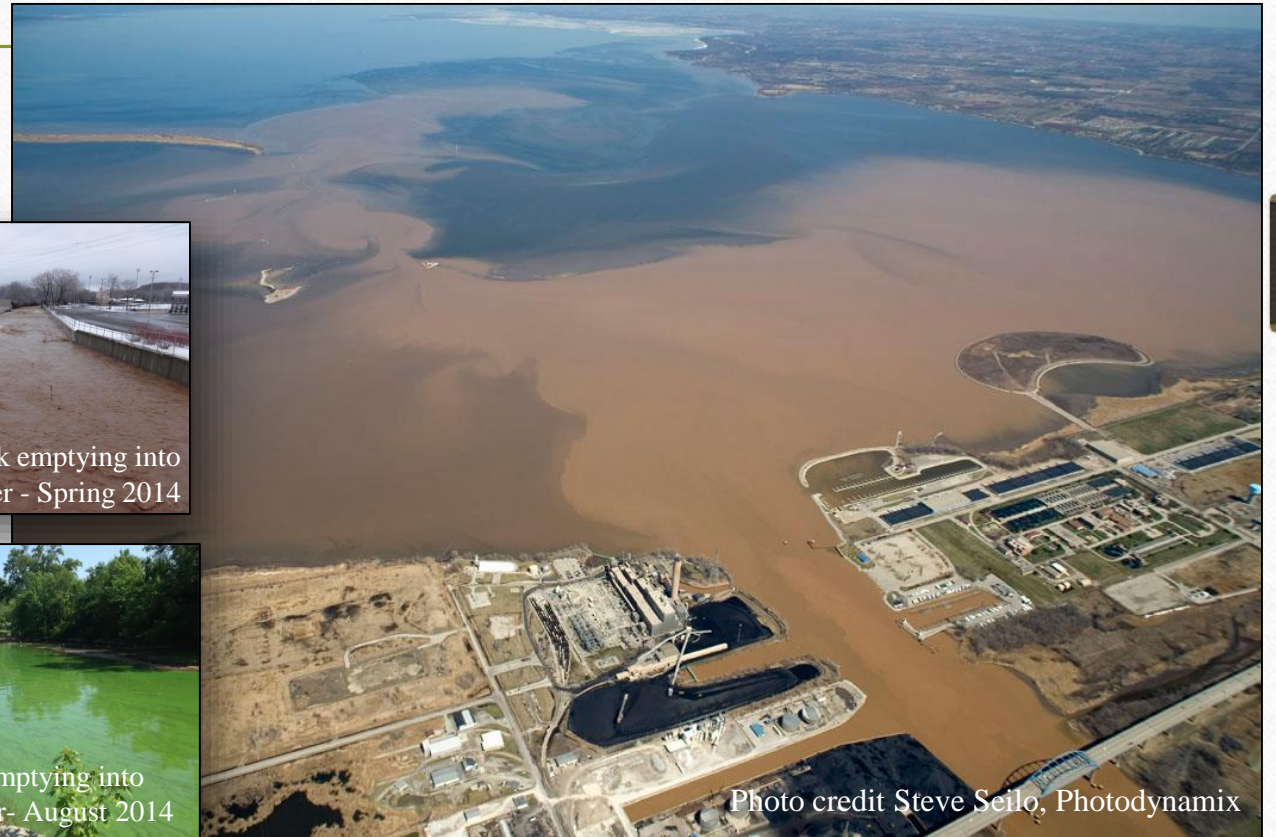
Photo Credit: Brown County



Photo Credit: Farmers Trend



Excess Nutrient & Sediment Loading



Kankapot Creek emptying into
Fox River - Spring 2014



Plum Creek emptying into
Lower Fox River- August 2014

Photo credit Steve Scilo, Photodynamix

ACTION

'Be aware:' Toxic and potentially deadly blue-green algae found in Wisconsin's inland waterways

POSTED 5:32 PM, AUGUST 13, 2019, BY HANNAH JEWELL, UPDATED AT 05:46PM, AUGUST 13, 2019

People warned to stay away from Lake Winnebago algae blooms

WATCH: Lake Winnebago algae



Photo credit: WDNR

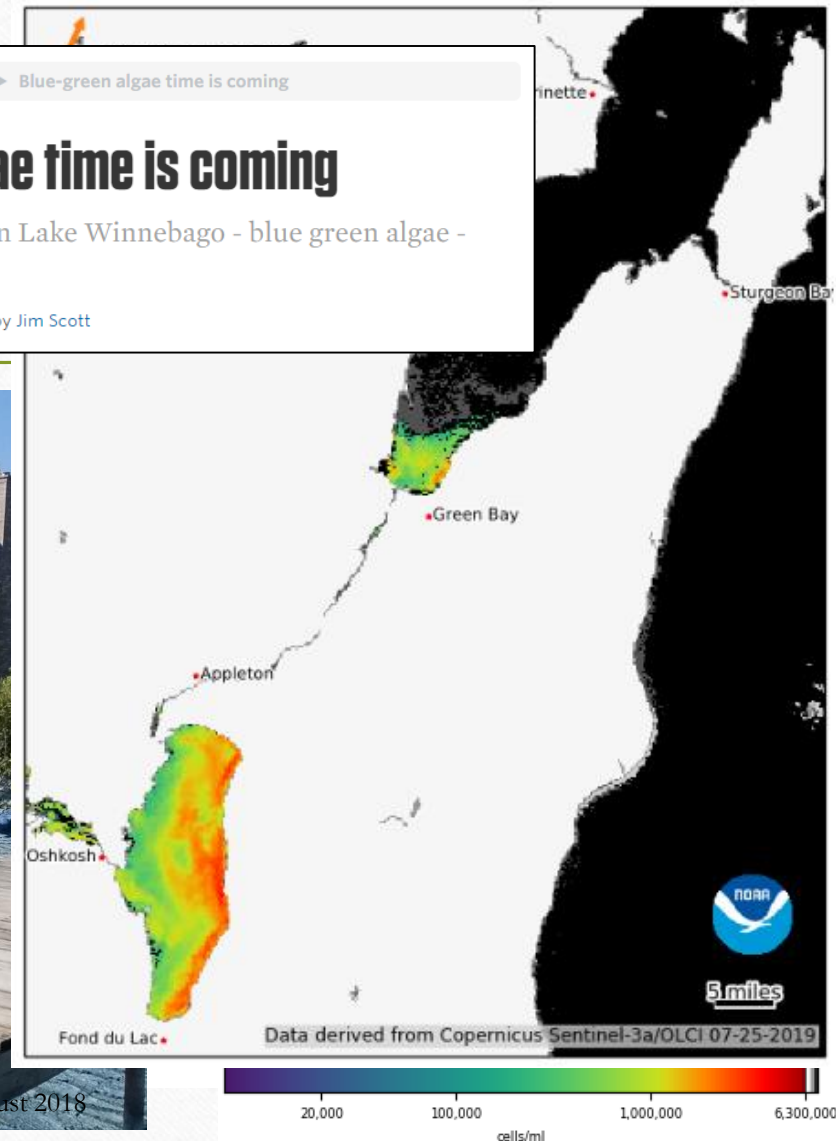
Photo credit: Kimberly Kugler - Lake Winnebago August 2018

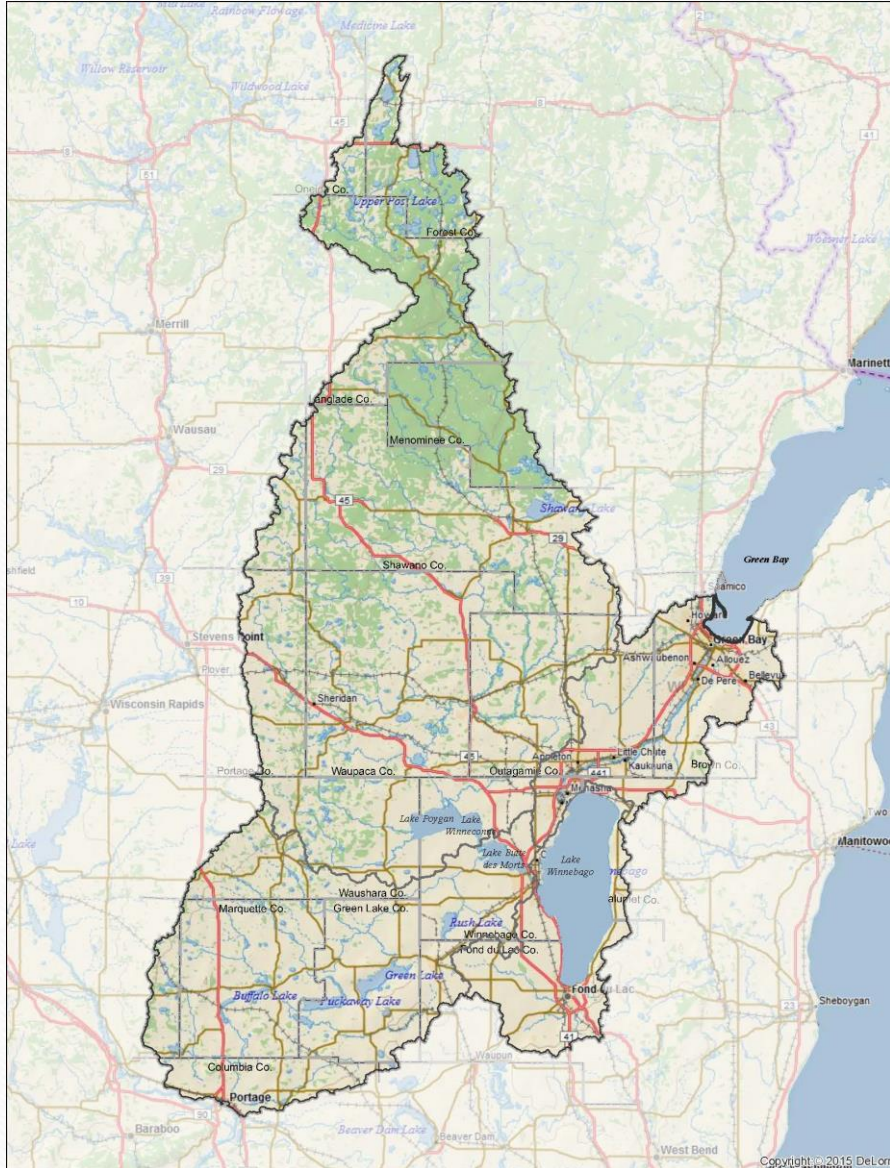
Blogs ▶ The Great Outdoors ▶ Blue-green algae time is coming

Blue-green algae time is coming

You've probably seen it in Lake Winnebago - blue green algae - something to be avoided

Wednesday, June 19, 2019 midnight by Jim Scott





The Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance is a non-profit organization working to protect and restore the water resources of Wisconsin's Fox-Wolf River Basin.

Northeast Wisconsin Stormwater Consortium

Formed as a subsidiary of FWWA in 2004



Who Should Attend?

- ◆ Snow and ice removal contractors
- ◆ Property managers
- ◆ Facilities, parks, cities and schools

City of Appleton
City of De Pere
City of Fond du Lac
City of Green Bay
City of Kaukauna
City of Manitowoc
City of Marinette
City of Menasha
City of Neenah
City of Oshkosh
Village of Allouez
Village of Ashwaubenon
Village of Bellevue
Village of Combined Locks
Village of Eden
Village of Fox Crossing
Village of Harrison
Village of Hobart
Village of Kimberly
Village of Little Chute

Village of North Fond du Lac
Village of Sherwood
Village of Suamico
Brown County
Calumet County
Fond du Lac County
Outagamie County
Winnebago County
UW - Oshkosh
Town of Black Wolf
Town of Buchanan
Town of Fond du Lac
Town of Friendship
Town of Grand Chute
Town of Greenville
Town of Lawrence
Town of Ledgeview
Town of Neenah
Town of Scott
Town of Taycheedah

Erosion & Sediment Control

Workshops





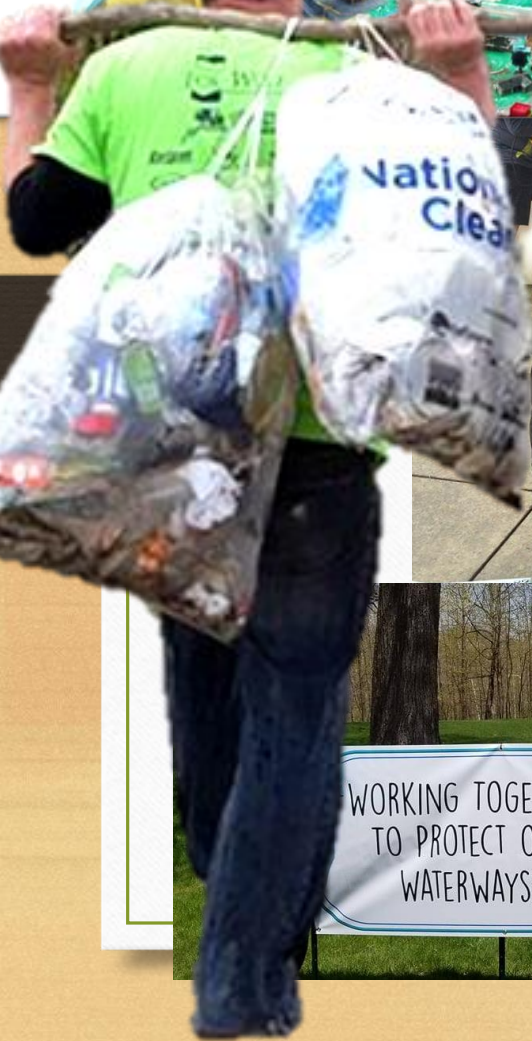
Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance
Published by Kelly Drover Reyer (7) - August 29

Learn more about how you can Renew Our Waters by visiting www.FWWA.org, and please share! #RenewOurWaters

Good Dog, Good Owner
You can be a responsible pet owner AND protect our waters.

Pet waste is not only an unpleasant find on a yard or sidewalk, it carries bacteria that causes beach closings in the summer. For the protection of our lakes and streams by carrying the bag, and disposing of it properly.

FOX-WOLF
Watershed Alliance



385 people re

Like

4

1 Share

Write

Things to keep out of our storm drains:

- Grass clippings
- Leaves
- Pet waste
- Demonic clowns
- Oil and household chemicals
- Chlorine from pools

OUR STORM DRAINS LEAD DIRECTLY TO OUR RIVERS AND LAKES.



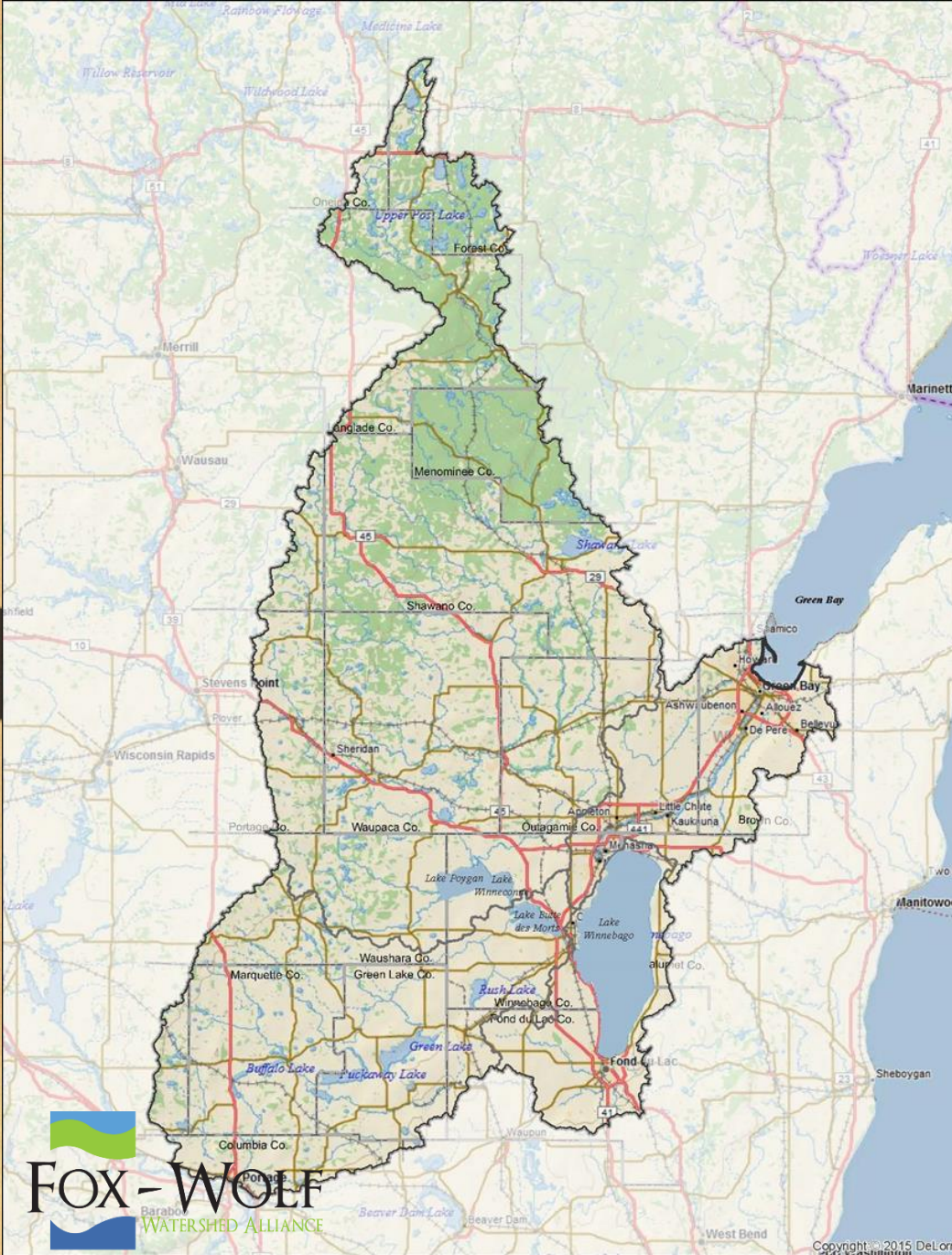
GRASS CLIPPINGS

Sweeping grass clippings off of the road and sidewalk helps to keep them out of our storm drains. The phosphorus in grass clippings feeds the algal blooms in our lakes and streams. Remember — ONLY RAIN IN OUR DRAINS.

FOX-WOLF
WATERSHED ALLIANCE

Renew Our Waters
Every choice counts.





Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Studies in the Fox-Wolf Basin

- Lower Fox River TMDL study complete 2012
- Upper Fox-Wolf TMDL study anticipated to be approved end of 2019

A TMDL is the maximum amount of a particular pollutant that a water body can receive while still meeting water quality standards.

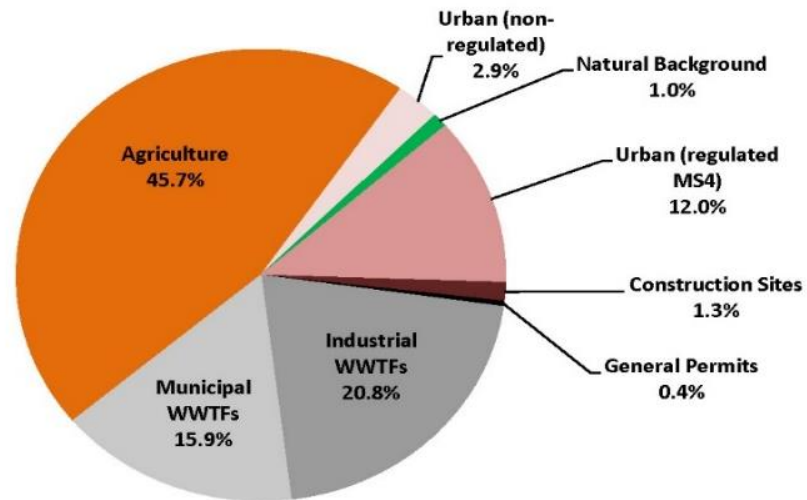
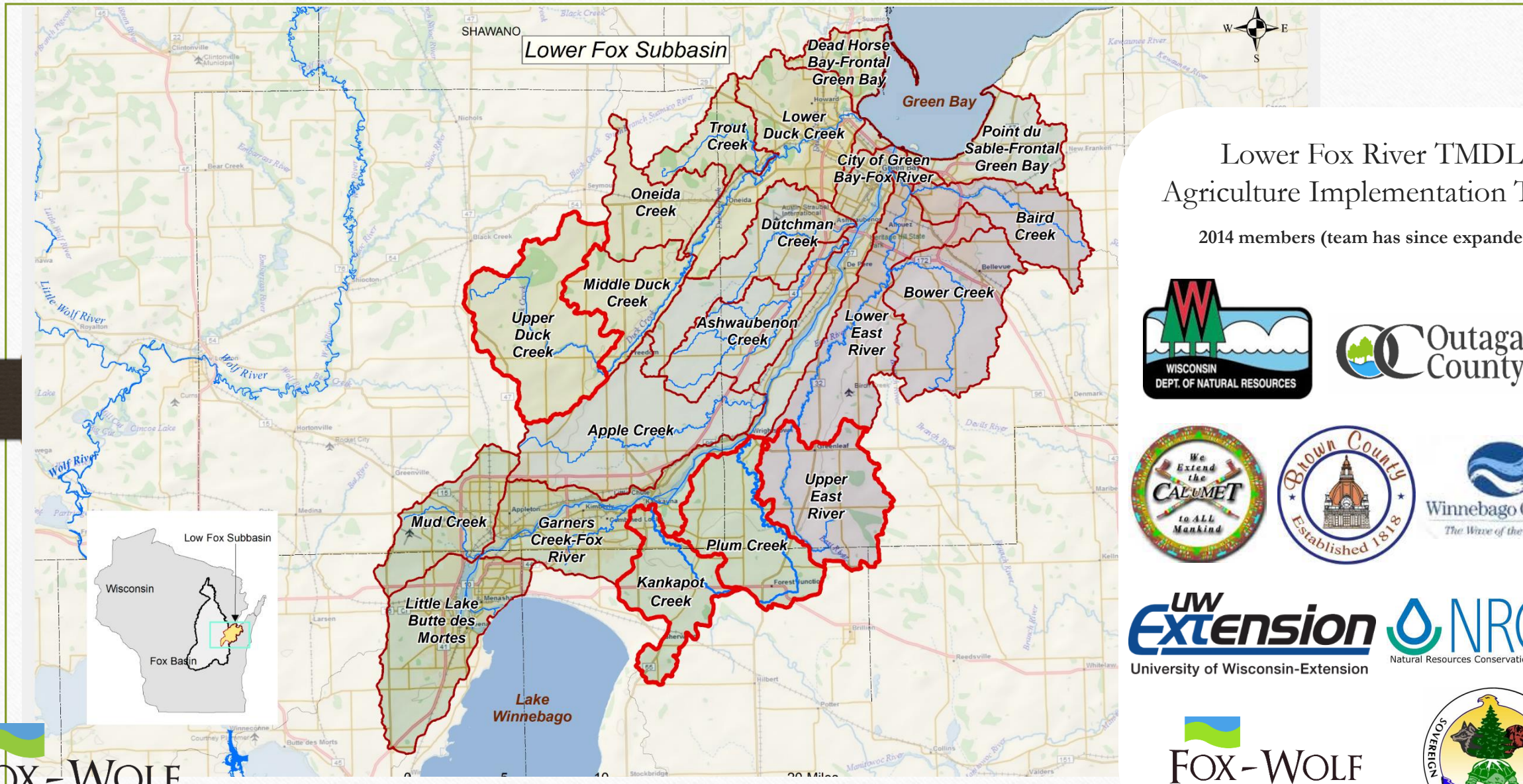


Figure 19. Sources of baseline TP loading in the LFR Basin



Lower Fox River TMDL Agriculture Implementation Team

2014 members (team has since expanded!)



Great Lakes RESTORATION



GLRI at work through Fox-Wolf

- **>\$5,700,000 awarded in 3 grants**
project timeframes 2015 – 2021



- Funding for:
 - County Land Conservation Staff
 - Best Management Practice Cost Share
 - Innovative Agricultural Equipment
 - Water Quality Monitoring
 - Treatment Wetland Research
 - Outreach
 - GIS Tool Development

- Partners:



UNIVERSITY of WISCONSIN
GREEN BAY



Great Lakes
Commission
des Grands Lacs



Interseeding



Cover Crops



Treatment Wetland



Manure Injection

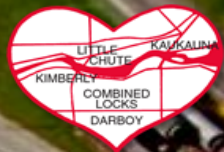


No-till Planting



Water Quality Trading

- 1st Water Quality Trade in a TMDL watershed
- 1st Water Quality Trade for Total Suspended Solids (TSS)



Heart of the Valley
METROPOLITAN SEWERAGE DISTRICT





Lake Management Planning



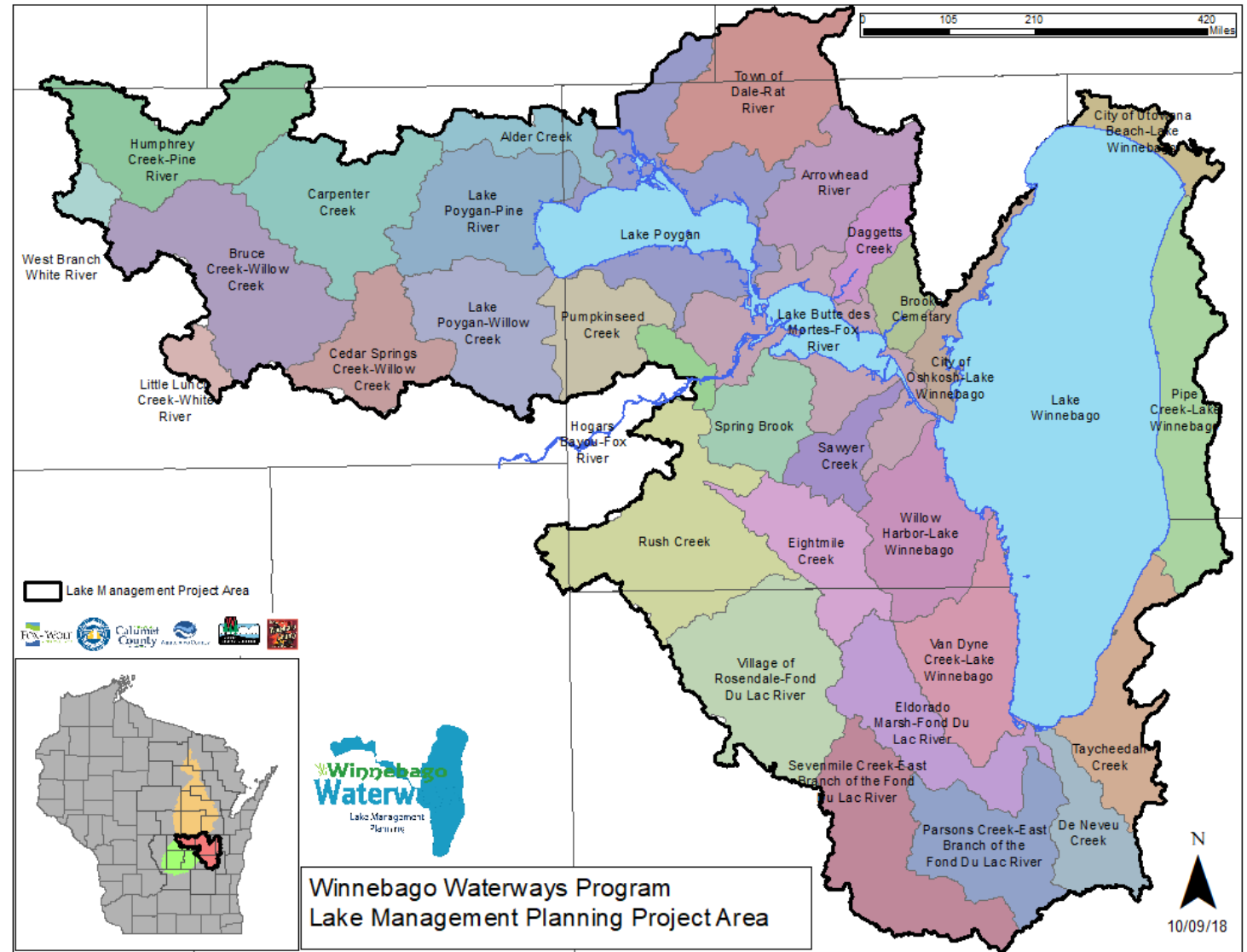
Goal: develop a regional framework for cooperation to restore and protect the health of the Winnebago Lakes



Lake Management Planning

Topics include:

- Habitat
- Aquatic Plant Management
- Aquatic Invasive Species
- Recreation
- Water Level Management
- Watershed Management
- Water Quality
- Shoreline Management
- Community Engagement



Creating a Unified Vision for Water Quality



WE NEED to change the narrative



Recommendation:

A strong agricultural community, thriving industry and a healthy environment do not have to be mutually exclusive. Our current system is broken, our demand for cheap food has resulted in an unsustainable agricultural system, fragile agricultural economy and polluted water.

- *This is a large complex issue that will need partners outside the state of Wisconsin to engage in but it's a conversation we can start here.*

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR AGRICULTURE

WE NEED agricultural cost share programs that are built to encourage practice adoption.



Focus on Improving Soil Health

Recommendation:

- *Modify state cost share programs to allow cost sharing for the same acres on one farm for a complete cropping cycle up to 7 years.*
- *Fully fund DATCP staffing grants for county land conservation departments and modify the state cost share program to increase the percentage of funds available for staff to support the farms they work with.*

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR AGRICULTURE

We need a **HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT**
and a **HEALTHY ECONOMY**
to have a **HEALTH COMMUNITY.**



We cannot afford to continue to perform the same actions with an expectation of different results. If we are serious about wanting Clean Water...

WE NEED to enact policies that meet our water quality goals.

Chapter NR 151

RUNOFF MANAGEMENT

NR 151.005 Performance standard for total maximum daily loads. A crop producer or livestock producer subject to this chapter shall reduce discharges of pollutants from a livestock facility or cropland to surface waters if necessary to meet a load allocation in a US EPA and state approved TMDL.

- (1) A crop producer or livestock producer subject to this chapter shall use the best management practices, conservation practices, or technical standards established under ch. ATCP 50 to meet a load allocation in a US EPA and state approved TMDL.
- (2) If compliance with a more stringent or additional performance standard, other than the performance standards contained in this chapter, is required for crop producers or livestock producers to meet a load allocation in a US EPA and state approved TMDL, the department shall use the procedure in s. NR 151.004 to promulgate the more stringent or additional performance standard before compliance is required.

History: CR 09-112: cr. Register December 2010 No. 660, eff. 1-1-11.

Recommendation:

- *State legislature incorporate TMDL allocations into NR151 performance standards for the Upper Fox and Wolf Basin and the Lower Fox River Basin.*
- *A framework be developed that allows an individual producer to determine how to meet the TMDL based runoff goals on their farm in their own way, in a reasonable timeframe.*

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR AGRICULTURE

WE NEED to address all sources of urban phosphorus.

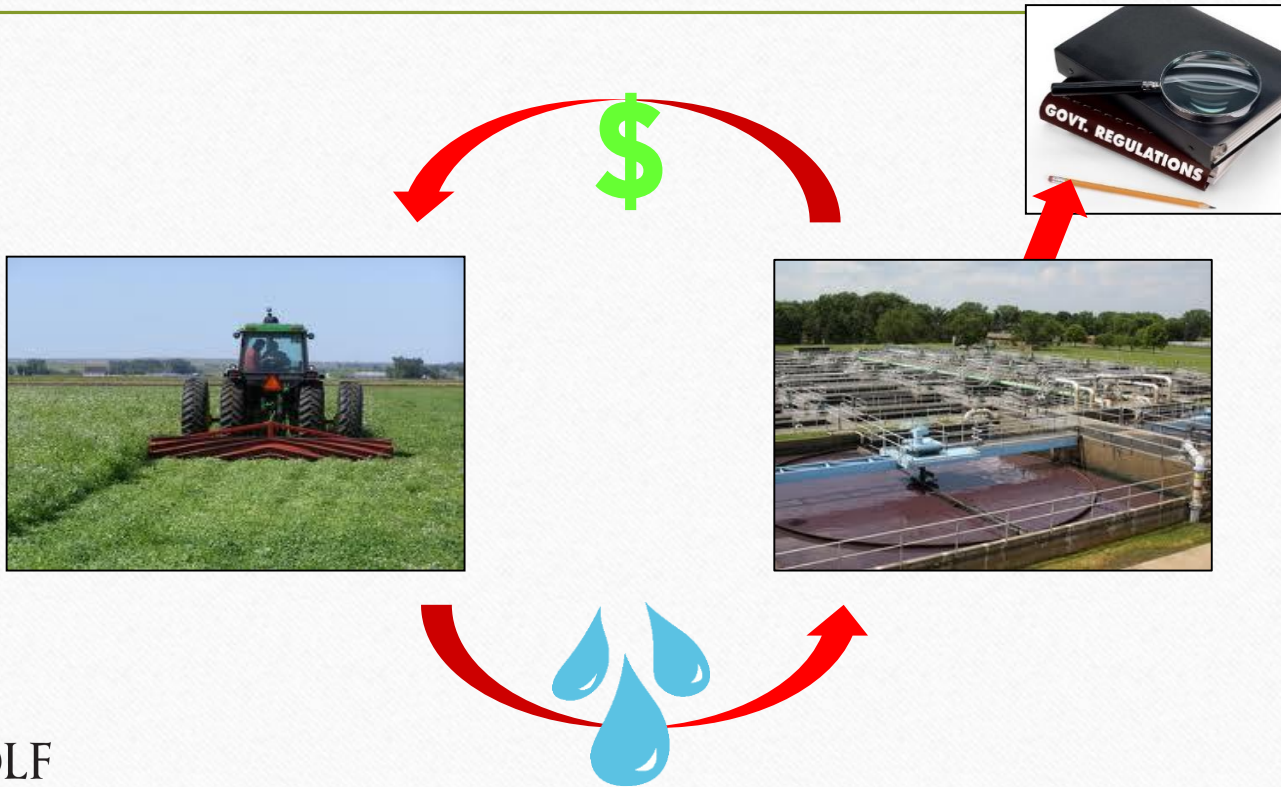
Streambank Erosion on the banks of the
Lower Kankapot Creek near Kaukauna



Recommendation:

- *Allow MS4 communities to utilize reductions generated through streambank restoration towards meeting MS4 permit compliance.*

WE NEED to explore increased flexibility in the
Water Quality Trading Program.



Recommendation:

- *Allow interim credits (credits good for up to 5 years) to be generated for best management practices that are working to bring agricultural lands towards TMDL credit generating threshold even if they do not meet the threshold.*

WE NEED to understand the impact of our
changing climate on conservation efforts.



Flooding in Green Bay, March 2019
Photo Credit: WBAY

Recommendation:

- *Provide funding and support for the development of modeling tools to guide policy change and implementation on the landscape.*

WE NEED to invest boldly in Conservation.

Recommendation:

- *Explore and implement a conservation funding strategy similar to Minnesota's Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment to generate new revenue for conservation.*



WE NEED to ensure investments into conservation and water quality are lasting.

Investing
in our
future.



Recommendation:

- *Increase number of boots on the ground at both the county land conservation department level and at WDNR to serve as resources, verifiers, and enforcers if needed.*
- *Develop plans with specific goals and metrics for regional water resources and encourage plan adoption by any level of government involved in implementing the plan. Promote the plan to build support. Ensure results are tracked and verified.*

WE CAN DO THIS TOGETHER



Industrial wastewater pollution Fox River at Green Bay
~1940's/1950's

Photo credit: Unknown (Thanks for sharing Bud Harris)

WE CAN DO THIS TOGETHER



My sons, nephews and friends swimming in the Fox River Navigational Canal, Little Chute

We know the value of Wisconsin's water.

We know what needs to be done to reduce the excess nutrient and sediment loading to our local waterways.

It is time to have the hard conversations.

It is time to make the tough decisions.

**PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE THIS PROBLEM
FOR OUR CHILDREN.**