1st Quarter
March 1, 2016

SJRBC
St. Joseph River Basin Commission

Financials

- Cash Balance as of Dec 31, 2015 $162,460.93
- 1st Quarter Expenditures $27,571.05
- 2nd Quarter Expenditures $23,605.99
- YTD Expenditures $51,177.04
- Audit is complete – no findings
- Budget Revision

Old Business

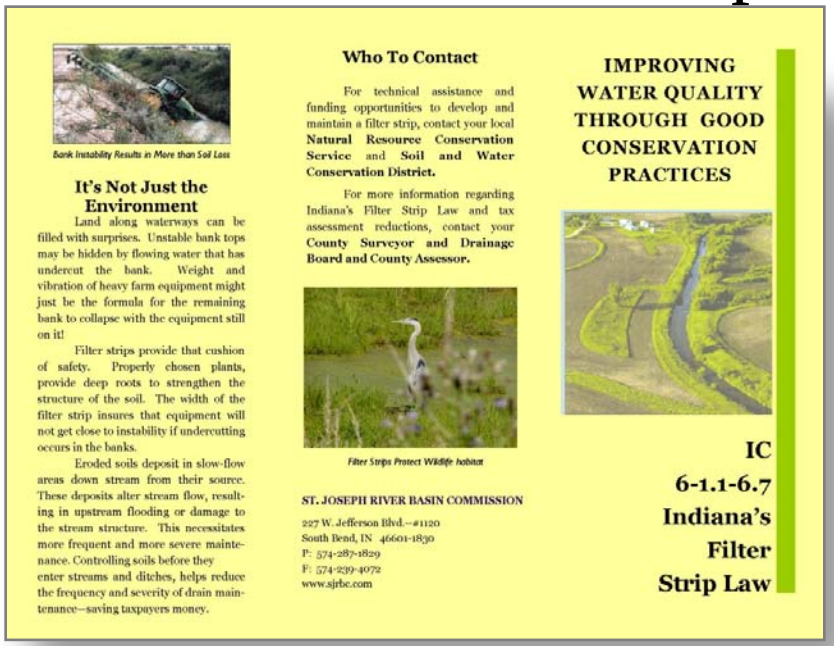
- Basin Updates

Old Business

- Basin Updates
- Election of 2016 Officers
  - President: Jon Roberts
  - Vice-President: Paula Reinhold
  - Secretary-Treasurer: Martin Franke

Old Business

- Basin Updates
- Election of Officers
- St. Joseph River Basin Filter Strip Initiative



Bank Instability Results in More than Soil Loss

It's Not Just the Environment

Land along waterways can be filled with surprises. Unstable bank tops may be hidden by flowing water that has undercut the bank. Weight and vibration of heavy farm equipment might just be the formula for the remaining bank to collapse with the equipment still on it!

Filter strips provide that cushion of safety. Properly chosen plants, provide deep roots to strengthen the structure of the soil. The width of the filter strip insures that equipment will not get close to instability if undercutting occurs in the banks.

Eroded soils deposit in slow-flow areas down stream from their source. These deposits alter stream flow, resulting in upstream flooding or damage to the stream structure. This necessitates more frequent and more severe maintenance. Controlling soils before they enter streams and ditches, helps reduce the frequency and severity of drain maintenance—saving taxpayers money.

Who To Contact

For technical assistance and funding opportunities to develop and maintain a filter strip, contact your local **Natural Resource Conservation Service** and **Soil and Water Conservation District.**

For more information regarding Indiana's Filter Strip Law and tax assessment reductions, contact your **County Surveyor and Drainage Board and County Assessor.**

Filter Strips Protect Wildlife habitat

ST. JOSEPH RIVER BASIN COMMISSION

227 W. Jefferson Blvd.—#1120
South Bend, IN 46601-1830
P: 574-287-1829
F: 574-239-4072
www.sjrbc.com

IMPROVING WATER QUALITY THROUGH GOOD CONSERVATION PRACTICES

IC 6-1.1-6.7 Indiana's Filter Strip Law

Old Business

- Basin Updates
- Election of Officers
- St. Joseph River Basin Filter Strip Initiative
- IN Watershed Leadership Academy Scholarship
  - Randy Sexton, Noble County Surveyor

Indiana Watershed Leadership Program

SJRBC St. Joseph River Basin Commission

Old Business

- Basin Updates
- Election of Officers
- St. Joseph River Basin Filter Strip Initiative
- IN Watershed Leadership Academy Scholarship
- Cobus Creek Watershed Diagnostic Study
  - 2 Meetings have been held

Arion Consultants, Inc.

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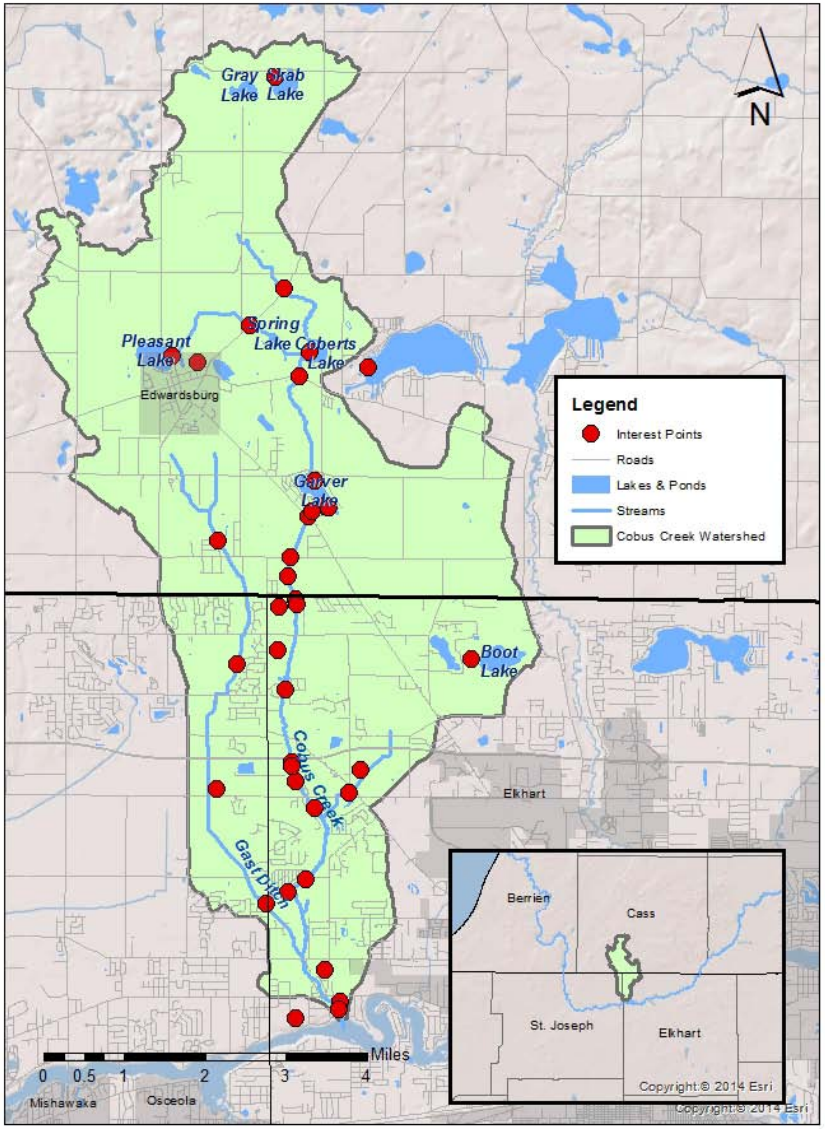
St. Joseph River Basin Commission

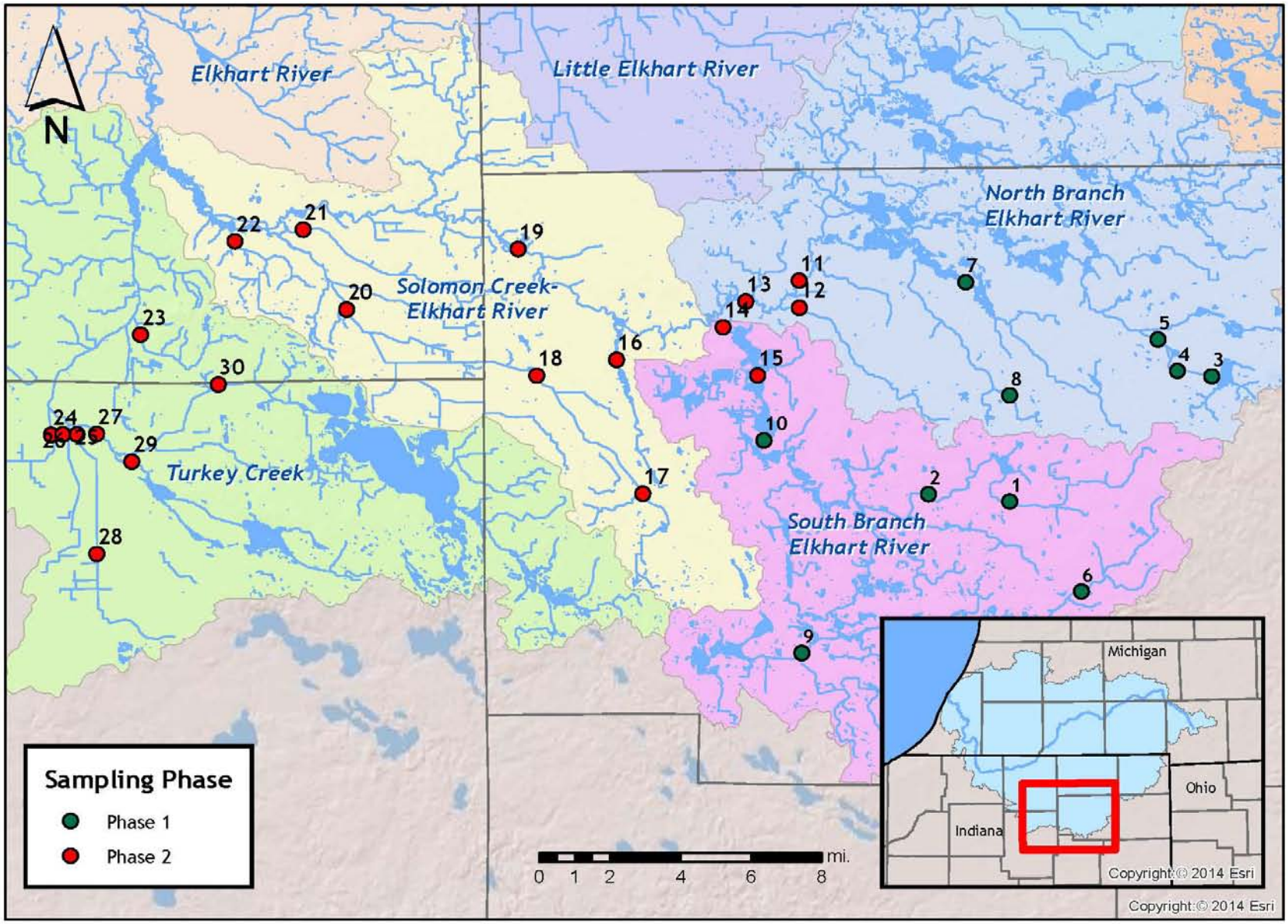
Cobus Creek Watershed

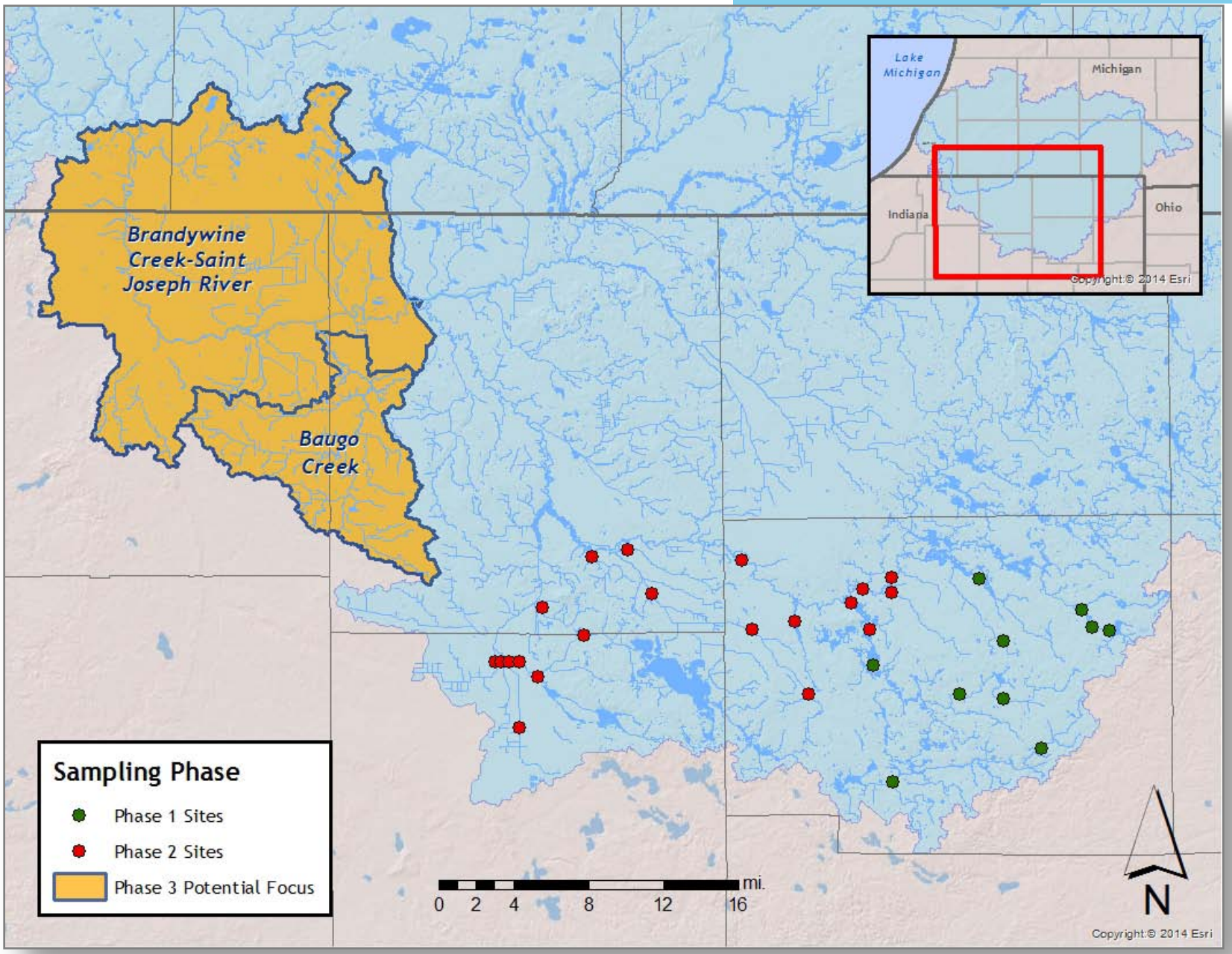


Old Business

- Basin Updates
- Election of Officers
- St. Joseph River Basin Filter Strip Initiative
- IN Watershed Leadership Academy Scholarship
- Cobus Creek Watershed Diagnostic Study
- Water Monitoring Program Update

SJRBC Sampling Sites




Brandywine Creek-Saint Joseph River
Baugo Creek
Lake Michigan
Michigan
Indiana
Ohio
Copyright:© 2014 Esri
Sampling Phase
Phase 1 Sites
Phase 2 Sites
Phase 3 Potential Focus
0 2 4 8 12 16
mi.
N
Copyright:© 2014 Esri

Old Business

- Basin Updates
- Election of Officers
- St. Joseph River Basin Filter Strip Initiative
- IN Watershed Leadership Academy Scholarship
- Cobus Creek Watershed Diagnostic Study
- Water Monitoring Program Update
- Elkhart River Conservation Initiative
  - Workshop in near future

New Business

- Inter-Local Memorandum of Understanding – Ontwa Township, Michigan

New Business

- Inter-Local Memorandum of Understanding – Ontwa Township, Michigan
- 16th Annual IN-MI St. Joseph River Basin Symposium – Request for Presenters
  - May 20th, 2016

Creating Incentives for Better Management *Through Drain Maintenance Apportionment*

Matt Meersman, Van Buren Conservation District

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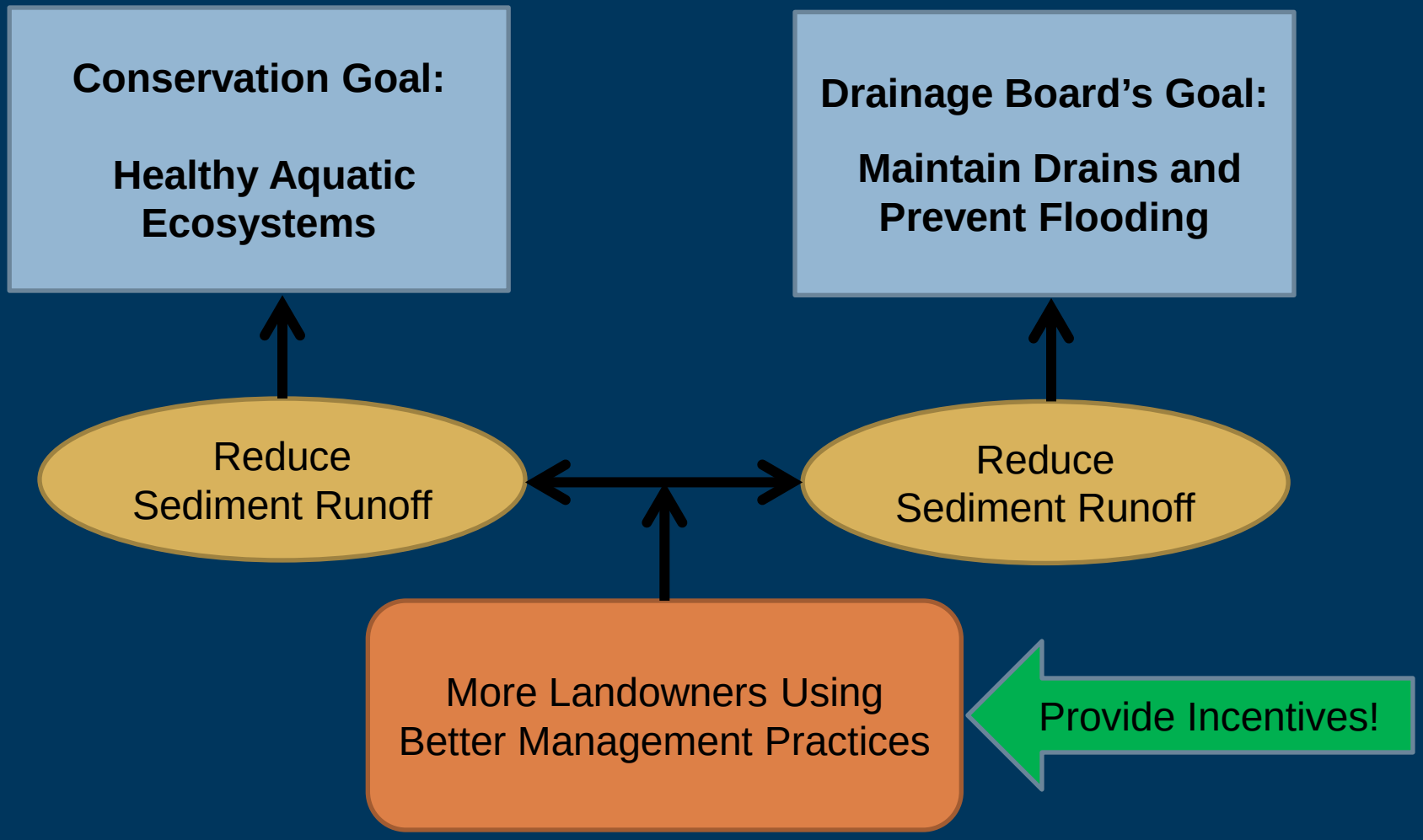
Where Our Interests Align



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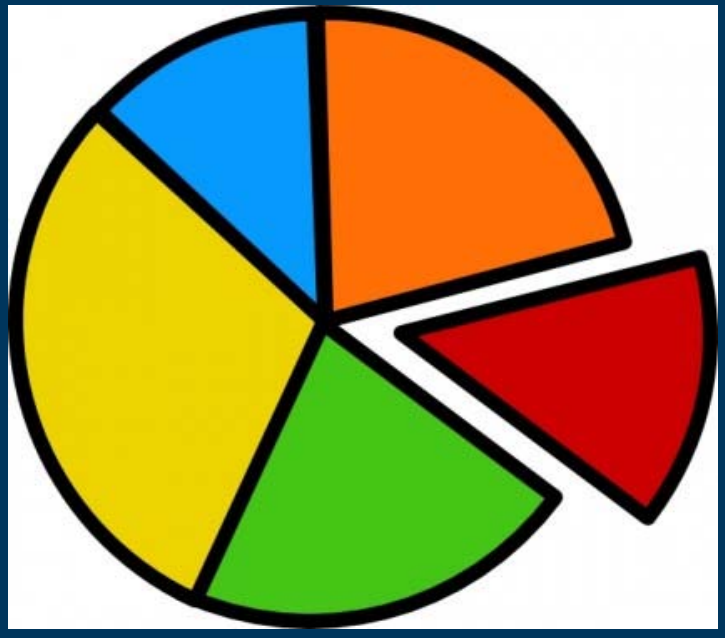
What is apportionment?

From the Indiana Drainage Code 36-9-27-39:

*The percentage of the estimated cost of periodically maintaining the drain to be assessed against each tract of land… shall be based on the **benefit accruing** to each tract of land from the maintenance…*



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Some Benefits Are Accrued Uniformly

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Some Benefits Are Variable

What kind of benefits do landowners get from the drain?

Some Benefits Are Variable

What kind of benefits do landowners get from the drain?

What kind of information (data, criteria, tools, etc.) could we use to “measure” those benefits?

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How does the law say **benefits accrued** should be measured?

From the Indiana Drainage Code 36-9-27-112:

In determining benefits to land under Section 39, the board may consider:

1. *The watershed affected by the drain to be maintained;*
2. *The number of acres in each tract;*
3. *The total volume of water draining into or through the drain and **the amount of water contributed by each land owne**r;*
4. ***The land use**;*
5. *The increased value accruing to each tract of land from the maintenance;*
6. *Whether the various tracts are adjacent, upland, upstream or downstream in relation to the main trunk of the drain;*
7. *Elimination or reduction of damage from floods;*
8. *The soil type; and*
9. ***Any other factors affecting the maintenance.***

Van Buren County Pilot Project

Premise: Should be cheaper, and result in less environmental impacts, to prevent sediment from entering the drain than removing it after it gets there.

Project Strategy: Develop a new assessment methodology that rewards landowners who use conservation practices

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LimnoTech
Water | Scientists
Environment | Engineers

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

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Great Lakes Protection Fund

VAN BUREN CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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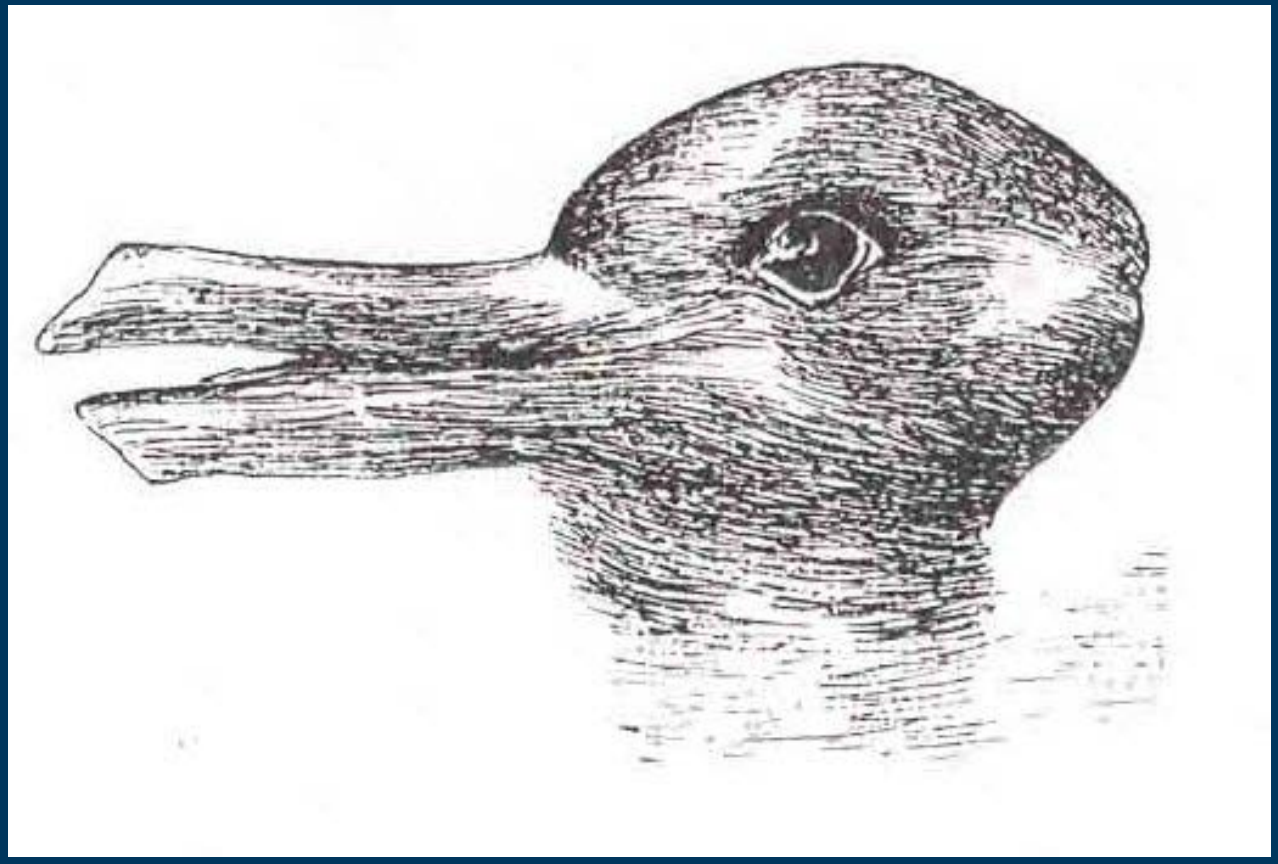
Benefits Accrued – Static vs. Dynamic



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Apportionment Factors

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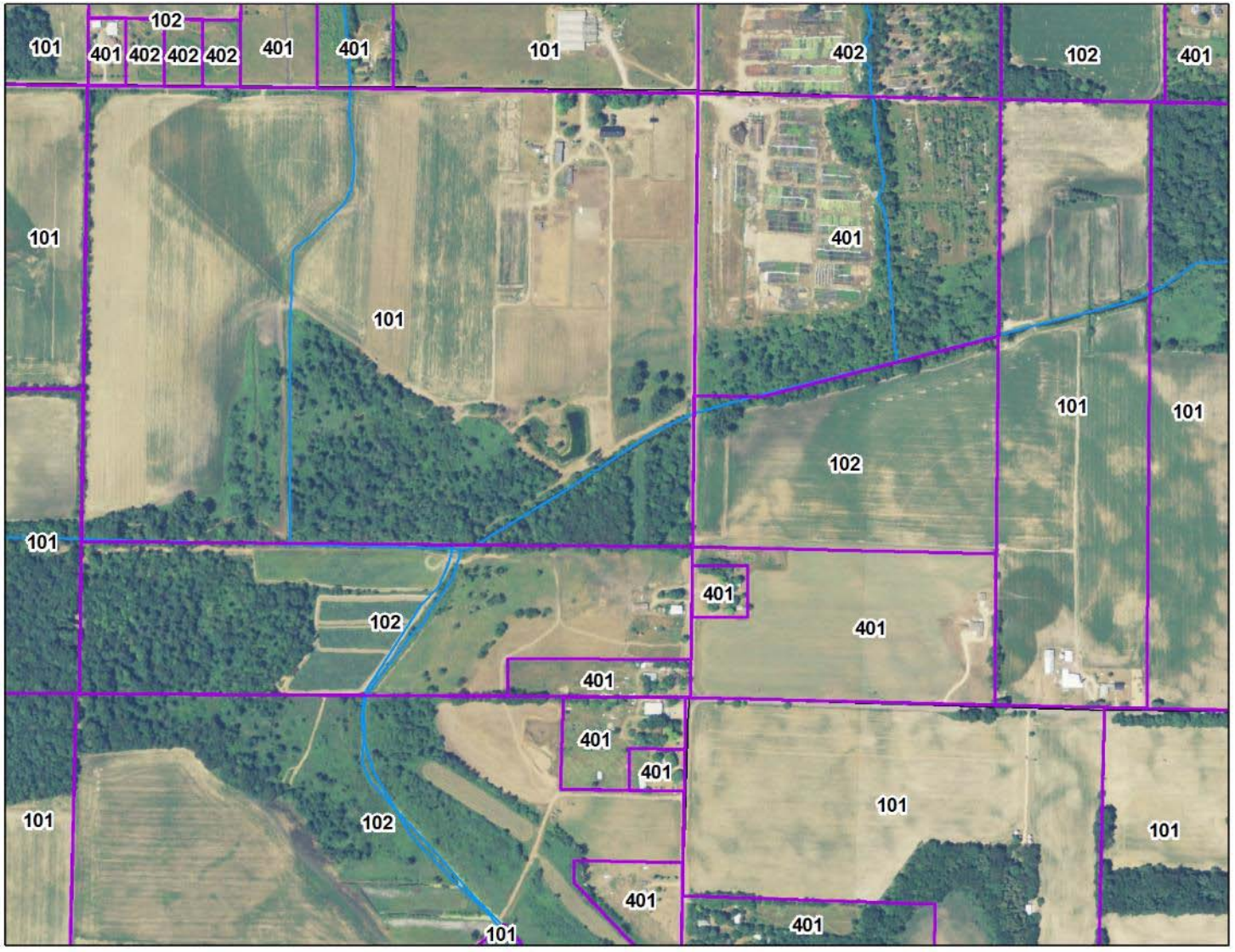
Use Factor – Land Cover



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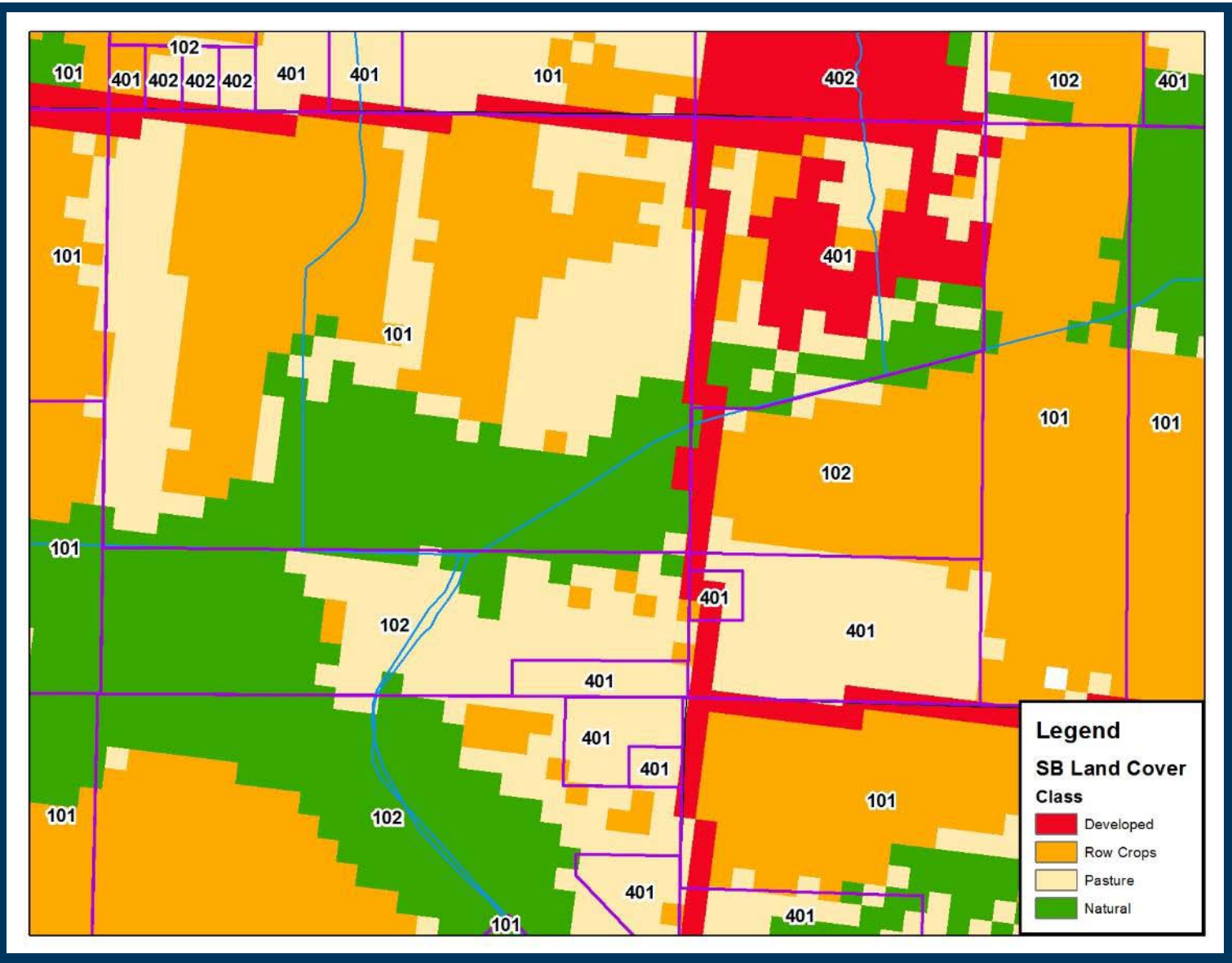
Use Factor – Land Cover



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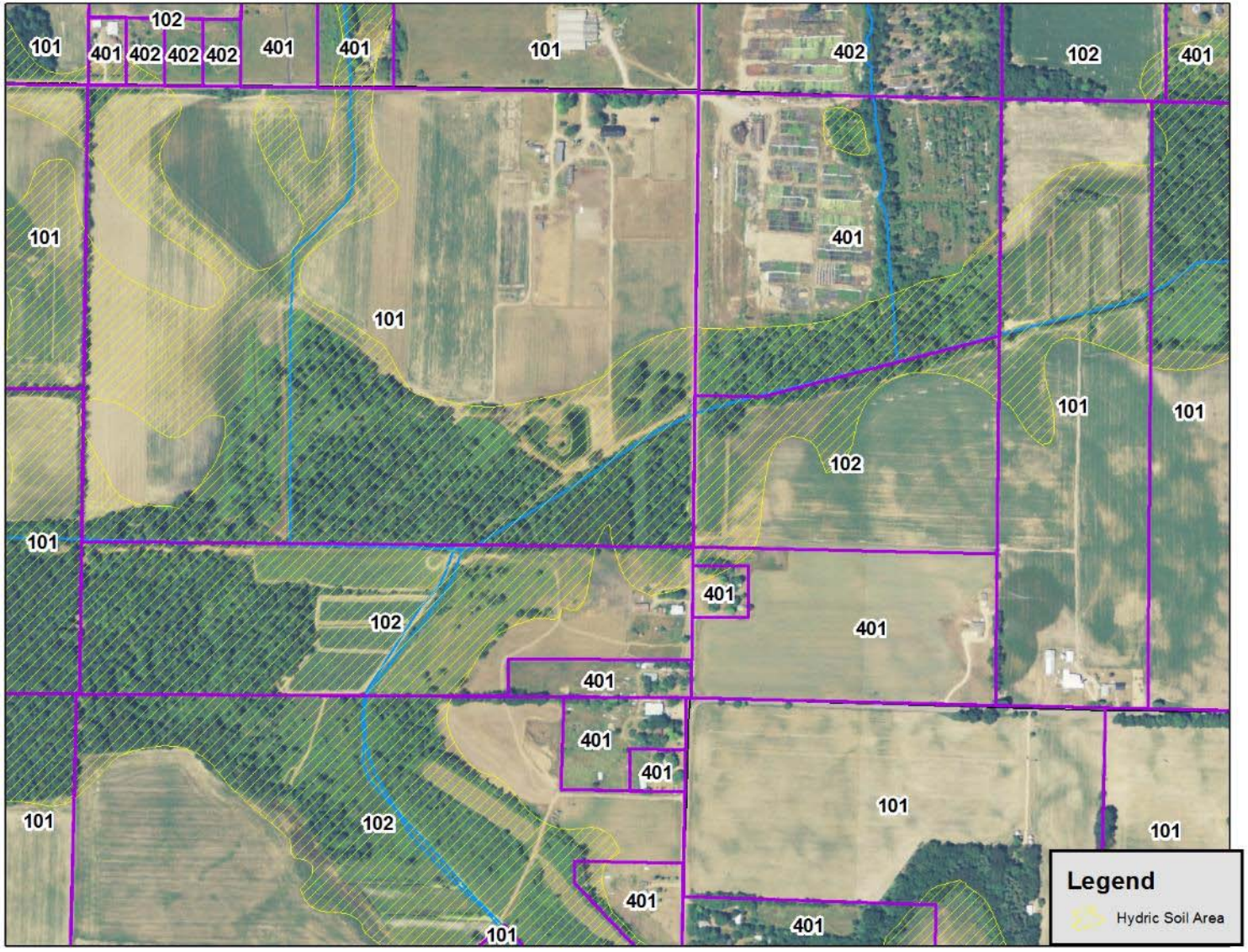
Need Factor – Hydric Soils



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Management Factor – Runoff Reduction

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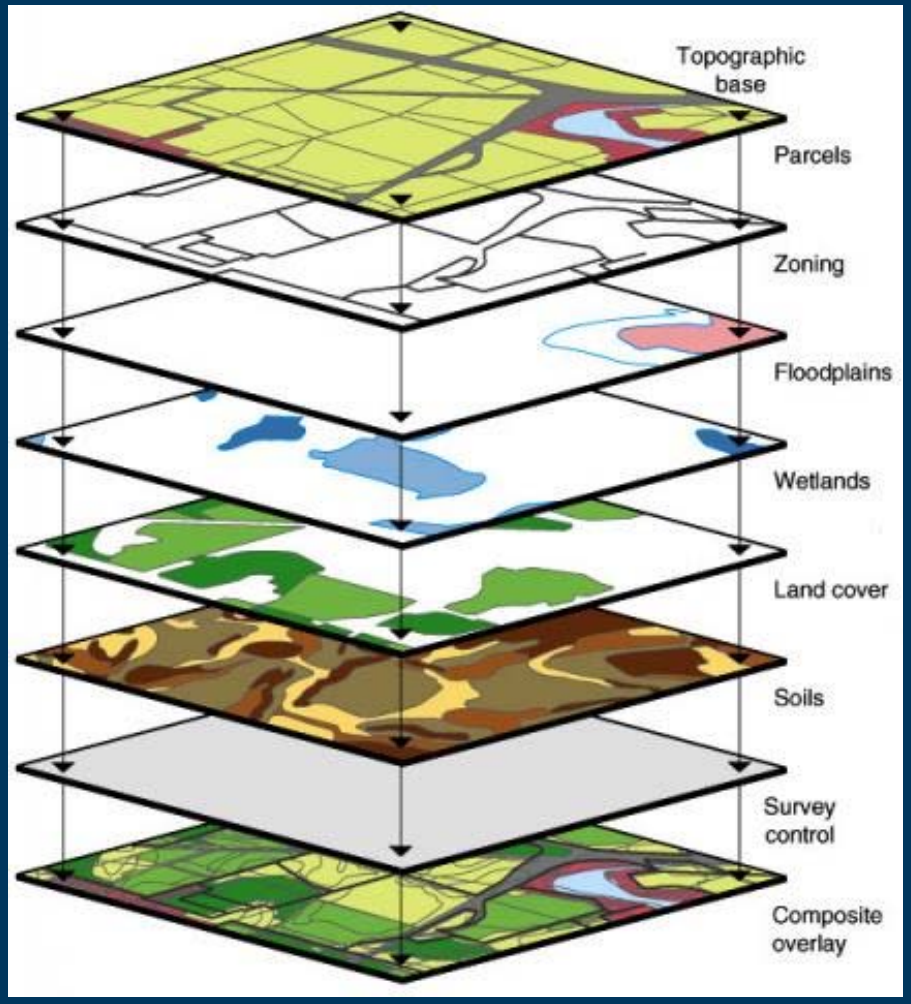
Landscape & Site Level Inspection



Tracking Number: 9B

Van Buren Conservation District

BMP CERTIFICATION AGREEMENT

Please complete a separate agreement form for each parcel you wish to certify in this program

Applicant Name: Gary Wojack	Telephone: 269-507-6532	Date: 8/29/14
Check all that apply: ☒ Producer ☒ Landowner		Parcel #: 80-08-007-009-00
Mailing Address: 77941 41st St. Decatur, MI 49045		Email:
Twp., Sec., Range: 04S14W09		Drainage District(s): Gates

Is this Parcel/Field adjacent to or does it contain a drain, creek, river or lake? (☐ Yes / ☒ No)

If Yes, please provide the name of the water body (if known):

How did you hear about the certification program? Colleen Forestieri

Why do you use the practices indicated below? Time, money, build soil quality and improve infiltration

To be completed by VBCD:
Indicate the BMP(s) that have been applied to this parcel using the table below. Each agreement form may contain multiple BMPs for a single parcel. [Attach map with BMP locations.]

✓	Best Management Practices	Linear Feet	BMP Acres	Sediment Reduction	How long has it been utilized?
Cover Crops					
☒	Type: Annual Ryegrass - Aerial Application		98	5.1	1 month
☐	Type:				
☐	Type:				
Grass Waterways					
☐	Width:				
Filter Strips					
☐	Width:				
☐	Width:				
Tillage					
☐	Mulch-Till				
☒	No-Till		98	17.2	3 years
			Total	22.3	

1

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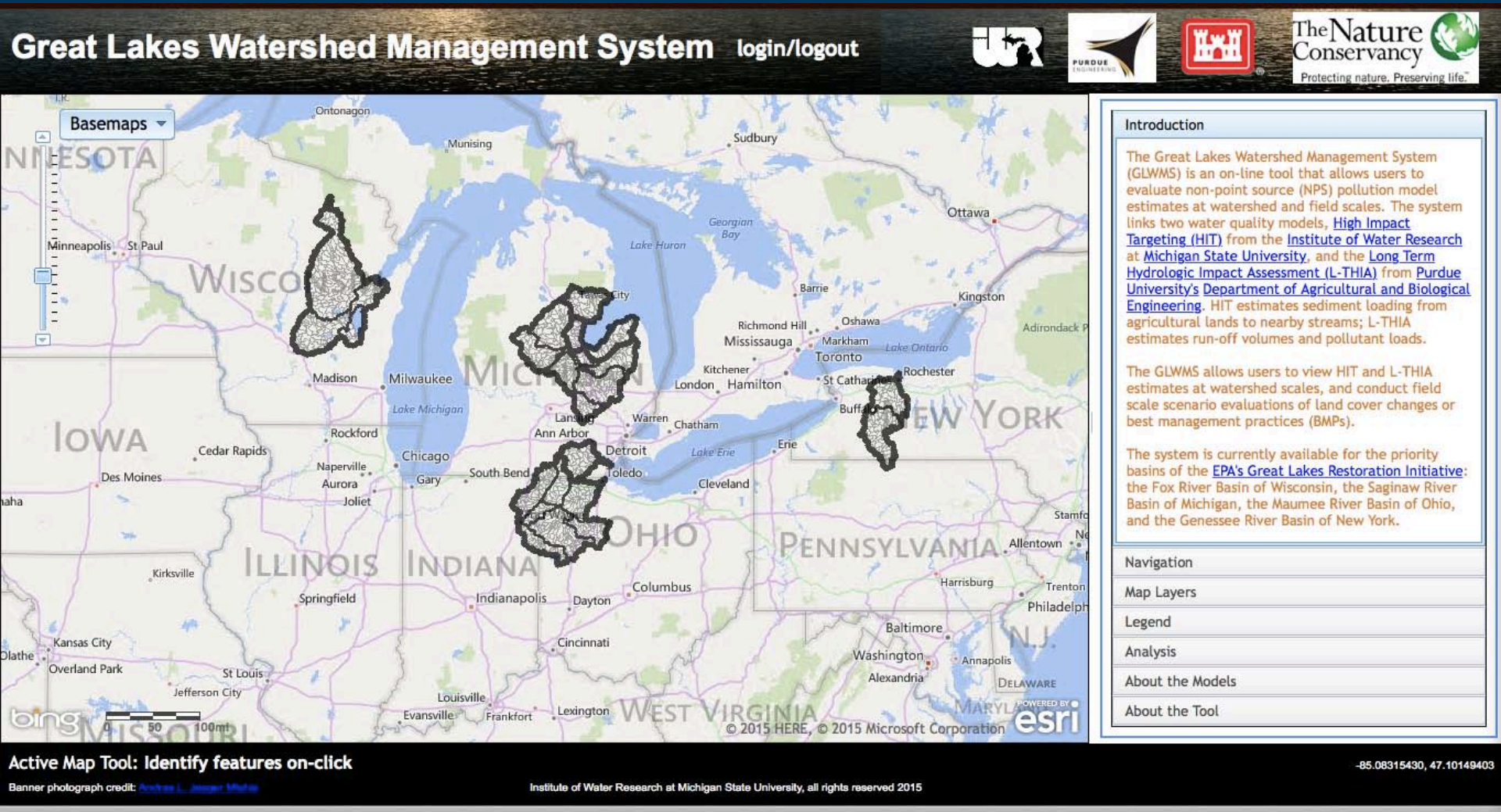
Sediment Calculator made it easy!



www.iwr.msu.edu/glwms

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Pilot Project Outcomes

192 tons of sediment reduction

43 BMP Parcels

21% savings

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What Did We Learn?

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How Do Drain Officials See Themselves?

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How Does The Public See Them?

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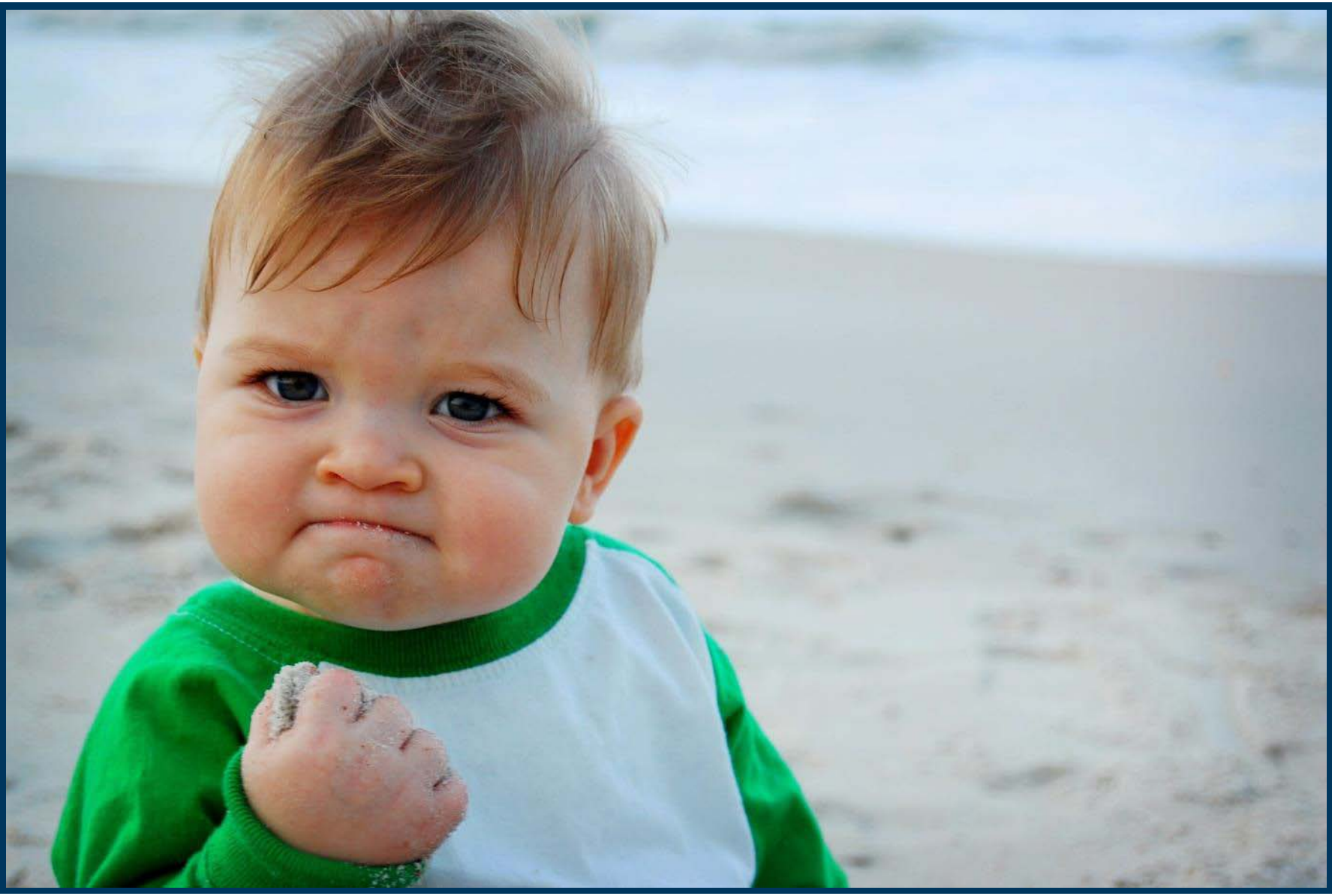
Challenge Or Opportunity?



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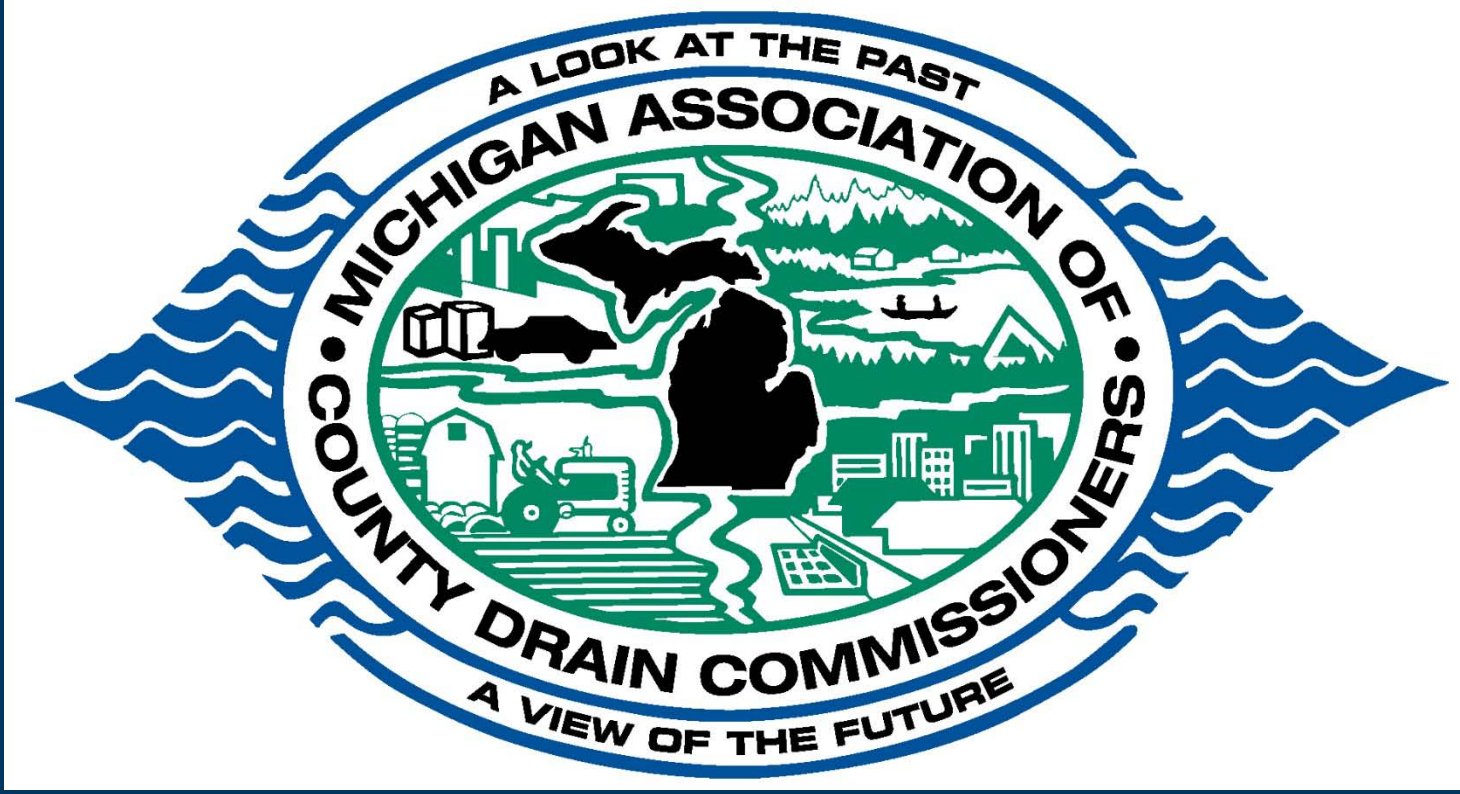
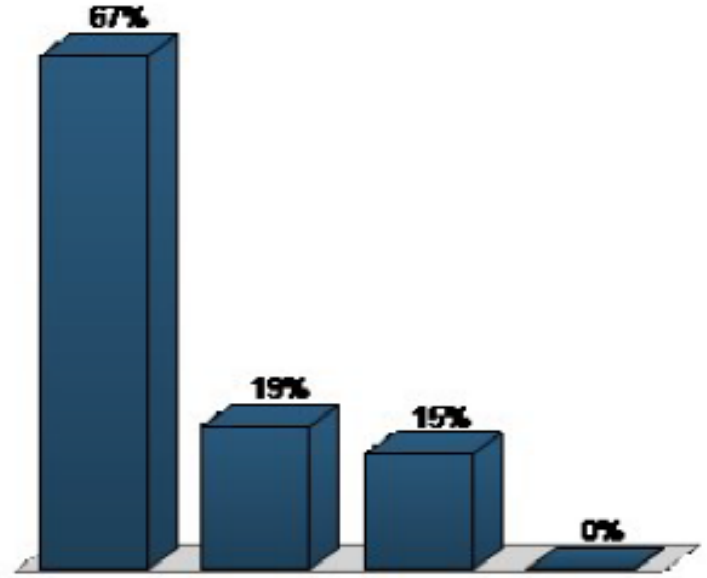
What did the Michigan officials think?



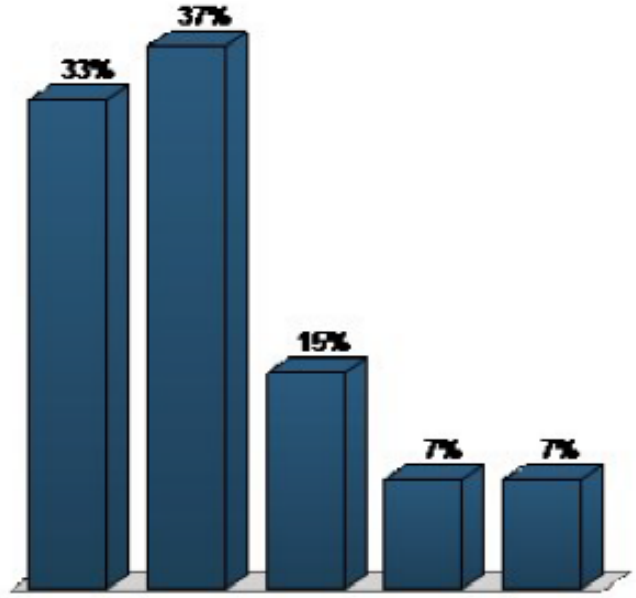
Do you think management practices that reduce sediment and runoff should be considered when determining benefits derived and apportionment?

	Responses	
	Percent	Count
Yes	66.67%	18
No	18.52%	5
Maybe	14.81%	4
I don't know	0%	0
Totals	**100%**	**27**



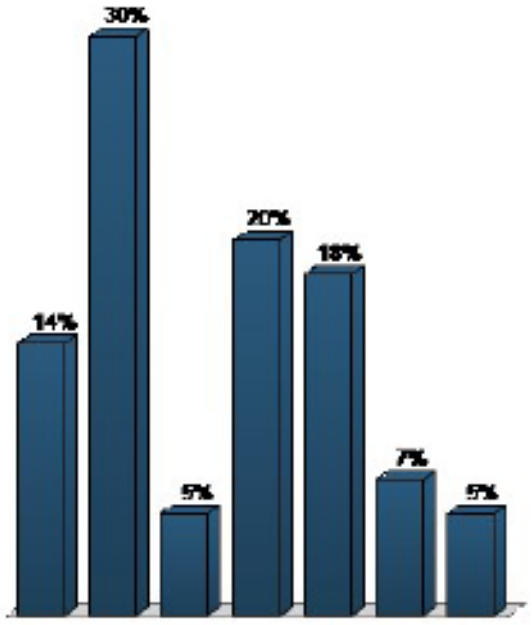
Please indicate your level of interest in at least considering implementing a similar strategy in your county?

	Responses	
	Percent	Count
Very interested	33.33%	9
Somewhat interested	37.04%	10
Not very interested	14.81%	4
I would NOT consider implementing this strategy	7.41%	2
I'm not in a position to answer	7.41%	2
Totals	**100%**	**27**



In your opinion what may be the 2 biggest obstacles for implementing this strategy broadly?

	Responses	
	Percent	Count
Don't have the GIS capabilities to implement	14.29%	8
Don't want to do frequent Days of Review	30.36%	17
Landowners won't accept it	5.36%	3
Fearful of potential legal challenges	19.64%	11
Lack of a BMP Certification Program	17.86%	10
I don't see any major obstacles	7.14%	4
Other	5.36%	3
Totals	**100%**	**56**



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Questions?

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The Future of Drain Management?

BUENA VISTA COUNTY'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

The Storm Lake Times

STORM LAKE, IOWA — *The City Beautiful* ■ WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2013 ■ 36 PAGES, 4 SECTIONS ■ $1

IN THE NEWS

DM WATER WORKS SET TO SUE UPSTREAM OVER FARM RUNOFF

Drainage districts, state may be defendants

LAST SPRING SENT WATER PLANT INTO 80-DAY CRISIS

Board grapples with question of who to sue

BY ART CULLEN

Des Moines Water Works Chief Executive Officer Bill Stowe told The Storm Lake Times on Monday that his board intends to file a lawsuit to stop farm soil and chemical runoff into the Raccoon and Des Moines rivers.

Stowe said litigation could be filed this fall. It probably will have to wait for spring for more data collection, he said. Nutrients run most in the rivers in spring when water is moving.

Last spring's torrential rains and subsequent erosion — up to 20 tons per acre in BV County, the highest in the state — overwhelmed the treatment capacity of DMWW nitrate removal system (the largest in the world).

"We were in a crisis for 80 days this spring," Stowe said, "where we were in danger of telling our customers that we were in violation of the Safe Drinking Water Act. We were

"These problems are not just going to go away on their own,"

STATE BOARD REJECTS QUALI STANDARDS FO 159 IOWA LAK

EPC wants to let voluntary effort work fir

BY ART CULLEN

1st Quarter
March 1, 2016

SJRBC
St. Joseph River Basin Commission

Next Meeting
June 7th, 2016

SJRBC
St. Joseph River Basin Commission