





**Lake Macatawa
A Resource Worth
Protecting**

Mary Fales,
Watershed Coordinator

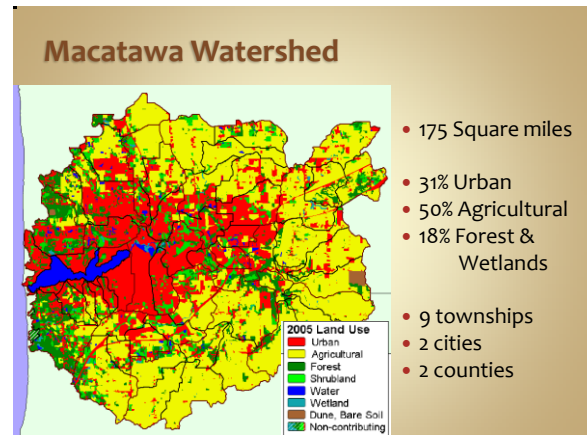
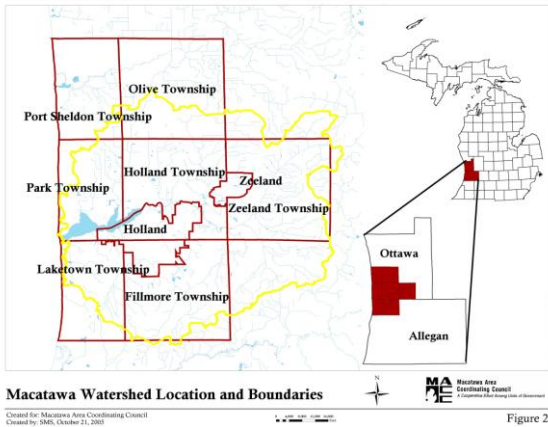
Ottawa County
Water Quality Forum
November 4, 2011

Macatawa Area Coordinating Council




MACC Mission:

“To encourage cooperation among neighboring units of government on area wide issues”



Our water quality challenges:

- Too Much Sediment




- Causes Turbidity and Sedimentation

Our water quality challenges:

- Too Many Nutrients




- Causes algae blooms, low dissolved oxygen, fish kills

Our water quality challenges:

- Too Much Water Too Fast



- Causes soil erosion

Our water quality challenges:

- Elevated levels of E.coli bacteria



- Causes beach closures and public health concerns

Update!

- Currently operating programs under 6 grants!

1. Sediment Sampling Project
2. Sediment Fingerprinting
3. E. Coli Source identification



Update!

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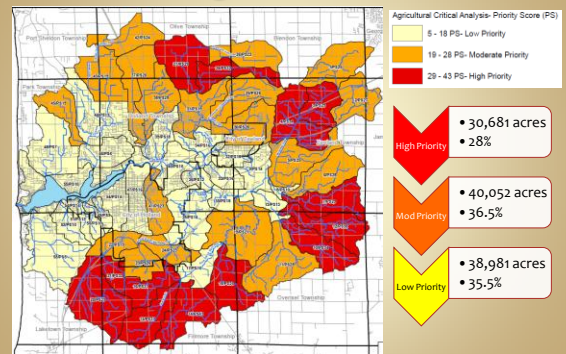
1. Updating Watershed Management Plan
2. Volunteer Monitoring Program
3. \$665,000 Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Grant

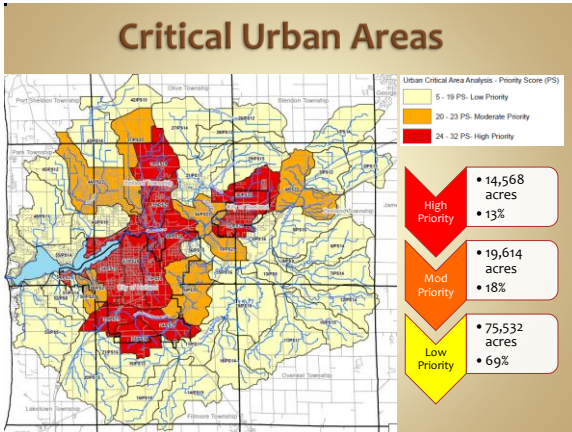
Updating Watershed Mgt Plan

- 3 Committees that meet regularly
- Lots of new research
- Identified critical areas



Critical Agricultural Areas





Updating Watershed Mgt Plan

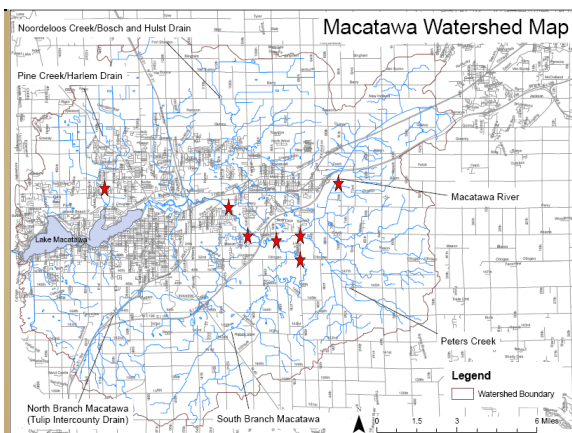
- 3 Committees that meet regularly
- Lots of new research
- Identified critical areas
- Proposing projects
- New I & E Strategy
- Draft Plan by end of Jan

Volunteer Monitoring Grant

- \$3,000 One year grant
 - Michigan Clean Water Corps Monitoring Program
 - Partnering with Outdoor Discovery Center-Macatawa Greenway
- Goal: Develop a strategy to implement a volunteer monitoring program in the Macatawa Watershed

Volunteer Monitoring Grant Progress

- Monitoring for habitat and aquatic macroinvertebrates
- Important to track long-term changes in water quality
- At least two sampling events per year with larger groups of volunteers



Volunteer Monitoring Grant Progress

- January 2012- Finalize our monitoring strategy
- March/April: submit grant application to fund implementation of the program

Volunteer Monitoring Day! Nov 5th



- Short training session at the first site
- Split into groups, sample 2 more sites

Nov 5th, 1pm, Adams Street Landing

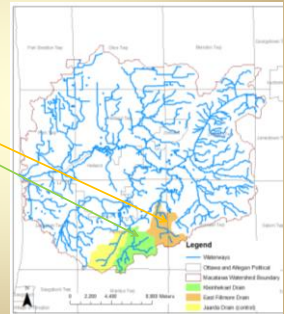


- Some people in waders collecting samples
- Some people transporting samples to shore
- Some people sorting through samples to pick out insects
- Its fun!

Great Lakes Restoration Initiative

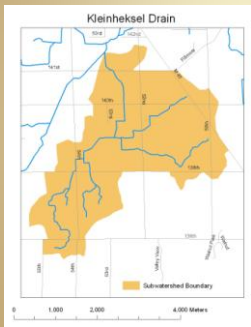
- \$665,000 grant to install agricultural BMPs in critical areas in the watershed

- Locations
 - East Fillmore Drain
 - Kleinheksel Drain
- 5472 acres
- Grant Awarded! **\$665,000**
- 3 Year Time Period
- **\$400,000 Cost Share**
- \$140,000 Allegan Conservation District
- \$72,000 MACC



Farmer Support!

9 farmers represents 4,000 acres
 Total of both watersheds=5,400 acres
 74% coverage!



Great Lakes Restoration Initiative

- Total grant request: **\$665,000**
- **\$400,000** cost share for installation of BMPs
- Best Management Practices
 - Buffer Strips
 - Cover Crops
 - Grassed Waterways
 - Conservation Tillage (No-till)
- Participation in **MAEAP** Michigan Agricultural Environmental Assurance Program
- Nutrient Management Plans
- Manure Application Training
- Purchasing new equipment?



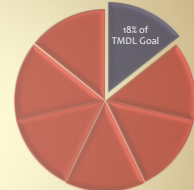
BMPs reduce soil erosion

- Pollutant Reduction Goals:
 - 13,000 tons of sediment
 - 19 tons of nitrogen
 - 8 tons of phosphorus



BMPs reduce soil erosion

- 8 tons of phosphorus
- **18% of our goal**
- **only 5% of the watershed land area**



- To be successful we need to find willing landowners

Thank You for your interest!

Questions?

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Please let me know if you'd like to join our mailing list!

