UNEP Symposium On Nutrient Management

Nairobi, 10/25/2018

CHALLENGES

Nitrogen and phosphorus pollution impacts many streams, rivers, lakes, bays and coastal waters, causing serious environmental and human health issues, and harming the economy.

In the U.S.

- 16,000^{+} waterways are impaired by nitrogen and phosphorus
- 78% of assessed coastal waters suffer from nutrient pollution
- 168 hypoxic zones – “dead zones”

Addressing Nutrient Pollution a top priority for EPA.

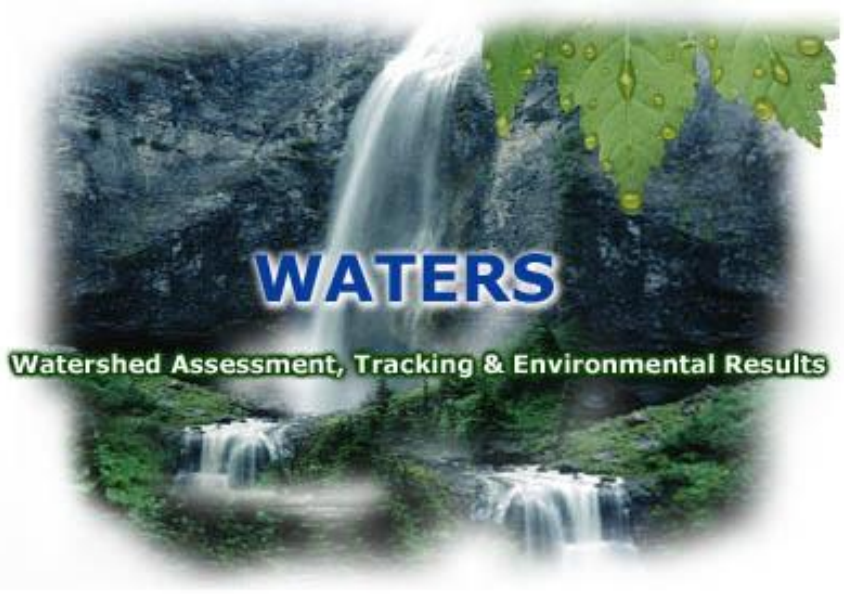
EPA reaffirmed its commitment to partnerships with UNEP GPNM.

States need room to innovate and respond to local water quality needs:

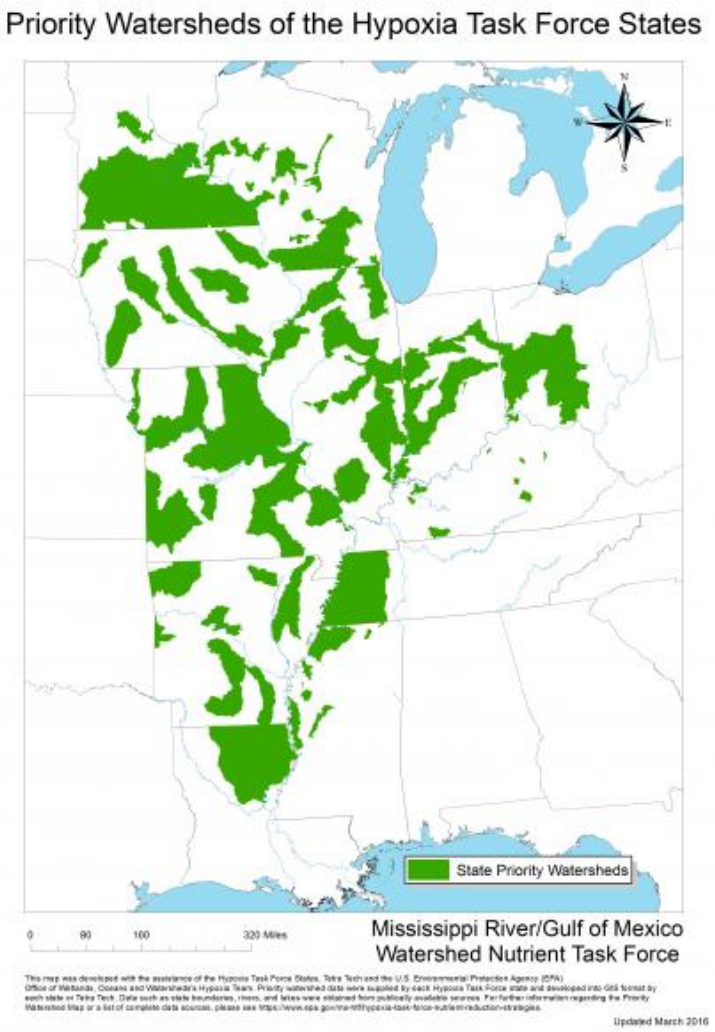
- Prioritizing watersheds for nutrient loading reductions
- Setting watershed load reduction goals based upon best available information
- Ensuring effectiveness of point source permits
- Controlling agricultural runoff
- Controlling stormwater runoff and nutrients from septic systems
- Implementing accountability and verification measures
- Reporting annually on implementation activities
- Biannual reporting on load reductions and environmental impacts in targeted watersheds
- Developing work plan and schedule for numeric criteria development

EPA provides the following activities:

- Grants and funding to states, watershed groups and wastewater facilities: State Revolving Fund
- Supporting states in development of nutrient pollution reduction strategies
- Supporting states in identifying polluted waters and developing nutrient “diets” (Total Maximum Daily Loads) for those waters



- Providing technical guidance and resources to help states develop water quality criteria for nutrients
- Overseeing permits that limit nutrient discharges from industrial and municipal sources
- New app and website to help people find information on the condition of thousands of lakes, rivers and streams across the United States from their smart phone, tablet or desktop computer. Available at http://www.epa.gov/mywaterway, the How’s My Waterway app and website uses GPS technology or a user-entered zip code or city name to provide information about the quality of local water bodies.



EPA collaborative efforts with USDept of Agriculture and States:

- Hypoxia Task Force
- National Water Quality Initiative
- Gulf of Mexico Initiative
- Mississippi River Basin Initiative
- Chesapeake Bay Watershed Initiative
- Conservation Effects Assessment Project
- National Air Emissions Monitoring Study
  - conducted through a voluntary compliance agreement between EPA and the animal agriculture industry.
  - EPA AgSTAR Program

Voluntary program to promote recovery and use of methane from animal manure.

- Agricultural Equipment Statement of Principles
- Assisting farmers investing in cleaner agricultural equipment
- Agricultural Air Quality Conservation Measures Reference Guide

Collaborative work includes:

- Selecting watersheds and target funds
- Promoting voluntary approaches
- Improving conservation effectiveness and management of land
- Monitoring to demonstrate results
- EPA and USDA work together in over 150 watersheds.