It Takes a Village: Partnerships and Projects in the WLEB

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The Nature Conservancy
The Nature Conservancy

- Largest Conservation Organization in the World (50 states, 70 countries)
- Established in 1960s
- 501c3, public and private funding
- Started out buying and preserving unique habitats
- Evolved our mission to encompass protecting the land and water upon which all life depends
HOW THEY WERE NAMED

OH, GREAT.
LAKES.
The Conservancy’s Approach

• Interrupt the Nutrient Sources and Delivery Pathways.
  – Practices: SWCDs + Landowner + Public funding

• Boots on the Ground to Build Capacity and Knowledge.
  – Field Days + Learning Network

• Deliver/Transfer Science-based Information.
  – Mapping + Modeling + Tools
Sauder Village Historical Museum

• **Issue:** Extreme rain flooded property; damaged historical artifacts.

• **Solution:** Find ways to manage water runoff + educate public + recreation opportunities

• **Strategy:** Master Plan. Build Capacity. Public Grant (Great Lakes Commission).

Sauder Village, Fulton SWCD, Ohio DNR Division of Wildlife, TNC
Sauder Village Wetland Project

15 ac-ft storage volume; 11 acres water; 5 acres native grasses & wildflowers; 3 acres Oak Savanna; 9 acres natural cover; 1 mile walking trail
GLRI/OEPA Sediment Reduction

• **Issue:** Sediment and nutrients pollution affecting Maumee River Basin.

• **Solution:** BMP practices to reduce sediment/nutrients; information transfer

• **Strategy:** Install practices. Monitor efficacy. Teach others about practices.

Landowners, Ohio State University, OSU Extension, Putnam SWCD, USDA-ARS, TNC
BMP Handbook

- Printed guide and online web resource, http://agbmgs.osu.edu
- Focus on Ohio, Indiana, and Michigan tile drained landscapes.
- Distributed to all 88 counties in Ohio
Outreach

- 2 Field days
- 4 Factsheets
- 9 Public presentations
- 5 Project site signs
- 4 Newsletter articles
- 3 Printed press pieces
- 1 Project poster

20,000 indirect; 750 direct engagement
BMPs

- 1.5 miles, two-stage ditch
- 2 P-filter/bioreactors*
- 11.5 miles, grassed surface drains

Estimated* Load Reduction to Maumee River:
N (lbs/yr): 17,000
P (lbs/yr): 2,000
Sed (tns/yr): 1,600

50 tile blowout repairs
15 water control structures
9 blind inlets
Cascading waterway
Ohio EPA 319 Projects

• **Issue:** Water management and HABs.
• **Solution:** BMP practices to manage water and nutrients

Landowners, Allen SWCD, Seneca SWCD, Hancock SWCD, Hancock Co Commissioners, USDA-ARS, ODA, TNC

Coming soon!

3,100 linear ft Cascading Waterway (Allen Co)
14-acre wetland (Hancock Co)
Phosphorus Demo Farm: P-filters, waterways, infiltration areas (Seneca Co)
Building Knowledge & Capacity

New in 2019:

Working with Supply Chain Partners in WLEB
Kellogg’s: Supporting U.S. Farmers
Syngenta: Innovation for Nature Collaboration

- Learning and training programs for farmers and Ag retailers
- Implementing practices to improve water quality
- Tracking environmental outcomes of in-field soil health management
Farmer-led Soil Health Learning Program Pilot

- Learning and training programs for farmers by farmers
- Coordinated, Multiple touchpoints
- Assembling a steering committee (farmers, Extension, TNC, NGO partners, SWCDs...)

Coming in 2020:

Building Knowledge & Capacity
Coming in 2020: Delivering Science-based information

= Right practice, right place decision support
Thank You!

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