

July 24, 2015 9:30AM-12:00PM Central

Environmental Education Center Redmill County Park (South Entrance)

I. Welcome & Introductions

- Attendees: Dorreen Carey (LMCP), Tim Kingsland (Hobart), Tom Davenport (USEPA), Carrie Tauscher (IN DNR), Michelle Caldwell (IDEM), Ashley Snyder (IDEM), Joe Exl (NIRPC), Daniel Robertson (SHLT), Cathy Martin (SDCF), Leslie Dorworth (IISG), Lynda Lancaster (NPS), Cherie L. Fisher (USFS), Gina Darnell (NWIPA), Susan MiHalo (TNC), Dan Plath (Nisource/NWIPA), Rachel Veronesi (DOI/VISTA), Diane Banta (NPS-RTCA), Marylou Renslow (IDEM), Leanne Whitesell (IDEM), Gia Wagner (NPS), Natalie Johnson (UW)
- Thank you to LaPorte County Parks for use of their facility at the headwaters of the East Branch of the Little Calumet River.

II. Partner Project Updates

a. Trail Creek Watershed

- Dan, Northwest Indiana Paddling Association (NWIPA), reported that after permit delays, the Michigan City ADA-compliant boat launch with pervious paver-lined access path is being installed and will be dedicated September 26 during the Wilderness Inquiry visit to Michigan City. Partners are encouraged to help spread the word of the event once an announcement has been developed. Dan will share once this becomes available.
- International Coastal Cleanup will take place September 19 in partnership with NIPSCO, Northwest Indiana Steelheaders, Michigan City Parks Dept. and Trail Creek Watershed Partnership. Michigan City Parks Dept.'s new facility at Washington Park should be open at that time.
- There is an opportunity to showcase all International Coastal Cleanup events via one press release across the region if there's interest in collaborating. Natalie will pull together at partner's request.
- Trail Creek Watershed Partnership's current 319 grant coming to a close. Multiple projects have been implemented: rain gardens, cover crops, livestock impact reduction projects, and more. The partnership will be applying for additional 319 funding and will be seeking support letters for those wanting to be involved in future implementation efforts.

b. East Branch of the Little Calumet River & Salt Creek Watersheds

- Save the Dunes has submitted the East Branch watershed management plan to Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM)/EPA for review. In the meantime, Save the Dunes is interested in pursuing septic system outreach in partnership with the Septic System Coordination Work Group. They will also be holding their International Coastal Cleanup day on September 19 at Marquette Park in Gary.
- Shirley Heinze Land Trust is currently in conversations with 8 different landowners regarding the acquisition of parcels along the East Branch. Shirley Heinze has already purchase multiple parcels creating a green corridor along the river.
- Save the Dunes, Shirley Heinze, NWIPA, and National Park Service (NPS) have partnered on a Chi-Cal application that includes public access on the East Branch. Christopher Burke Engineering has donated all permit acquisition work in-kind. This will support the "shovel-readiness" that Chi-Cal is looking for. NPS reported that their portion of the Chi Cal is to address wood species and contract for the removal of dead ash.
- Dan (NWIPA) reported that NWIPA is waiting for the results of the environmental assessment and eventual log jam removal if the outcome permits. The goal is to open the river to the Dunes Learning

Center. Gia (NPS) reported that the target date of the environmental assessment's completion will be end of November.

- At a recent NWIPA meeting, Mitch Barloga from the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) presented on the region-wide plan for trails, including water trails, and has handed this piece off to NWIPA for further development.
- Coffee Creek watershed just completed a grant that allowed the installation of trees over the summer.
- NPS is interested in working on a joint water quality monitoring project with Porter County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD). Currently, the NPS lab is becoming Hoosier River Watch certified. Both Dorreen (LMCP) and Candice (SDCF) have been working with Porter County SWCD on monitoring discussions as well.
- Porter County's Izaak Walton League has completed a large prairie restoration near the NPS Heron Rookery. They have also incorporated tree plantings.
- Tom (EPA) provided a Salt Creek update indicating the group has just completed a matrix of watershed problems. Natalie asked Tom to help make connections between Urban Waters and Salt Creek group (lead: Jenny Orsburn).
- Currently, Salt Creek is open for paddling. Logs jams have been cleared.

c. Deep River-Portage Burns Waterway Watershed

- Modeling is almost complete for E. coli. Nutrient loading modeling and looking at stressors are the next steps.
- Gina (NWIPA) reported that Shirley Heinze Land Trust has acquired a parcel with waterway access.
- Hobart is putting in two ADA compliant launches, one on Deep River and one on Lake George. Lake George's will include a shoreline stabilization project.
- Tim (City of Hobart) reported that Hobart is pursuing other grants for Deep River and Lake George. Lake George is in need of sediment dredging every ten years which is not economically feasible. Also needs treatment of Eurasian milfoil. Gia (NPS) mentioned an article about APHIS releasing an insect that specifically attacks milfoil. The article will be circulated in a future Urban Waters newsletter.
- Tim (City of Hobart) shared that he has had poor experiences with green infrastructure installers. Either the plants die or the maintenance is poor.

d. Grand Calumet Area of Concern and Grand Calumet River

- Susan of The Nature Conservancy (TNC) reported that TNC is completing the final report on a recent GLRI grant which monitored 300 acres of land. Their next plan is to put in a grant for five years of maintenance and ongoing restoration.
- TNC also had a successful volunteer workday at Pine Station, recruiting 22 volunteers in total.
- TNC has a Coastal Program grant that will be starting in September for early detection, rapid response to invasive species. Susan also mentioned there is a great phone app and website for early detection, rapid response reporting of invasive species. Look up GLEDN on your phone (Great Lakes Early Detection Network).
- Ashley (IDEM) shared that IDEM has applied for EPA restoration grant for 900 acres. Dredging will begin this year along Hohman Ave. A feasibility study for three other portions of the river is almost complete.
- At Jeorse Park Beach, modeling shows that modifying the breakwater decreased E. coli at Jeorse Park Beach 1 but increases it at the adjacent Jeorse Park Beach 2. The group will be looking to reconfirm the outputs of a recent model. Successful measures such as dog chasing geese and trash cans with lids have been implemented.
- A CARE seminar will be held on October 8 that will contain AOC updates.

e. Regional or Special Projects

- Hammond Parks Foundation granted 3 ½ mile bike trail which will take mowed grass shoulder and turn into prairie plantings at Wolf Lake.
- Diane (NPS) updated the group on Wolf Lake efforts. There will be a September meeting where partners will be invited to attend to work on bi-state vision. This includes updating watershed needs. Those interested in becoming more involved with Wolf Lake should contact Diane directly.
- Dan (NWIPA) discussed how Wolf Lake is a low hanging fruit but also an area with a long history of miscommunication and distrust. He cautions the group to consider these sensitivities while moving forward.
- Geof and Natalie reported that the Urban Waters Five star grant was successful in being funded. The grant will cover a portion of the Wilderness Inquiry (WI) visits for two years. Currently, all four weeks of WI are funded. A tentative calendar of dates can be found attached.
- Natalie introduced DOI's signatory document for Urban Waters partner support. Those interested in signing on will be recognized as a partnership member. More information will be sent out via the newsletter.
- Alliance for the Great Lakes will be holding a clean-up workshop at Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore.

III. Lake Michigan Lakewide Management Plan (LaMP) Updates

- Ashley (IDEM) reported that a new Lake Michigan person has been brought on at EPA. Currently, workplans are in development for the structuring each level of governance of the LAMP.
- She announced the State of Lake Michigan Conference will be held Oct. 28-30. Indiana will be represented.
- No longer funding for Great Lakes forums.
- Ashley is interested in updating and generating watershed fact sheets.
- Dorreen (LMCP) identified existing needs watershed groups have relayed—real-time monitoring, volunteer steward network, stream monitoring, better data sharing between watershed groups, better evaluation of water quality over time, tracking BMPs and BMP projects, watershed management plan implementation over time. Raised the question of whether or not watershed management plans should be enforced. Also focus on nutrient reduction measuring, green infrastructure planning, implementation BMPs, maintenance, and monitoring.
- IDEM's external data framework for sharing data w/IDEM needs to follow particular data standards. The data entry portal coming in August but a template in Excel is available now. Call Leanne (IDEM) if you want data report from the database (most publicly available now).
- Septic Smart Week is September 21-25.
- A recent meeting of the Jeorse Park Beach Task Force resulted in the need for E. coli data from the Illinois Calumet River for future modeling.

IV. A Look into State Non-Point Source Programs

- TMDL program regulates point sources only.
- USDA just passed rule that you can't get federal dollars unless you manage land with conservation practices.
- Vermont is increasing regulation through permit requirements.
- Urban activities are more highly regulated than agricultural.
- Regulations are not site specific.
- Performance measures for regulatory employees aren't tied to actually improving water quality.

V. DNR Urban Forestry & MS4 Partnership Opportunities

- Community and urban forestry program grants available annually, but are not being taken advantage of.
- Communities need help with partnering; they don't always know how to use trees to improve water quality.

- Not interested in planting behind emerald ash borer, communities don't always know how to use trees to meet ms4 requirements.

VI. Note card news (items turned into Natalie post meeting via notecard)

- Ogden Dunes will be participating in the September 19 International Coastal Clean up. Typically, they have about 13-18 people attend.
- NPS has a Mosaics Intern, Yuri Lopez, who has developed a dichotomous key booklet with color photos and fun facts. There's also a phone application. Contact Gia (NPS) for more information.

Due to time restrictions, a presentation on NIRPC's Water Quality Monitoring Network has been tabled for the fall meeting.



LAMP & WATERSHED COLLABORATION GROUP UPDATES

**Ashley Snyder, IDEM LAMP&RAP Program
Coordinator**

Dorreen Carey, IDNR Coastal Program

OVERVIEW

○ LAMP Updates

- Lakewide Working Group
- State of Lake Michigan Conference
- Changes under Annex 2 of the GLWQA
- State LAMP Program Funding

○ Watershed Collaboration Group Updates

- First Meeting Results
 - 2nd Meeting IDEM EDF
 - Urban Waters Facilitated Discussion on Watershed Plan Regulation
 - Septic Smart Week Preparations



LAMP UPDATES-LAKEWIDE WORKING GROUP

- Regular biweekly conference calls
 - Developing an appropriate governance structure
 - The Partnership
 - Management Committee – State Government Supervisors (Indiana-Hala Kuss, IDEM NWRO Director)
 - Working Group – State Government LAMP Coordinators (Indiana – Ashley Snyder)
 - Sub-committees – Include previous members from the Lake Michigan Technical Coordinating Committee as well as potentially be open to new members and new organizations
 - Developing “draft” work plans for each level of governance
 - Currently drafting the annual 4-page LAMP report
 - Will share link to report once finalized



STATE OF LAKE MICHIGAN CONFERENCE

- 2015 State of Lake Michigan / Great Lakes Beach Association Joint Conference
 - October 28-30, 2015
 - Grand Traverse Resort, Acme, Michigan
 - Potential presentations from Indiana
 - Sponsorship and exhibitor opportunities available now
 - Registration will open in mid August



LAMP UPDATES- CHANGES UNDER ANNEX 2 OF THE GLWQA

- No longer funding Great Lake Forums
- Each Lake Partnership will be responsible for outreach and education (O&E)
 - EPA will be selecting a contractor to work with each Partnership to determine how best to provide LAMP O&E
 - Potential for one LAMP sub-committee to be focused primarily on O&E



LAMP UPDATES-STATE LAMP PROGRAM FUNDING

- \$150,000.00 provided to the State for each Great Lake the State borders
- Grant will be provided to IDEM by Apr. 1, 2016
 - IDEM will sub-award to IDNR Coastal Program and IDNR Dunes State Park Staff
- These funds pay for a portion of multiple State staff salaries
 - IDEM LAMP Coordinator
 - IDNR Coastal Program Special Projects Coordinator
 - IDNR Coastal Program Manager
 - IDEM Beach Program Coordinator
 - IDNR Dunes State Park Naturalist



LAMP UPDATES-STATE LAMP PROGRAM FUNDING

- Some funding will be set aside for Indiana Watershed Collaboration Group O&E
 - Annual watershed fact sheets
 - Seminar/conference



WATERSHED COLLABORATION GROUP UPDATES

○ Background

- Formed a watershed collaboration group in an effort to gather accomplishments and challenges in implementation of watershed plans
- Aid in State LAMP reporting
- Provide for cross collaboration amongst watershed managers



WATERSHED COLLABORATION GROUP

UPDATES- FIRST MEETING RECAP APRIL 2, 2015

- **Watershed Planning/ Implementation**

- Ongoing real-time monitoring on Lake Michigan tributaries to verify modeling.
 - ❖ Volunteer Steward Network.
- Lake Michigan watershed stream monitoring data compilation & analysis.
 - ❖ Can we compile water quality monitoring results from MS4s, IDEM, Watershed Groups, Sanitary Districts, River Watch, Universities, etc?
 - ❖ Utilize IDEM External Data Framework Repository?
- Lake Michigan watershed stream monitoring data/analysis information sharing network.
 - ❖ Is Tributary water quality stream health improving, staying the same, worse?
- Tracking of Lake Michigan watershed BMP implementation and impact on water quality.
 - ❖ Are BMPs working/not working?
 - ❖ How will BMPs be monitored/maintained over time? Who?
 - ❖ “Adopt a BMP” Program?
- Who owns/is responsible for Watershed Plan Implementation over time?
 - ❖ Should watershed plans be adopted into the comprehensive plans of municipalities and counties within the watersheds?
 - ❖ What is the relationship between voluntary watershed plans and regulated MS4 requirements? Drainage Boards?
 - ❖ How can affected departments and elected officials of municipalities and counties within the watersheds be made fully aware of the watershed planning process and outcomes?
 - ❖ Should watershed plans be enforced in order to achieve desired outcomes?



WATERSHED COLLABORATION GROUP UPDATES- FIRST MEETING RECAP

- **The Watershed Message. How to better communicate Lake Michigan watershed successes, concerns to region decision makers and residents. Engage for action.**
 - ❖ Regional outreach plan and materials for region-wide messaging.
 - ❖ Water quality efforts are making a difference.
 - ❖ Identify roles of targeted audiences in water quality protection/improvement.
 - ❖ Communicate clean water values.
- **Focus on Nutrient Reduction**
 - ❖ Everyone can help at home, at work, at play.
 - ❖ Sea Grant "*Lawn to Lakes*" manual.
 - ❖ Cover Crops save money and protect water.



WATERSHED COLLABORATION GROUP

UPDATES- FIRST MEETING RECAP

- **Municipal Green Infrastructure Planning/Implementation/Maintenance/Monitoring**
 - Is there a need for a municipality specific “Green Pattern Book” or Template for successful application of green infrastructure practices that are more than window dressing? Does it already exist?
 - ❖ Should a green infrastructure needs assessment be conducted with region municipalities to determine approach?
 - ❖ Is there a green infrastructure Checklist – Zoning, storm water/sanitary infrastructure, soils, access, easements, monitoring, and maintenance?
 - ❖ How to make decisions for area appropriate BMPs – Will it work? Soils, water-table, plants, slopes, existing infrastructure.
 - ❖ Structural/Non Structural BMPS.
 - ❖ Staff Training
 - ❖ Urban Conservation Team.
 - ❖ What assistance can experienced consultants working in this region provide in terms of BMP success/failure?
 - ❖ Should there be some kind of “green infrastructure “professional certification required for consultants designing and implementing green BMPs?
 - ❖ Should municipalities develop a comprehensive green infrastructure plan based on water quality and drainage assessment rather than piecemeal approach?



WATERSHED COLLABORATION GROUP UPDATES- FIRST MEETING RECAP

- **Research**

- Relationship between invasive species in natural areas and water quality.
- Impact of Emerald Ash Borer on region forest health and reforestation planning.

Next Steps. How can the needs/questions identified under point # 4 be addressed by regional partners/partnerships?

- Set next regional watershed coordination meeting to address needs/questions identified by group.
 - ❖ Separate discussion topics from project/program opportunities.
 - ❖ Identify leads and partners for projects/programs.
 - ❖ What projects/programs are possible grant funding opportunities?
 - ❖ What projects/programs can be done by existing agency/organization staff and resources either individually or in partnership?
 - ❖ Group promotion of “Lawn to Lakes” Manual and workshops.
 - ❖ Utilize Urban Waters Quarterly meeting to report out on LAMP coordination activities and selected discussion topics.
 - ❖ Request IDEM presentation on External Data Framework.



WATERSHED COLLABORATION GROUP
UPDATES- SECOND MEETING JULY 9, 2015

IDEM's External Data Framework

Creating New Opportunities for
Water Quality Collaboration

Presented to the
Lake Michigan Watershed Regional Collaboration Meeting
By
Carol Newhouse



WATERSHED COLLABORATION GROUP

UPDATES- EXTERNAL DATA FRAMEWORK (EDF)

- **What Is the EDF?**
- A process built to facilitate collaboration between external data generators and IDEM's OWQ
- Establishes criteria for accepting data from sources outside the agency for potential use by OWQ and others
- The EDF provides a *systematic, transparent, and voluntary* process for external parties to send their water quality data to OWQ



WATERSHED COLLABORATION GROUP UPDATES- EDF

- **So Much Data, So Little Time...**
 - There is a lot of monitoring going on in Indiana
Colleges and universities
 - Municipalities
 - Permitted entities
 - Watershed groups
 - Environmental advocacy groups
 - Volunteer monitors and citizen scientist
-
- The challenge lies in working with different types
of data from multiple sources



WATERSHED COLLABORATION GROUP UPDATES- EDF

Next Steps

- Infrastructure still in development General Guidance Document
- Technical Guidance Document
- Data Review checklists
- Technical Assistance resources
- EDF website and outreach materials
- Data entry portal via Internet

Data Entry Portal Coming August 2015!



WATERSHED COLLABORATION GROUP UPDATES- EDF

Available Now

- Coordinator and QA Officers on staff
- AIMS database can accept data
- Template (Microsoft Excel spreadsheet) available for data submission



WATERSHED COLLABORATION GROUP UPDATES- EDF

Contact the EDF Coordinator if you have any questions about participation and/or how to submit your data:

Carol Newhouse

(317) 308-3392

WaterQualityEDF@idem.IN.gov

EDF Webinar at:

**[https://engineering.purdue.edu/watersheds/webinar/ExtDataFrame
work/](https://engineering.purdue.edu/watersheds/webinar/ExtDataFrameWork/)**



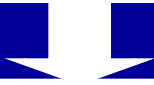
WATERSHED COLLABORATION GROUP UPDATES- SEPTIC SMART WEEK

We will be contacting our watershed partners, local communities, and state and federal agencies to join in the outreach and education activities for SepticSmart Week. EPA SepticSmart brochures will be available for distribution.




Solving Water Problems

Use biophysical measures to identify vulnerable locations within problem area.



Assess salient behaviors in these locations to determine where disproportionality may be occurring.

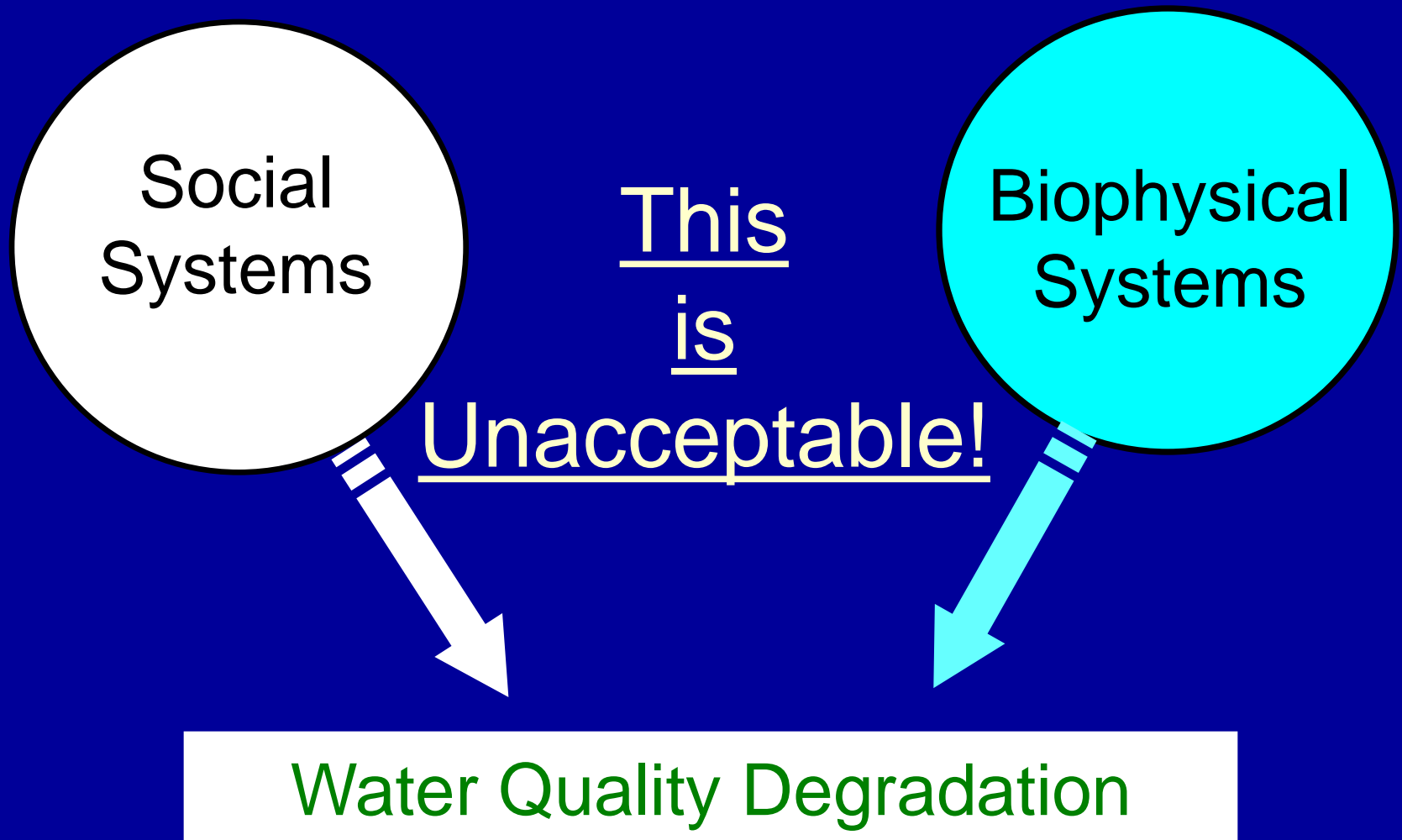


Gain understanding why inappropriate behaviors are occurring in these locations.

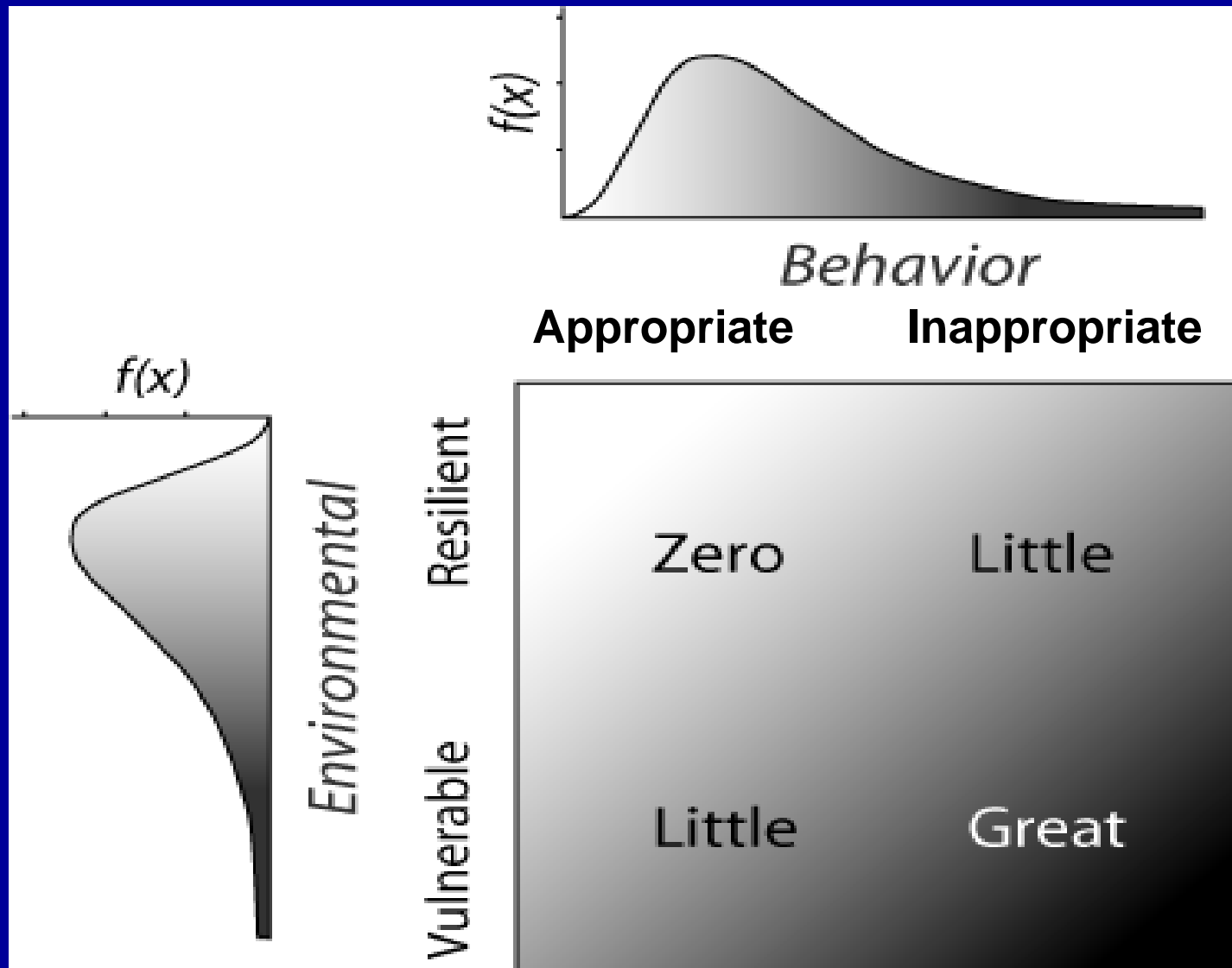


Design intervention effort based on this understanding.

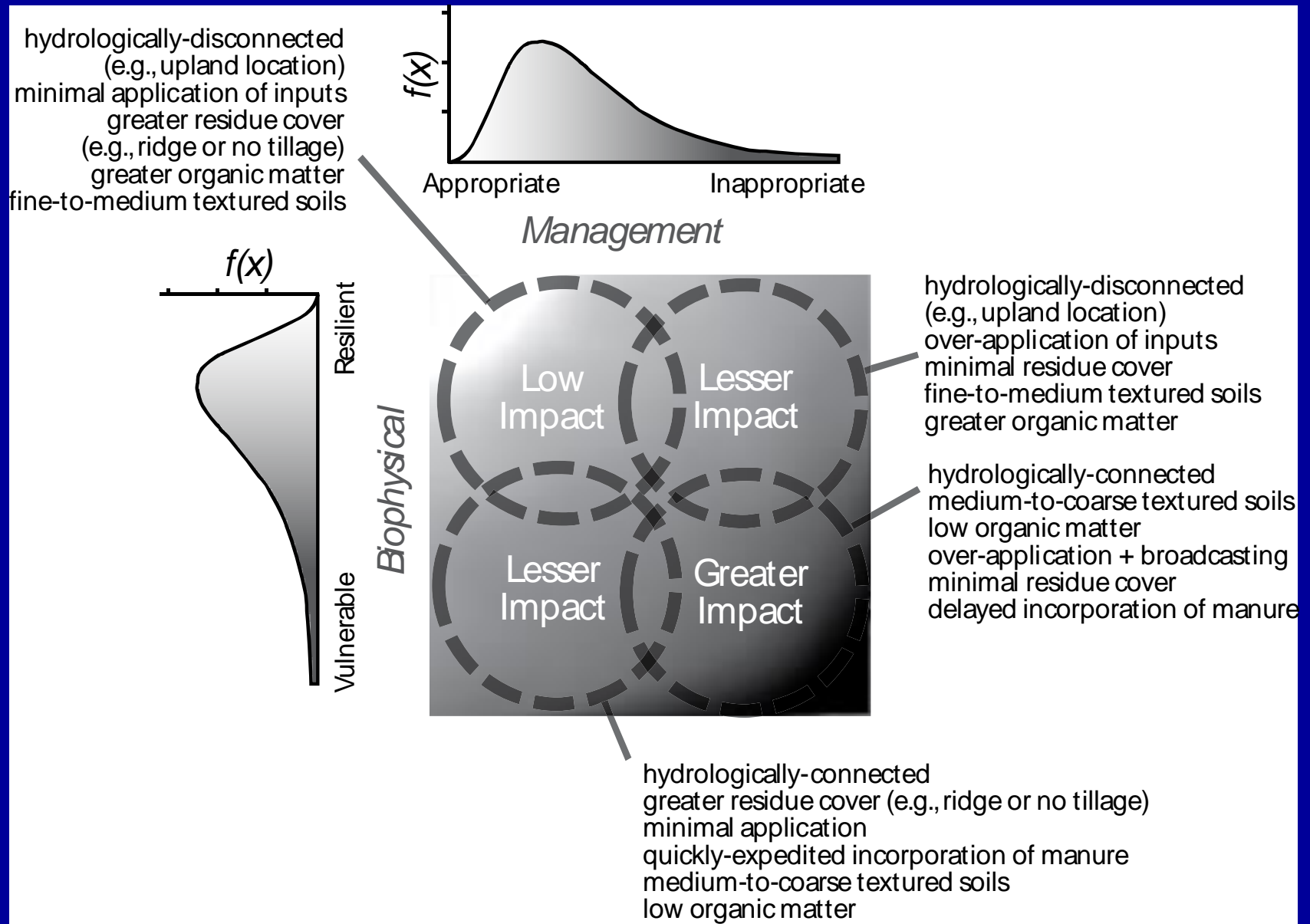
Approaches to NPS Pollution



Disproportionality



Disproportionality



Three Missing Dimensions

The following three dimensions need to be treated as an integrated package. That is, one cannot focus on one or two to the exclusion of the others.

3 Missing Dimensions

1. Assessment
2. Disproportionality
3. Inappropriate Behavior

An Example

Appropriate

Starting points
where spreader gate
opened and PTO
engaged across 24
month period

Inappropriate

