



**Integration Across Water
Quality Programs in
Louisiana**



Coordination Between LDEQ WQ Programs

- Historically-Standards, Assessment, TMDLs, Nonpoint Source, Aquifer Protection were all in the same division
- Currently-Standards, Assessment, TMDLs, Water Permits are in the same division
- Nonpoint Source, Aquifer Protection are in the same division
- Ongoing periodic coordination meetings-coordinate efforts of Standards, Assessments, TMDLs, Water Permits, Nonpoint Source, Aquifer Protection.



Coordination with Other Agencies

- LDEQ NPS staff – coordinates with Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry (LDAF) and the USEPA
- LDEQ Standards, Assessment and TMDL staff – coordinates with Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDAF), Louisiana Department of Natural Resources (LDNR), USEPA, US Department of Agriculture, Gulf of Mexico Alliance (GOMA), Hypoxia Tack Force (HTF), Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA), Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry (LDAF)



NPS Coordination Efforts

- 6 watershed coordinators within Louisiana
- United States Department of Agriculture
 - Implementing MRBI, NWQI, and GoMI
 - Partnering with NRCS
 - Partnering with landowners and producers to implement agricultural BMPs through cost share agreements
 - SWAT modeling used to optimize BMP application
- USEPA
 - Developed Recovery Potential Screening Tool for Louisiana
- Working in 20-30 watersheds/year to reduce NPS pollution



Successful 319 Projects

- Tchefuncte River and Bogue Falaya River
- Tangipahoa River
- Bayou Plaquemine Brule
- Turkey Creek
- Lower Mermentau/Lake Arthur Watershed



Withdrawal of Running Surface Water from State Water Bodies

- In 2010, the LA Legislature established Act 955 which allowed for cooperative agreements between the State and private entities for the withdrawal of water running surface water.
- Coordinated review of applications required by a memorandum of between LDNR (lead agency), LDEQ, and LDWF
- Started discussions regarding level of flow required to maintain aquatic life
- Water typically being used for hydraulic fracturing, dust control, hydraulic drilling, or hydrostatic testing of pipe.



Scenic Rivers Coordination

- Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries reviews permits for facilities discharging to water bodies listed on the State's Natural and Scenic Rivers list
- LDEQ provides information as needed
- Began a more deliberate coordination in 2014



Louisiana's Statewide Nutrient Management Strategy

- Partners

- US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA)
- US Department of Agriculture (USDA)
- Gulf of Mexico Alliance (GOMA)
- Hypoxia Task Force (HTF)
- Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA)
- Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ)
- Department of Natural Resources (LDNR)
- Department of Agriculture and Forestry (LDAF)



Strategy Features

Goal = To manage nutrient levels in inland & coastal water bodies

- Goal-oriented
- Measurable environmental outcomes
- Watershed approach
- Broadly collaborative
- Strategic micro- and macro-watershed planning approaches
- Leverage new technologies
- Comprehensive statewide water quality improvements
- Improvement projects tracked
- Progress monitoring and reporting



Strategy Components

- 1 • Stakeholder Engagement
- 2 • Decision Support Tools
- 3 • Regulations, Policies, and Programs
- 4 • Management Practices and Restoration Activities
- 5 • Status and Trends
- 6 • Watershed Characterization, Source Identification, and Prioritization
- 7 • Incentives, Funding, and Economic Impact Analysis
- 8 • Targets and Goals
- 9 • Monitoring
- 10 • Reporting

- ▶ Core Team:
 - CPRA, LDAF, LDEQ, & LDNR
- ▶ Framework
- ▶ Aligns with guidance of HTF, GOMA, & USEPA
- ▶ Basis for developing, implementing, & completing strategic actions
- ▶ Dynamic, adaptive



Future TMDL/Alternative Prioritization

- FIVE-YEAR PLAN FOR WATER QUALITY STANDARDS, ASSESSMENT, AND MODELING WORK THAT IMPACTS IMPAIRMENT
 - Covers FFY12-FFY16
 - Outline activities aimed at reducing WICs and the TMDL PACE
 - Consolidating impairment listings (sediment, turbidity, TSS)
 - Dissolved oxygen criteria revisions and resulting delistings
 - Minerals criteria revisions and resulting delistings
 - Delistings based on criteria attainment
 - Mercury delistings based on a downstream TMDL



Future TMDL/Alternative Prioritization

- Document ongoing activities
- Ongoing activities to revise dissolved oxygen criteria in various watersheds
- Revise dissolved oxygen TMDLs as needed based on revised criteria
- Nonpoint source pollution issues addressed primarily by alternative approaches
- Point source pollution issues addressed primarily by TMDLs