



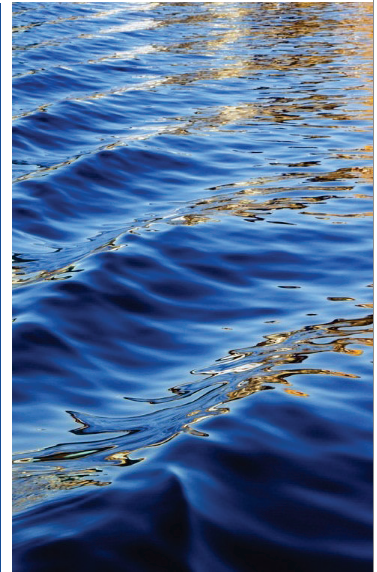
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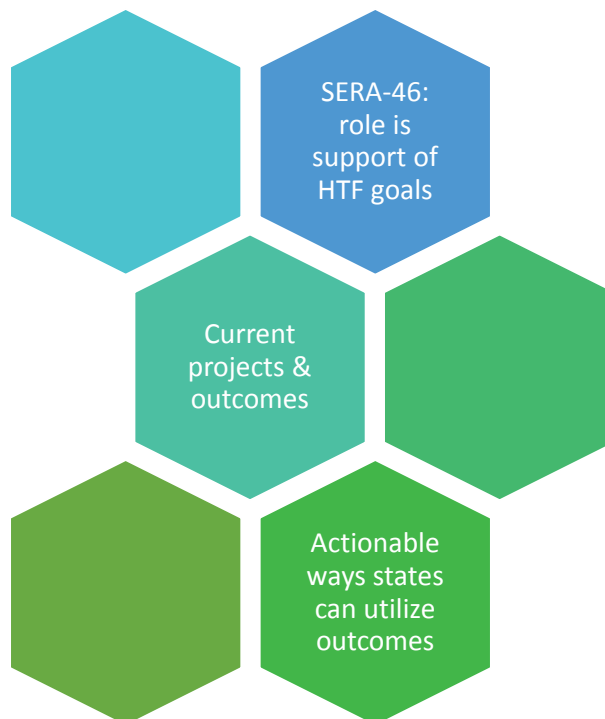
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*Land Grant Universities Working
Collaboratively with the Hypoxia
Task Force*

Beth Baker, Mississippi State University
Baton Rouge, LA



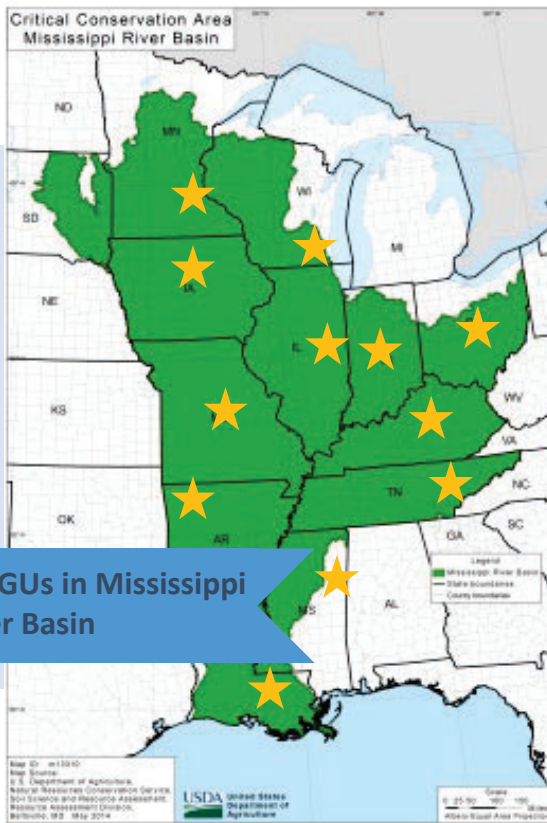
Overview



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USDA-NIFA coordinates multistate efforts via regional committees

Strong linkage/coordination with Hypoxia Task Force

12 LGUs in Mississippi River Basin

May 2019

Hypoxia Task Force Meeting, Baton Rouge, LA



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SERA-46 Goal

Promote effective implementation of science-based approaches to nutrient management/conservation that reduces nutrient losses to the environment.



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Hypoxia Task Force Meeting, Baton Rouge, LA



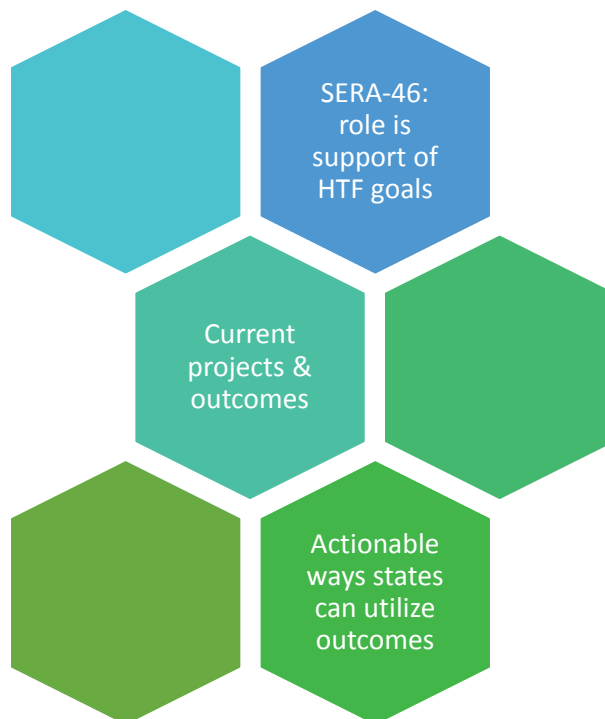
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Strategies to move the needle on nutrient reduction

- 1. Strengthening Networks**
- 2. Conservation Systems Research and Outreach**
- 3. Monitoring and Tracking of Progress**



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Building Capacity For Watershed Leadership

Project Goals:

- Strengthen relationships among watershed leaders, agricultural leaders, and state and federal agencies
- Expand the knowledge base by coupling high-quality agricultural and watershed management research with practice-based knowledge of farmers, farm advisors and watershed leaders
- Improve coordination and delivery of educational and engagement programming



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Building Capacity For Watershed Leadership

Primary Deliverables:

- Needs assessment of watershed training programs that cultivate farmer and farm advisor leadership in N and P use for water quality.
- 2 watershed leadership summits that brought state and federal agencies, local conservation districts, universities, NGOs, farmers, farm advisors, commercial shrimpers, and others together to learn from one another about hypoxia, water quality and nutrient management.
- Engaging pilot watersheds in Ohio (Upper Scioto) and Arkansas (Beaver Lake)
- Working on expanding training



Fostering and Facilitating Farmer Leadership
in Watershed Management Projects

February 2019

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A NEEDS ASSESSMENT



<https://northcentralwater.org/files/2019/03/MARBReport-2-2019-FINAL.pdf>

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Civic Engagement and Environmental Stewardship in the MARB Area



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Project Overview:

- Developing civic engagement measures to assess and encourage non-government stewardship of state-level nutrient reduction strategies. Through funding provided by EPA and GOMA.

Primary Objectives:

- Continue active facilitation of the work group
- Facilitate a series of webinars and conference calls that will culminate in an applied research symposium focused on civic engagement considerations and opportunities related to nutrient reduction
- Develop and release a synthesis report with recommendations and next steps
- Expand website (Human Dimension in Water: to incorporate civic engagement materials and products



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Walton Family Foundation – Conservation Practice Tracking



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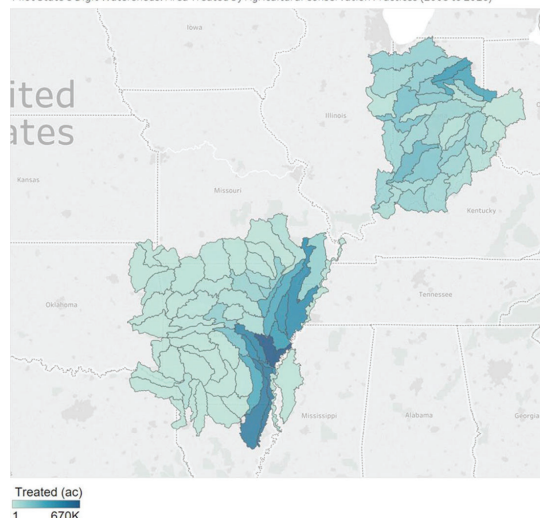
Project Overview:

- The embodiment of the Non-Point Source Measures Workgroup report recommendations
- Extension of NRCS compiled conservation practice data

Primary Objectives:

- Consistent story across member states
 - Focus on water quality related conservation practices

Pilot State 8 Digit Watersheds: Area Treated by Agricultural Conservation Practices (2008 to 2016)



NPS Measures Workgroup Report: https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2018-05/documents/nps_measures_progress_report_1- may_2018.pdf

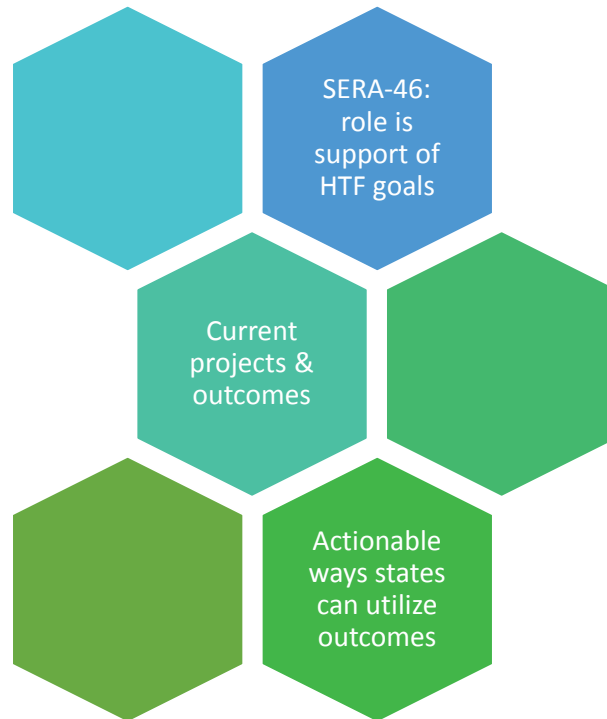
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Building Capacity For Watershed Leadership

Actionable ways states can utilize/apply outcomes:

- Review needs assessment for ideas on increasing farmer and farm advisor leadership on nutrient management for water quality
- Share needs assessment
- Encourage folks from your states to use the MARB listserv (join-marb-leaders@lists.wisc.edu) and learn from leaders in other states
- Provide feedback on new training modules when they are drafted
- Thank you to all of you that participated in the summits!



Civic Engagement and Environmental Stewardship in the MARB Area



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3 major outcomes:

- Established and facilitated active work group
- Facilitated the “Applied Research Symposium: The Social Dimensions of Nutrient Reduction” and Developed and released “Social Indicators to Accelerate the Implementation of Nutrient Reduction Strategies Synthesis Report.”
- Established website: Human Dimension in Water: [Website linked here!](#)

Actionable ways states can utilize/apply outcomes:

- Maintain and expand collaborative network created by the project
- Support the creation of a programmatic research program on ECE: initiate a data collection pilot program on already identified priority watersheds in the lower-MARB area



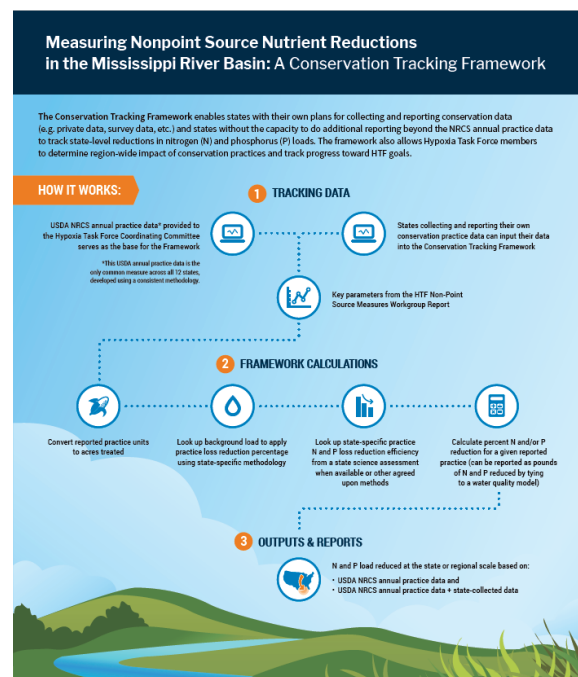
Walton Family Foundation – Conservation Practice Tracking



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Major Outcomes (thus far)

- Draft framework with compiled NRCS conservation practice database
 - Estimate cumulative acres treated by water quality conservation practices **over time**
- Conservation Practice based science workshops in Arkansas and Indiana
- Infographic highlighting steps of framework
- Lessons learned about data availability and quality
- Pilot states were Indiana and Arkansas
- Working with Illinois, Kentucky, and Minnesota for phase 2
 - Filling data gaps, reviewing data sources, and supporting science assessments



For More Information



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<http://northcentralwater.org/sera-46/>

<https://www.epa.gov/ms-htf/hypoxia-task-force-partnerships>

Thank You!



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