Molly M. Flanagan
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Agenda

• Alliance for the Great Lakes
• Lake Erie – Western Basin
• Nutrient Pollution – Problems, Solutions, Barriers
• Questions
Alliance for the Great Lakes

• A healthy Great Lakes for people and wildlife, forever
• Offices - Chicago, Milwaukee, Detroit, Cleveland, Buffalo, and Grand Haven
• Culture of Clean Water – Education and Stewardship
• Building Resiliency – climate change adaptation in communities
• Policy Advocacy - address the most critical threats to the Great Lakes

www.greatlakes.org
Lake Erie

- Drinking Water - 11 million people, 3 million people in Ohio

- Tourism and Travel - $12.9 billion in revenue per year
Lake Erie at a Crossroad
Western Lake Erie Basin Harmful Algal Bloom
Why Focus on Agricultural Sources?

University of Michigan calculated a **conservative estimate of agricultural P** delivery to Lake Erie assuming point sources and failing septic systems are delivered.

85% of P delivered by the Maumee comes from agriculture.

**Delivery of Farm Fertilizers & Manures** =

Average Load to Lake Erie (2620 t/y) –
Toledo WWTP (54 t/y) –
Other Point Sources (142 t/y) –
Non-farm Fertilizers (130 t/y) –
0.39 * Septics (65 t/y)

= ~ **2230 t/y**
Could we be Toledo'd in Wisconsin?
Binational Commitment to Reduce Harmful Algal Blooms
What’s Missing?

• No numeric nutrient water quality standards for phosphorus or nitrogen
• Open waters of western Lake Erie not listed as impaired under the Clean Water Act
• No TMDL for open waters of western Lake Erie – complicated by multiple states and countries
• Largest source of the problem – agriculture – unregulated
  – Reliance on voluntary and incentive based conservation practices
• Lack of accountability for achieving 40% reduction in phosphorus entering western Lake Erie
• Carrying capacity of our watersheds?
• Power of agricultural industry
• Myth: Small, family farms with narrow margins
• Lack of political will to demand action from agriculture

Barriers
Domestic Action Plans – Will DAPs fill in the gaps?
“The test of a first-rate intelligence is the ability to hold two opposed ideas in mind at the same time and still retain the ability to function. One should, for example, be able to see things as hopeless and yet be determined to make them otherwise.”

~F. Scott Fitzgerald
Questions?

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