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Sustainable Water Resources Roundtable Status Report

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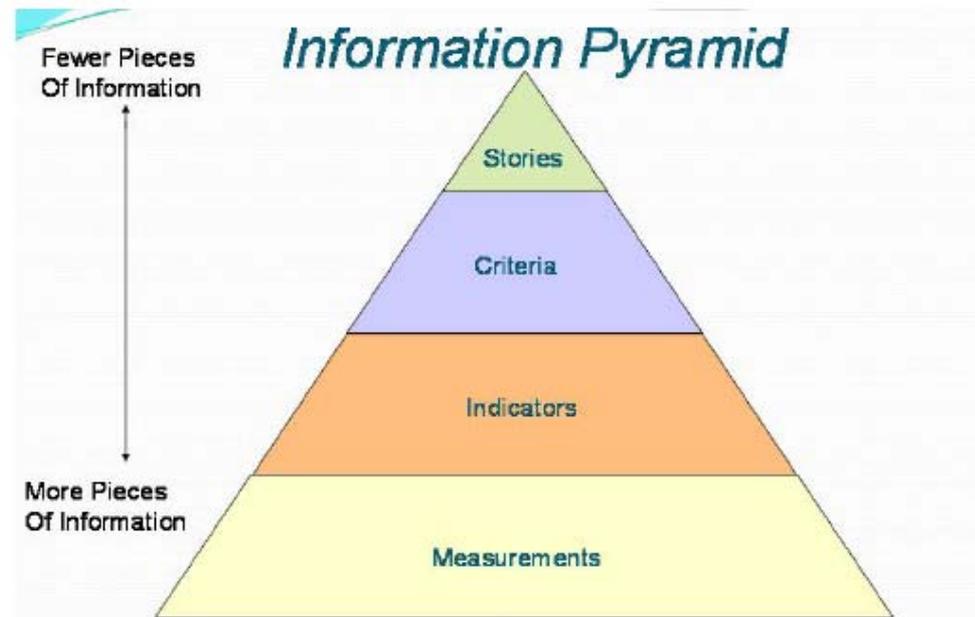
**Advisory Committee on Water Information
Meeting**

Reston, VA

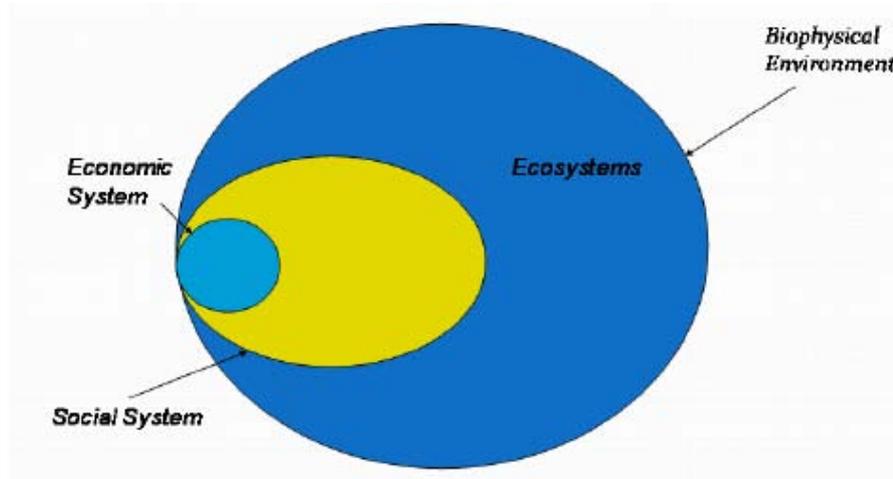
July 12, 2011

Recent Publications and Activities

- Sustainable Water Resources Roundtable Report
 - March 2010
 - http://acwi.gov/swrr/Rpt_Pubs/SWR_RReportMarch2010.pdf
- Minnesota Workshop
 - October 21-22, 2010
 - Hosted by Freshwater Society, Excelsior, MN
 - Proceedings be posted on ACWI website
- Washington, DC Workshop
 - April 27-28, 2011
 - Hosted by American University Center for Environment Policy
 - Speakers: government, NGO, industry
 - Proceedings be posted on ACWI website



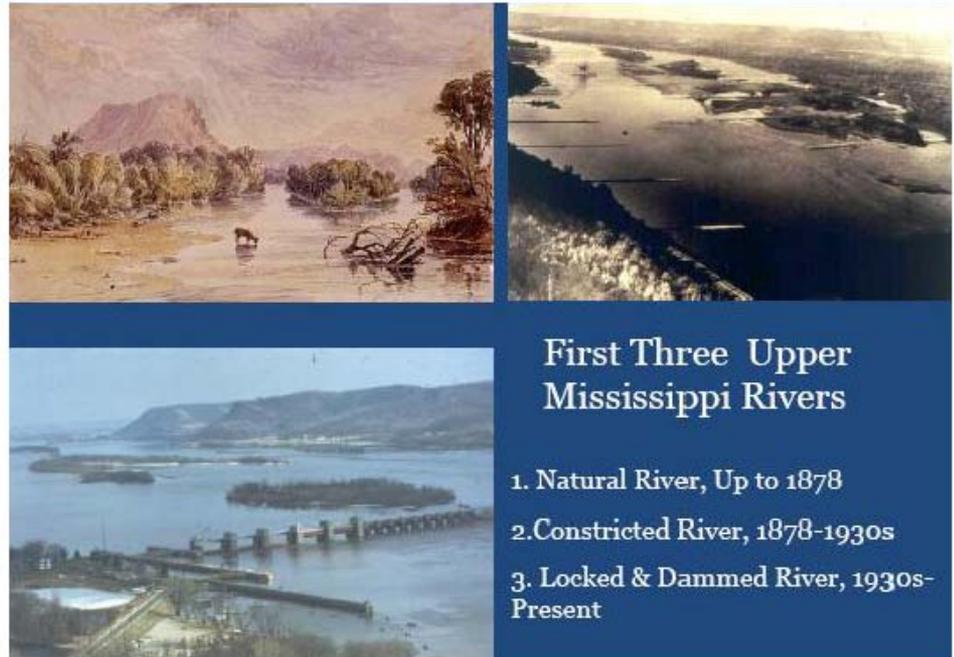
March 2010 Report



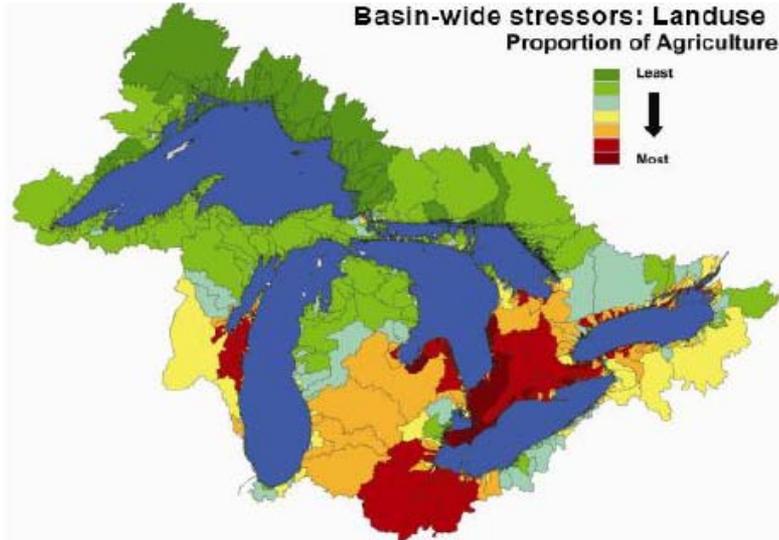
- SWRR history
- Principles of water sustainability
- Outreach activities
- Applications and case studies
- Highlights of national initiatives

Minnesota, October 2010 Workshop

- National initiatives
 - National Water Census (USGS)
 - Building collaborative relationships (USACE)
 - Charting new waters (Johnson Foundation)
- Framework for sustainable water management – University of MN
- State water planning – MN, CA
- Panel on Mississippi River
- Target Field



Minnesota, October 2010 Workshop



- Great Lakes initiatives
 - State of the Lakes Ecosystem Conference (Great Lakes National Program Office, USEPA)
 - Great Lakes Indicators Initiative (Natural Resources Research Institute, Univ. of MN)
 - Great Lakes Integrated Coastal Observing System (EPA Mid-Continent Ecology Division)
 - Great Lakes Water and Energy Initiative – Great Lakes Commission
- Industrial Stakeholder View – Council on Great Lakes Industries
- EcoCloud – Sustainable Silicon Valley

DC, April 2011 Workshop

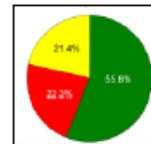
- Panel on the state of water information and indicators
 - Key national indicators project (NAS)
 - Use of indicators for national watershed condition assessment (UAFS)
 - National aquatic resources: using national indicators to assess rivers, streams, lakes, wetlands and coastal waters (EPA)
 - Update on national water census (USGS)

Biological Condition of the Nation's Lakes

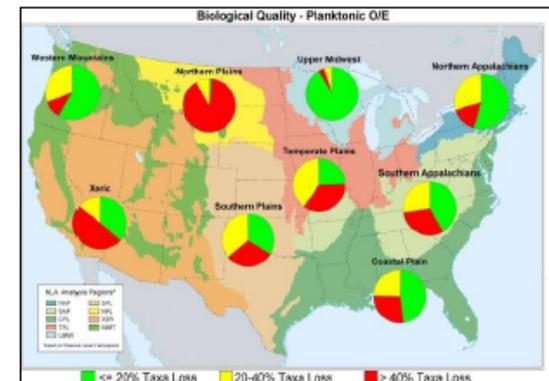
The most important stressors measured in lakes are poor lakeshore habitat and nutrients. Lakes with these problems are about 2.5 to 3 times more likely to have poor biology.

National Summary:

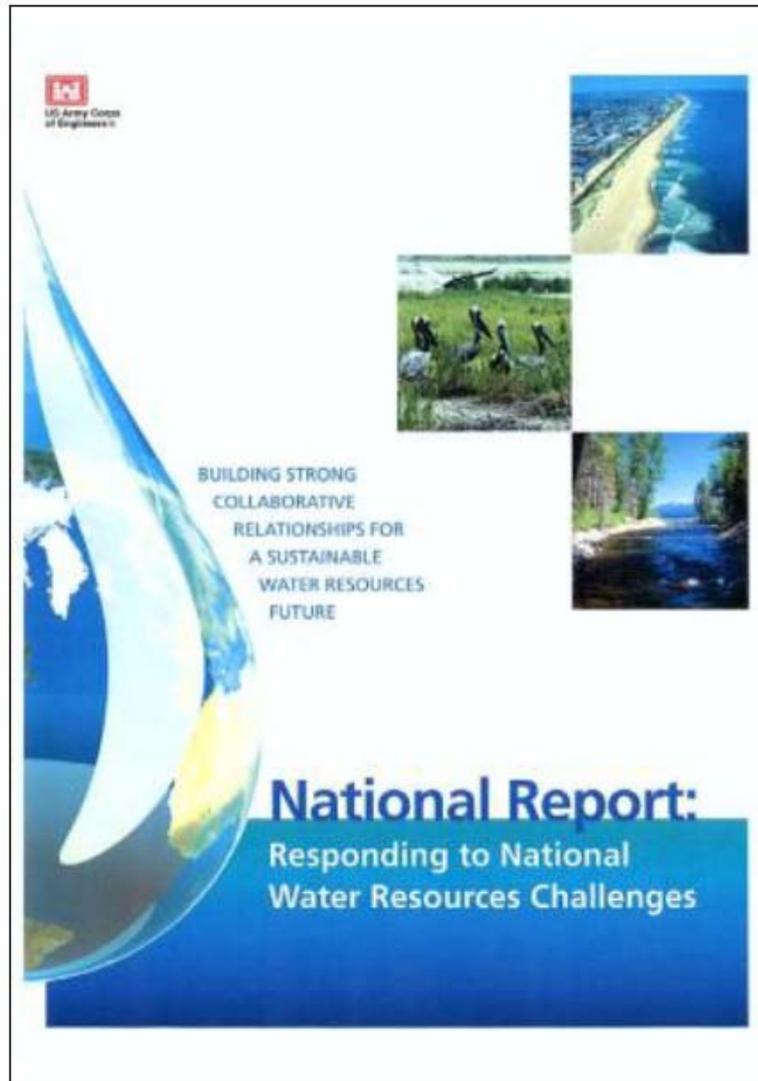
- 56% good
- 21% fair
- 17% poor



Assessment thresholds based on regionally explicit reference expectations.



DC, April 2011 Workshop



- Community efforts
- Federal-State collaboration panel (USACE, AWRA, WGA, USBLM)
- Industry water footprinting panel (World Business Council for Sustainable Development, LimnoTech, Council of Great Lakes Industries, Veolia Water, Coca Cola, Intel, Pacific Institute)
- Water soft paths
- Communication and public involvement

Changing Universe

- Federal agencies shift from passive to active role
- Industry changes
 - growing concern about water resource sustainability
 - recognition of ecosystem needs and that cannot take all of water
 - greater industry participation in SWRR than when it started
- Communication
 - Increasing expertise on communication of complex issues
 - Increased engagement of public and decision makers
 - Utilization of new technologies; e.g., web conferences and visual media

EcoCloud

ecoCloud – Features & Capabilities / What we heard from members

“A platform for cross-industry collaboration”

The diagram illustrates the 'Innovation Ecosystem' as a central hub, represented by an orange cloud. Surrounding this central hub are various features and capabilities of the ecoCloud platform, organized into several categories:

- Materials/Resource Exchange:**
 - Lots of links to relevant sites
- Metrics Benchmarks:**
 - Regulations
 - Compliance
- Guidance:**
 - Regulations
 - Compliance
- Email:**
 - Subscribe to topics
- Best Practices:**
 - Case Studies
 - What works!
- Templates:**
 - How to do it
- Videos / webinars:**
 - How to do it
- Consulting:**
 - How to do it
- Outreach:**
 - Builders / Architects
 - Project Managers
 - Company Execs
- Technology & Tools:**
 - Water trading / xchng
 - Smart metering / footprinting
- Profiles, Blogs / Wikis, Discussion Groups:**
 - Water trading / xchng
 - Smart metering / footprinting
- ROI Calculators:**
 - Environmental
 - Financial
- Collaborative Spaces:**
 - Water trading / xchng
 - Smart metering / footprinting

Source: ecoCloud Workshop held at SJSU

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Next Steps for the SWRR



- Continuing roundtable outreach
 - Building regional connections
 - Adding new private, nonprofit & public sector partners
- Refining the roundtable's sample indicators
 - Addressing sustainability and scale
 - Linking to national and regional indicator sets
- Collaboration with the National Water Census - David Berry invited to facilitate next meeting
- Encouraging and facilitating agency collaboration on their indicator efforts
- Next workshop in Sacramento in fall 2011
- Webcast workshops

Contact Information

SWRR Co-Chairs

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- Sustainable Water Resources Roundtable <http://acwi.gov/swrr>

