

Water Quality Framework: ATTAINS Redesign and Planning

A decorative graphic consisting of several horizontal lines of varying lengths and colors (teal, light blue, white) extending from the right side of the slide towards the center.

What is the Water Quality Framework

- The Water Quality Framework is a new way of thinking about how EPA's data and information systems can be better integrated to more effectively support water quality managers.
- **Goal:** to streamline water quality assessment and reporting while providing a more complete picture of the nation's water quality.



Framework Activities Over the Next Few Years (Phase 1)

- **Assessment/Restoration Plans**
 - Redesign of the way states provide assessment information and how the public accesses that data
- **Water Quality Measures**
 - Evaluate new approaches for measuring progress
- **Monitoring**
 - Support an improved assessment process
 - Provide means to support the sharing of continuous monitoring data
- **Public web presence**
 - Redesign public web interfaces to provide a complete picture on water quality

Framework Activities (Phase 2)

- **Actions**
 - **Following the successful demonstration of integration from Phase 1, we will then look at ways to integrate on-the-ground actions to water quality monitoring and assessments**
 - 319 Non-point source program
 - NPDES permits
 - State Revolving Fund
 - USDA Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
 - And many other potential activities

ATTAINS Redesign

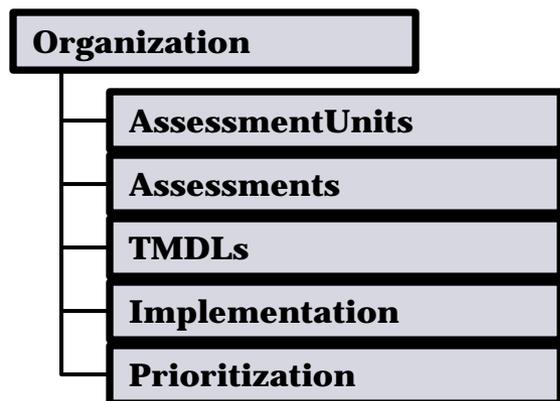
- ▶ **Recommendations from recent Retrospective Review of the 305(b)/303(d) Program:**
 - Identify tools to automate the processing and interpreting of ambient water quality data;
 - Transition to a complete electronic 305(b) and 303(d) reporting and electronic signatures for 303(d) approvals; and
 - Align the data systems with programmatic processes to track water quality improvement.
- ▶ **ATTAINS will be the first system to undergo modifications as part of the Water Quality Framework**



ATTAINS Planning

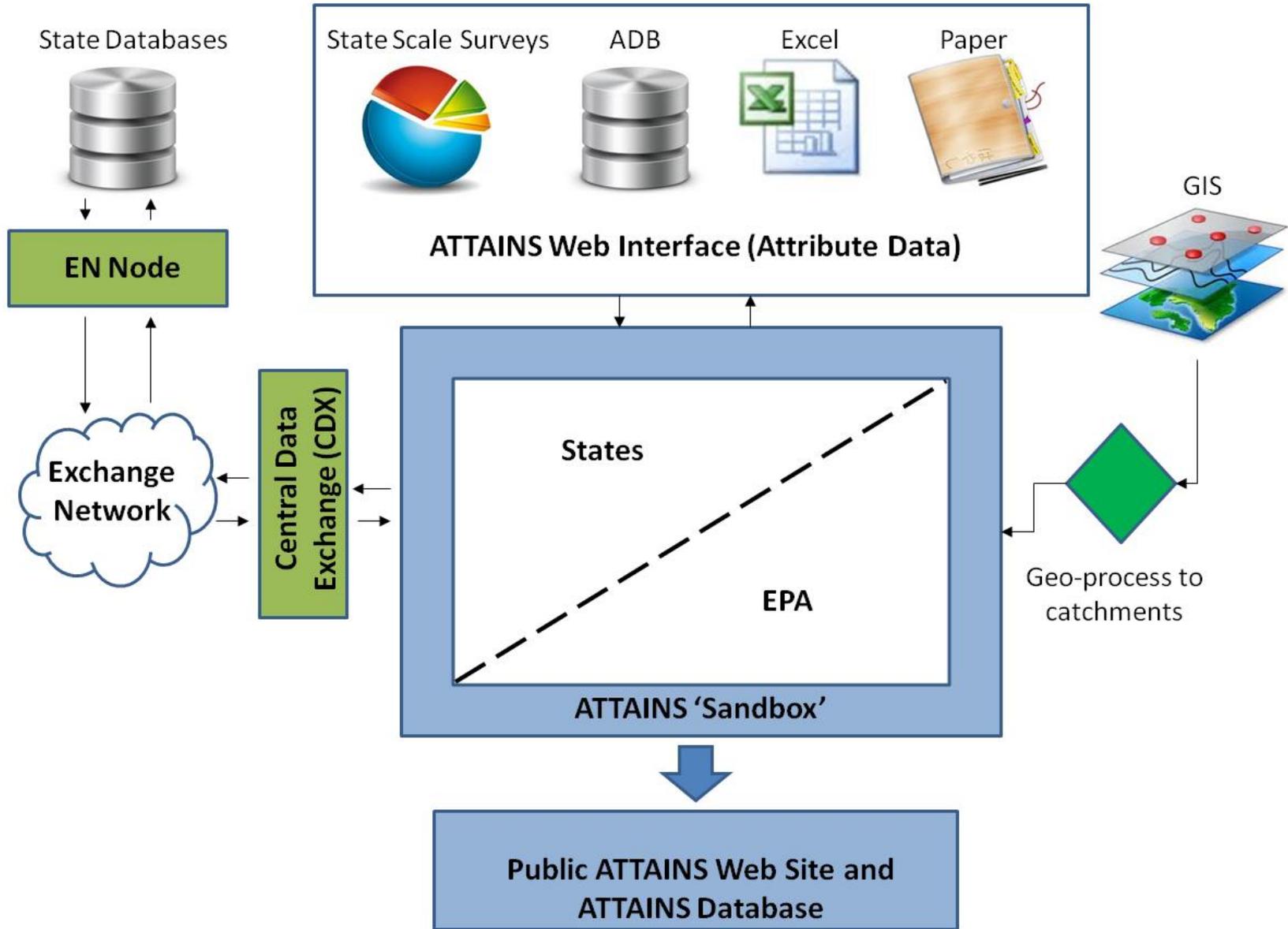
- EPA is creating 4 state/EPA workgroups to evaluate various aspects of the system:
 - Data Elements and Schema
 - Will define the core data elements and XML schema for exchanging IR Data (defines 'What' data will be exchanged)
 - Data Exchange Methodology
 - Defines 'how' the data will be exchanged as well as the design of the system
 - Performance Measures Evaluation
 - Evaluate current performance measures (SP-10, 11, 12) and make recommendations for adjustments
 - Improved Assessment Methods
 - Evaluate methods for developing automated screening tools for water quality assessments.
- EPA will establish a governance structure in coordination with ACWA and the states.

Developing Data Elements



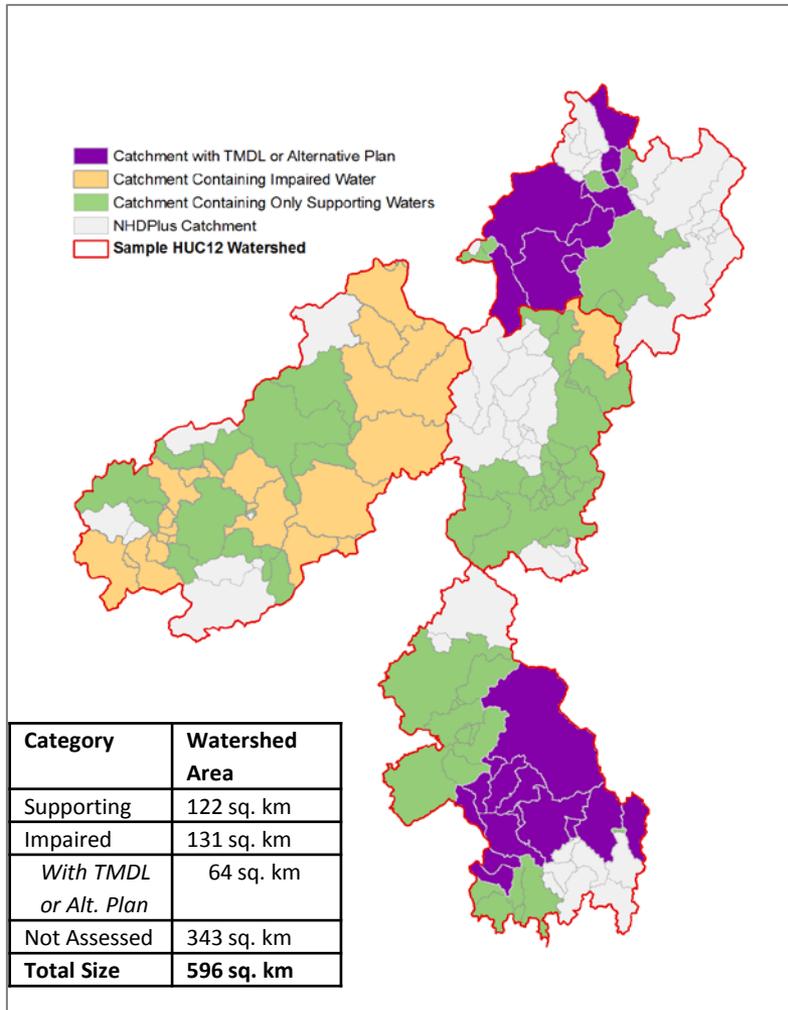
The data elements define how the data will be organized and what data and 'categories' of data can be shared

ATTAINS Redesign Proposed Approach

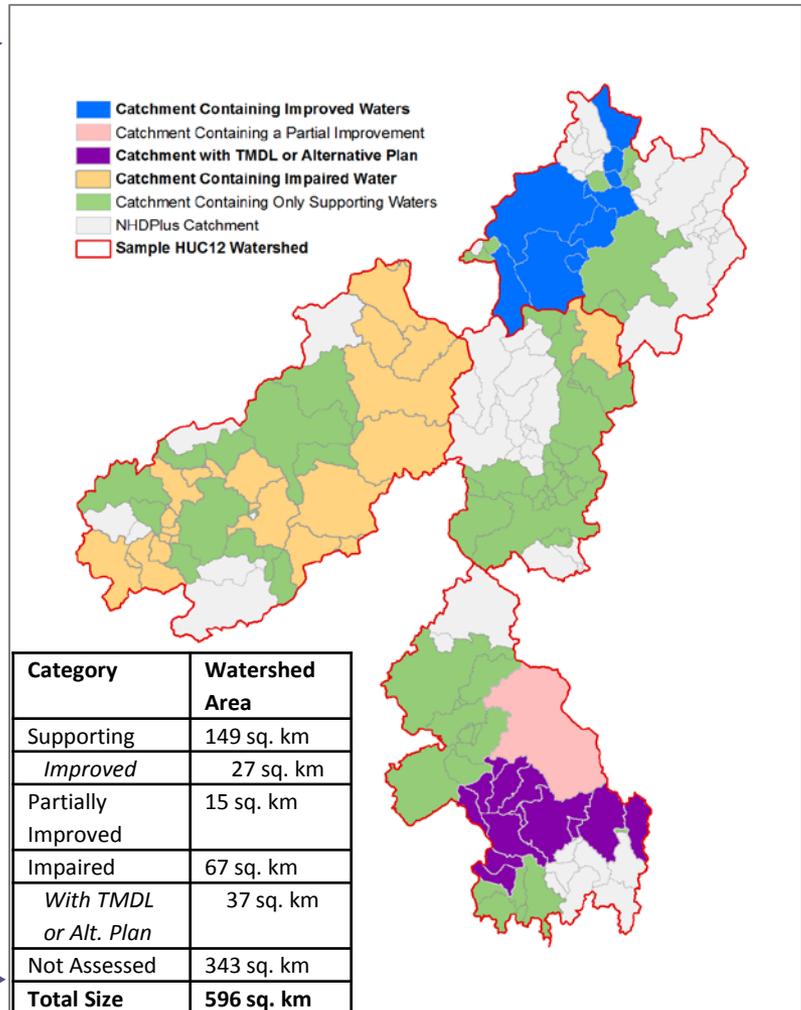


Using the Catchments to Track Progress

2010 303(d)/305(b) Integrated Report



2012 303(d)/305(b) Integrated Report



Framework Schedule (2014-2016)

2014

- Engage State Partners in Workgroups
- Evaluate New Performance Measures Options
- Make improvements to the methods used to process GIS data

2015

- Develop revised ATTAINS system
- Engage States to participate in ATTAINS redesign as a pilot effort
- Evaluate options for sharing continuous monitoring data

2016

- Release of the new ATTAINS System (Release 1)
- Work with State partners to submit data via ATTAINS for 2016 reporting cycle
- Use new approaches for measuring progress
- Revise ATTAINS public web site

Questions?

