

Summary

Yahara WINS Adaptive Management Pilot Project Work Plan (2012-2015)

Six Mile Creek Watershed

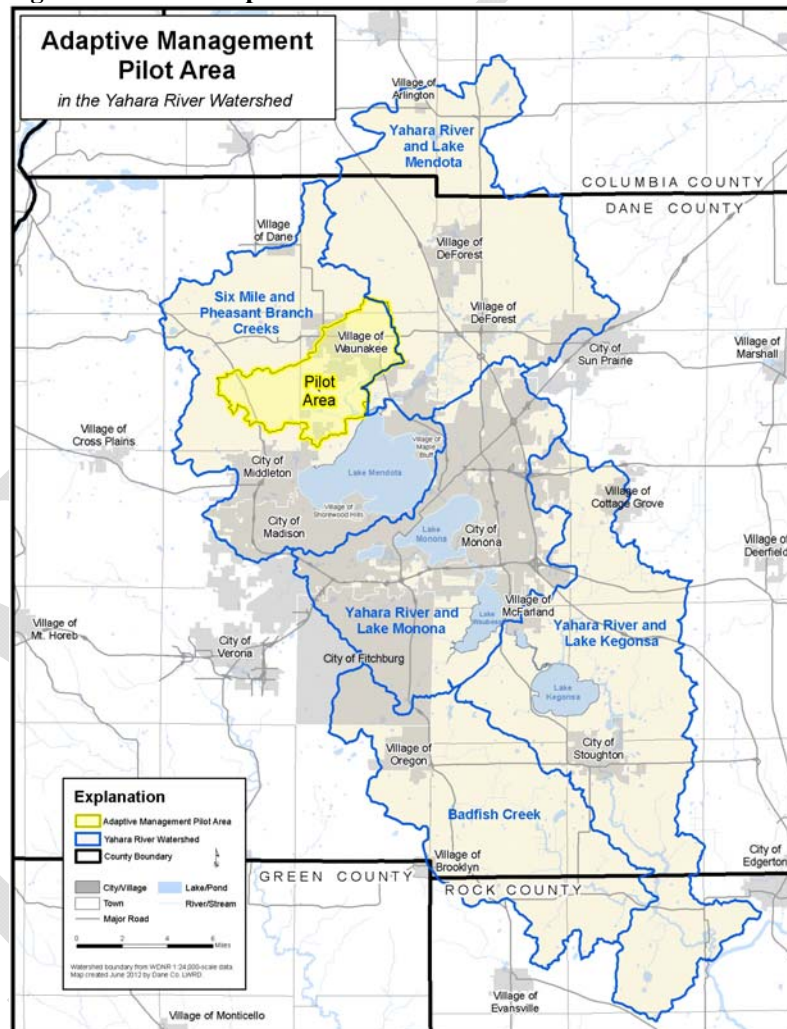
Purpose Statement

The purpose of this work plan is to determine baseline phosphorus loads, define the procedures that will be used to inventory nonpoint sources of phosphorus in the pilot project area, identify and target high priority areas, implement phosphorus reduction practices and verify the effectiveness of those practices.

Background

Watershed adaptive management is an innovative regulatory approach designed to achieve compliance with phosphorus water quality criteria in an efficient and cost effective manner. The adaptive management approach is being evaluated through a four year pilot project conducted in the Six Mile Creek subwatershed ("Pilot Area" - Figure 1).

Figure 1 Location of pilot watershed within the Yahara Watershed



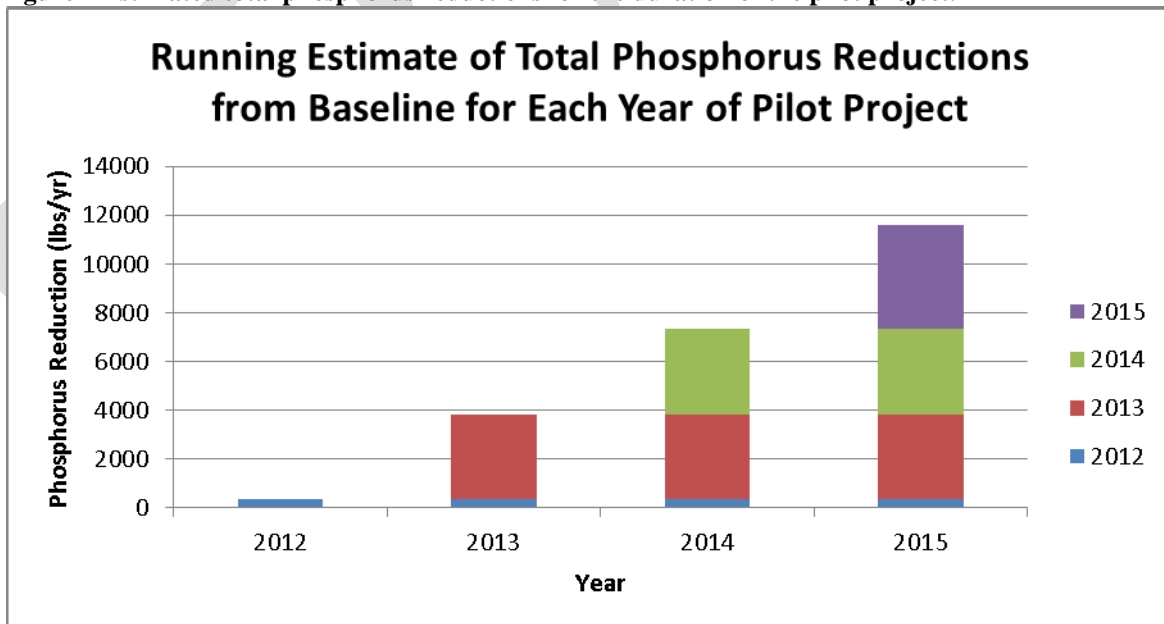
Knowledge gained and lessons learned through this pilot project will assist future efforts to expand the adaptive management concept to the entire Yahara watershed. For example, the pilot project will provide insight on:

- How to engage and unite with producers and agronomists in order to gather the information needed to develop and implement a strategic approach to reduce phosphorus losses.
- How to develop effective communication between all parties involved (producers, MOU participants, CLA, Farmer Pride Group, etc.)
- How to accurately calculate phosphorus losses, including refinement and development of tools (SNAP Plus, barnyard models, etc.)
- How to determine the most cost effective and acceptable phosphorus reducing conservation practices.
- How to track and store records efficiently and accurately for reporting and verification purposes.

Phosphorus Reduction Goal

The primary goal of this work plan is to lay out a systematic process for installing and maintaining best management practices that reduce the phosphorus loss from agricultural land in the pilot project area on average by approximately 1 pound/acre/year. Cumulative phosphorus reduction targets expressed in units of lbs/year are shown in Figure 2. This work plan includes a process for identifying and targeting fields that have a high phosphorus loss potential. While phosphorus reduction practices will be installed during each year of the pilot, the first year will necessarily have a heavy focus on accurately defining baseline phosphorus loads.

Figure 2 Estimated total phosphorus reductions for the duration of the pilot project.



Actions

A number of actions need to be taken to achieve the phosphorus reduction goal. These actions include:

- a) Developing a comprehensive inventory of nonpoint sources of phosphorus in the pilot watershed area.
- b) Establishing baseline conditions with respect to phosphorus loss.
- c) Identifying and prioritizing high phosphorus contributing areas.
- d) Implementing targeted practices designed to reduce phosphorus loss.
- e) Calculate phosphorus reductions.
- f) Verifying the effectiveness of phosphorus control practices and verifying that installed practices are being effectively maintained.

Tiered System

The work plan will use a tiered system to engage farm producers. The first tier will focus on inventorying farm practices and obtaining accurate baseline information on phosphorus loss. The second tier will focus on implementing phosphorus reduction practices. The third tier will focus on adding water management/engineered practices where appropriate. The system will allow for innovative phosphorus reduction practices to be advanced and funded. The tier system will also place a premium on attending conservation related educational/training courses.

Potential Timeline

[illegible]

Examples of potential practices to address resource concerns by source category and corresponding verification models.

