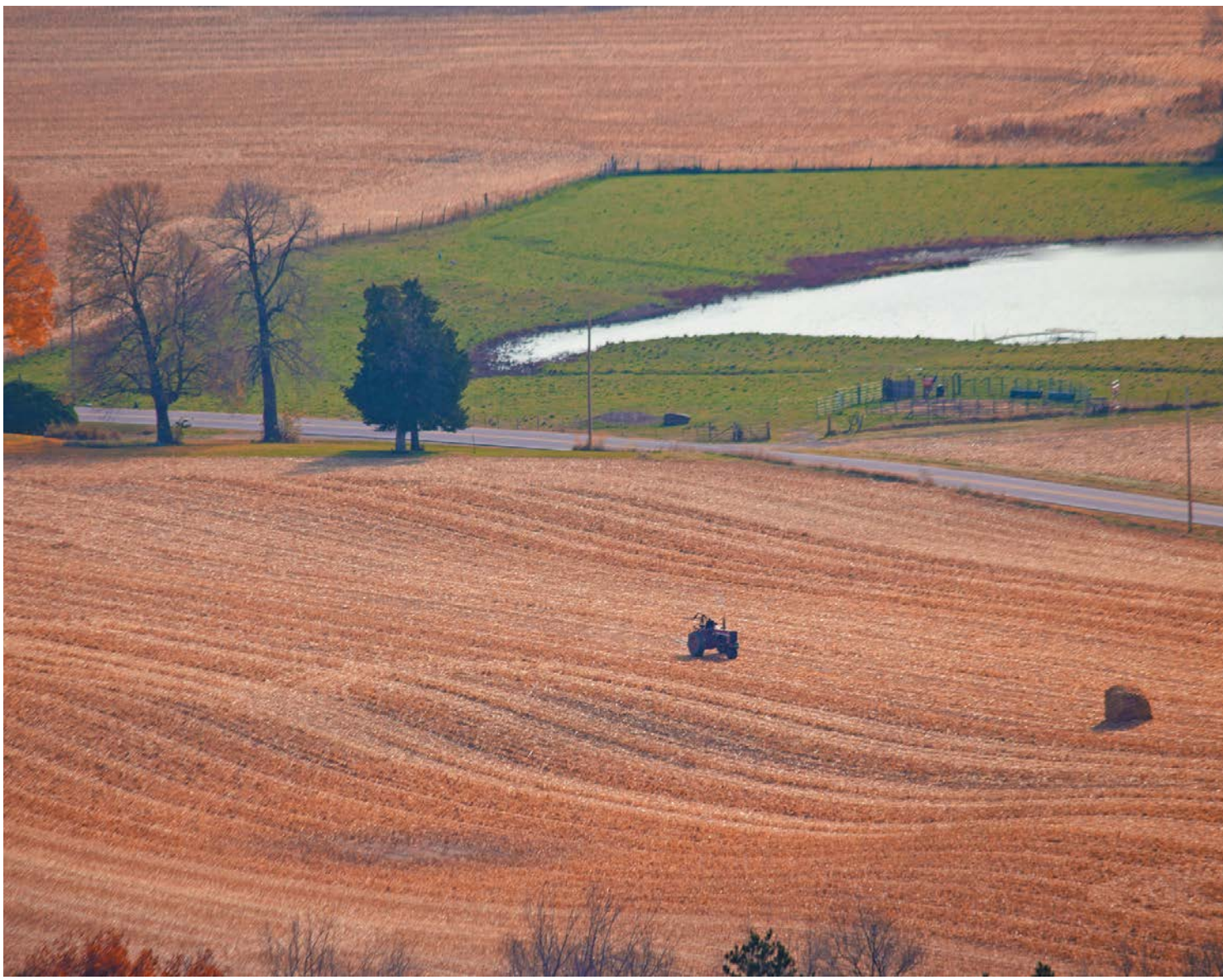
PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP

Advancing Nutrient Trading within the Circular Water Economy

Wednesday, May 28 | 10:00 am-4:00 pm | Monona Terrace, Halls MNQR

$30 with Annual Meeting Registration | $50 for Workshop Only | Limited Space



CO-HOSTED BY

Water Environment Federation®
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Nutrient Trading Pre-Conference Workshop

In response to the challenges posed by nutrient pollution, some states have implemented water quality trading programs. These programs allow regulated entities to buy offsets for permit compliance. Generally, these programs will remove more nutrients from watersheds as a whole than what is required in effluent limits.

Wisconsin and Iowa have been at the forefront of water quality trading in the Midwest. These programs have focused on reducing nutrient pollution in the Mississippi River Basin. By creating a market for pollution credits, these states have encouraged innovative and cost-effective solutions to water quality problems.

Wisconsin's Nutrient Trading Program: This program allows point source dischargers to buy and sell nutrient credits, which can be generated through various measures, including advanced wastewater treatment technologies, agricultural best management practices, and wetland restoration.

Iowa's Nutrient Reduction Strategy: Iowa has implemented a comprehensive strategy to reduce nutrient pollution, including a nutrient trading program that allows farmers to generate and sell nutrient reduction credits.

Now Illinois is beginning a water quality trading program. This new approach offers WWTP's Nutrient Reduction Offset Credits for reducing nutrient pollution through the implementation of landscape best management practices. These credits can be used to offset future nutrient discharge limits in its NPDES permits. This creates a partnership between the Districts and area farmers and landowners, and promotes early adoption by including a "nutrient bank" for use in future permit years.

"As we continue to face increasing pressures on our water resources, it is essential to adopt a holistic perspective that considers the interconnectedness of our waterways."

Join us for a dynamic workshop focused on nutrient trading, addressing agricultural nutrient management through the circular water economy. Nutrient trading is a market-based approach to reduce nutrients in water bodies by allowing wastewater treatment plants to obtain nutrient reduction credits from farmers and landowners. This system enables entities that can reduce pollutants at lower costs to sell credits to those facing higher reduction costs (EPA).

This event will highlight challenges around nutrient reduction within the framework of the *Clean Water Act* and existing nutrient trading programs, foster a better understanding of the challenges of farmers, and begin conversations around concrete solutions to the existing problems. Experts from IL, WI, and other states in the Mississippi River basin will present their nutrient reduction strategies, offering insights into successful policies and practices.

We will examine the science and effectiveness of this approach, implementation in three States, and provide opportunity to take immediate action towards setting up your own opportunities. The watershed approach to water quality management has proven to be a valuable tool in addressing complex environmental challenges. As we continue to face increasing pressures on our water resources, it is essential to adopt a holistic perspective that considers the interconnectedness of our waterways.

This workshop offers unique opportunities for wastewater treatment plant representatives, industry, farmers, landowners and regulators to collaborate and explore actionable solutions for water quality issues.

Workshop Goals

1. Identify concrete lessons in nutrient trading you can implement in your operation.
2. Create multiple connections to follow up on implementation of a watershed-focused program.
3. Help determine opportunities for national water quality efforts.

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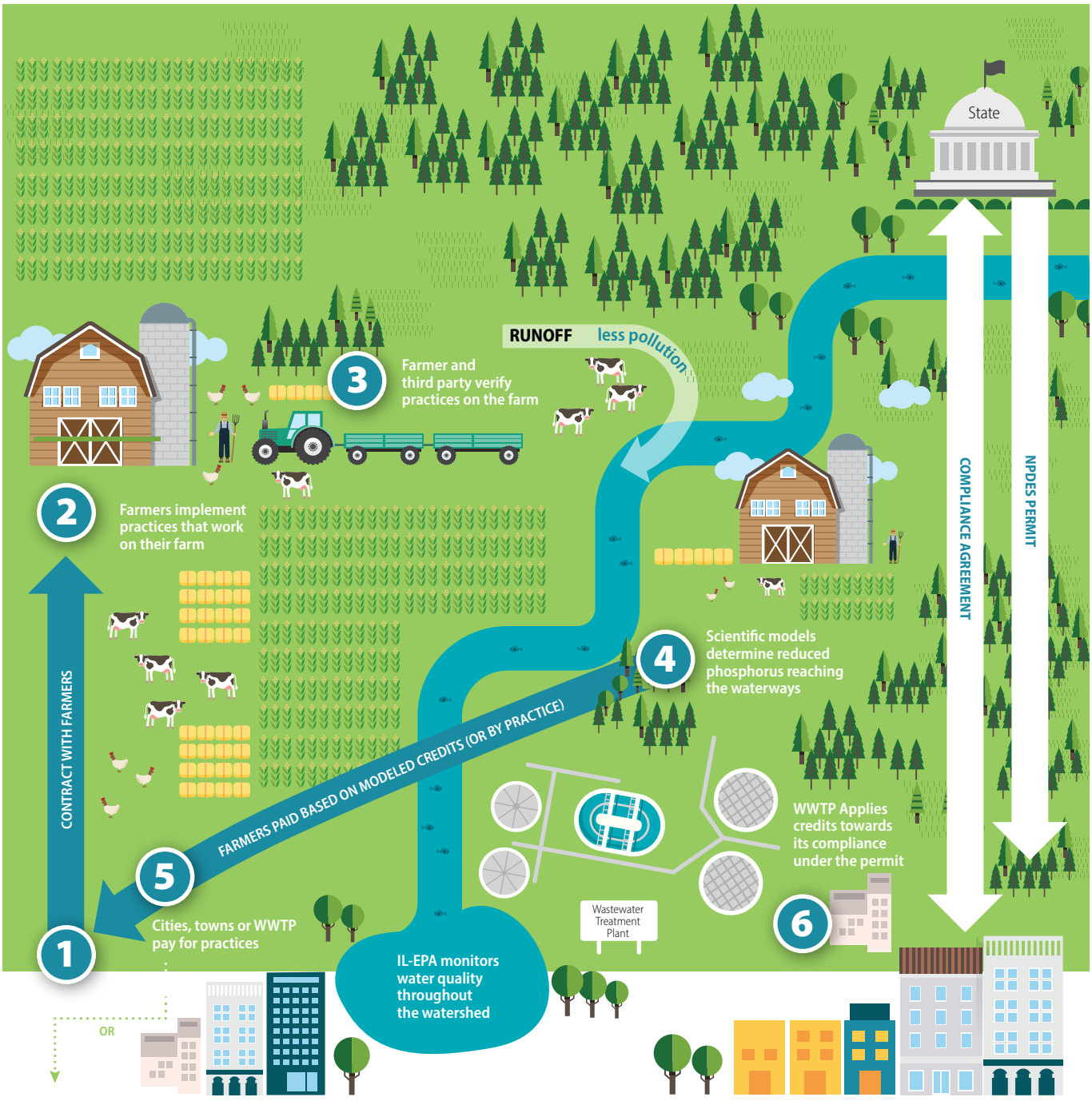

PAY FOR SUCCESS

This performance-based approach allows contracting for nutrient reduction outcomes that meet state standards and that result from farmer-selected conservation practices.

Payments are made to farmers after outcomes are certified as **credits**. This differs from the standard NRCS payment scheme which pays for a practice.

REGULATOR-PERMITTEE AGREEMENTS

Formal agreements between state agencies and local government are critical to define what, when, and how outcomes will be counted, leaving local government with the freedom to decide how much watershed-based work to include in their compliance plan.

AGENDA

10:00 am-11:00 am | Molecular Circularity and the Gulf of Hypoxia

- 10:00 am-10:30 am | Molecular Circularity
  Chemical composition/description of water, nitrogen, phosphorus –
  1. Wastewater treatment system
  2. Cyanobacteria plant growth – harmful algae blooms.
  University of Wisconsin-Madison
- 10:30 am-11:00 am | Gulf of Hypoxia
  The second largest zone of coastal hypoxia (oxygen-depleted waters) in the world is found on the Northern Gulf of Mexico, adjacent to the outflows of the Mississippi and Atchafalaya Rivers. The zone is set to increase by 5%. (ResearchGate).
  Upper Mississippi River Basin Association (UMBRA)

11:00 am-12:00 pm | Mississippi River Basin Perspectives

- 11:00 am-11:45 am | Panel Discussion with Local Representatives
  Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
  Northern Moraine WRD
  Other Speakers TBA
- 11:45 am-12:00 pm | Q&A with the Audience

12:00 pm-1:00 pm | Lunch Spotlight: Walton Family Foundation

1:00 pm-2:00 pm | Circular Water and Existing Solutions

- 1:00 pm-1:10 pm | Overview of circular water economy as the framework aimed at improving water sustainability – closing water loops by reducing waste, reusing water, and optimizing nutrient cycles.
  Water Environment Federation
- 1:10 pm-1:45 pm | Panel Discussion: A Look at Biosolids, Watersheds, Public-Private-Partnerships
  Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District
  Other speakers TBA
- 1:45 pm-2:00 pm | Q&A with the Audience

2:00 pm-2:15 pm | Coffee Break

2:15 pm-3:45 pm | Pathway Dialogues

- 2:15 pm-2:45 pm | Rapid Exchanges | 6 minutes each
  Iowa Department of Natural Resources
  Wisconsin Department of Natural Resource
  Other speakers TBA
- 2:45 pm-3:45 pm| World Cafe (Report-Out)
  Round-table discussions with reports of the talks.

3:45 pm-4:00 pm | Closing and Next Steps