

5 YEARS OF WLEB PROJECTS

1 Healthy Soils, Healthy Waters
Establishing Michigan's soil health criteria for regenerative agriculture and downstream water quality



2 Agrograph Conservation Tillage and Crop Residue Retrospective Analysis
Uncovering the field-scale links between tillage and downstream water quality



3 Drainage Water Management Edge-of-Field Research Project
Investigating the impact of tile line management on phosphorus runoff



5 USGS Gage Station Deployment Saline River Headwaters
Establishing new water quality monitoring capacity in a priority subwatershed



4 Investigating Cover Crop Planting Methods for Establishment Success
Breaking down barriers to cover crop adoption through research and education



6 Stony Creek Community Conservation Plan
Gathering local insight into conservation practice adoption barriers and motivators



7 WLEB Expanded Water Quality Monitoring Program
Understanding land-water dynamics and nutrient transport via high fidelity water quality monitoring



8 Western Lake Erie Basin Performance-based Conservation Adoption Program
Incentivizing management practices based on phosphorus reduction outcomes



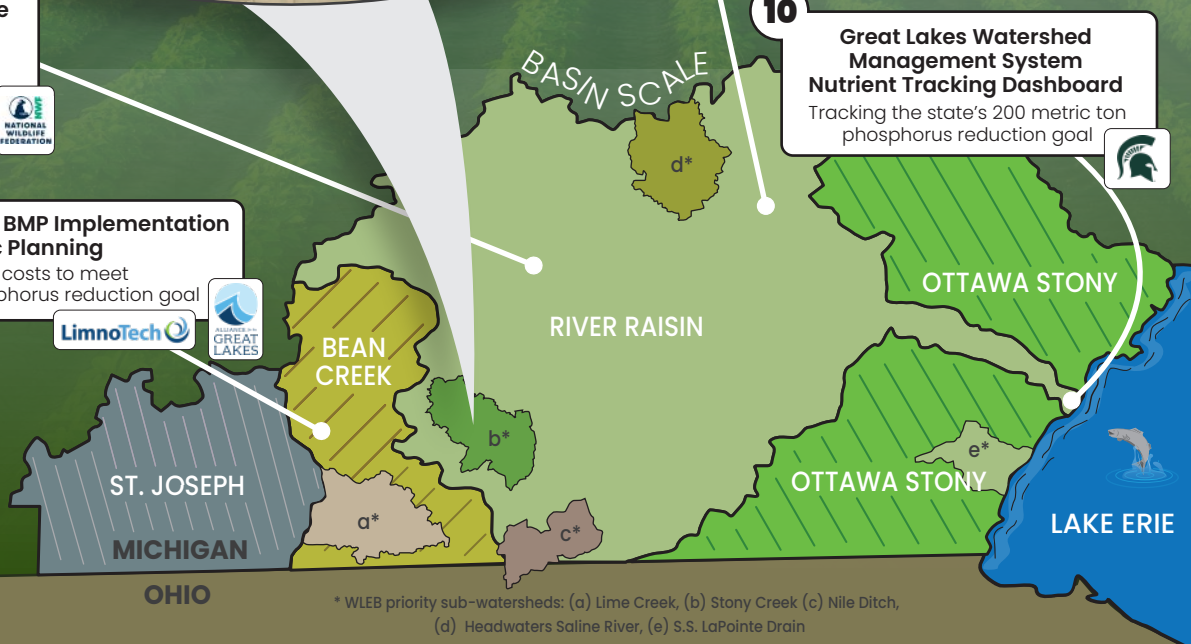
9 WLEB Theory of Change
Building a roadmap to increase adoption of conservation practices



11 Magnitude & Cost of BMP Implementation Strategic Planning
Assessing the costs to meet Michigan's 40% phosphorus reduction goal



10 Great Lakes Watershed Management System Nutrient Tracking Dashboard
Tracking the state's 200 metric ton phosphorus reduction goal



* WLEB priority sub-watersheds: (a) Lime Creek, (b) Stony Creek (c) Nile Ditch, (d) Headwaters Saline River, (e) S.S. LaPointe Drain

The Western Lake Erie Basin Program, established through Public Act 87 of 2021 and funded with a \$25 million public investment, is Michigan's largest effort to improve water quality through voluntary agricultural conservation. With efforts from multiple state agencies and several external partners, the program has expanded water monitoring, strengthened producer engagement, and advanced planning tools in the region. Together, the following 11 projects are driving targeted phosphorus load reductions across the basin.

(1) Healthy Soils, Healthy Waters (Michigan State University)

- Funding: \$4,013,324
- Timeline: 7/1/24 – 4/30/29
- Summary: Establishing Michigan's soil health criteria for regenerative agriculture and downstream water quality

(2) Agrograph Conservation Tillage and Crop Residue Retrospective Analysis (Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy)

- Funding: \$100,000
- Timeline: 2/3/25 – 4/30/25
- Summary: Uncovering the field-scale links between tillage practices and downstream water quality

(3) Drainage Water Management Edge-of-Field Research Project (Michigan State University)

- Funding: \$1,157,858
- Timeline: 12/21/22 – 12/31/26
- Summary: Investigating the impact of tile line management on phosphorus runoff

(4) Investigating Cover Crop Planting Methods for Establishment Success (Michigan State University Extension)

- Funding: \$41,025
- Timeline: 6/1/24 – 12/31/26
- Summary: Breaking down barriers to cover crop adoption through research and education

(5) USGS Gage Station Deployment Saline River Headwaters (Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy)

- Funding: \$313,357
- Timeline: 10/1/23 – 9/30/27
- Summary: Establishing new water quality monitoring capacity in a priority subwatershed

(6) Community Conservation: A Watershed Management Plan for Stony Creek (University of Michigan)

- Funding: \$25,000
- Timeline: 6/1/23 – 4/31/24
- Summary: Gathered local insight into conservation practice adoption barriers and motivators

(7) WLEB Expanded Water Quality Monitoring Program (Alliance for the Great Lakes)

- Funding: \$4,861,534
- Timeline: 3/1/24 – 9/30/28
- Summary: Understanding land-water dynamics and nutrient transport via high-fidelity water quality monitoring

(8) Western Lake Erie Basin Performance-based Conservation Adoption Program (Michigan State University)

- Funding: \$11,983,107
- Timeline: 6/1/25 – 5/31/32
- Summary: Incentivizing management practices according to phosphorus reduction outcomes

(9) WLEB Theory of Change (National Wildlife Federation)

- Funding: \$46,562
- Timeline: 1/1/26 – 6/30/26
- Summary: Building the engagement roadmap to increase adoption of conservation practices

(10) Great Lakes Watershed Management System – Nutrient Tracking Dashboard (Michigan State University)

- Funding: \$305,638
- Timeline: 4/1/2023 – 9/30/26
- Summary: Tracking the state's 200 metric ton total phosphorus reduction goal

(11) Magnitude & Cost of Best Management Practices Implementation Strategic Planning (Alliance for the Great Lakes)

- Funding: \$53,600
- Timeline: 11/8/23 – 3/31/24
- Summary: Assessing the costs to meet Michigan's 40% total phosphorus reduction goal