

Priority Action Step Recommendations

Nonpoint Source Strategy Team

October 14, 2005

Federal

- Action: Increase funding, through a new Great Lakes Regional Farm Bill, for existing USDA programs that address wetlands and buffer construction, as well as the reduction in nutrients from concentrated animal feeding operations. Most of these programs will require a state or local funding match
- Lead Agency: USDA/utilizing existing programs
- Other Partners: Multiple Federal, Tribal, State, and Local agencies
- Estimated Cost: Wetlands \$220 M
Buffers \$134 M
Nutrients \$40 M
- Milestones: Net gain of 200,000 acres of wetlands by 2009
Net gain of 134,000 acres of buffers by 2009
Develop and implement comprehensive nutrient management plans at 6,000 new farms by 2009
- Action: Create a new grant program, or modify existing programs, to assist urban centers in controlling nonpoint source pollution and correcting altered hydrologies through low impact development and green infrastructure, including green roofs, permeable surfaces, rain gardens, and stormwater re-use.
- Lead Agency: USEPA
- Other Partners: Multiple Federal, State, and Local agencies
- Estimated Cost: \$40 M for the first 2 years of the program
- Action: Pass the Clean Water Authority Restoration Act to protect isolated wetlands
- Action: Streamline the permitting process for wetlands restoration projects, including the Army Corps of Engineers and USEPA
- Action: Include an emphasis on wetlands/buffer protection and restoration in the 2007 Farm Bill

State

- Action: Pass legislation to protect isolated wetlands
- Action: Streamline the permitting process for state wetlands restoration projects
- Action: Review/change tax codes to create an incentive for conservation of wetlands, buffers, and open space
- Action: Emphasize protection by providing the commitment that restrictions on coastal wetland regulations will not be weakened and will be strictly enforced
- Action: Review/change building codes to remove barriers to green building and low impact development
- Action: Certify staff and private contractors to conduct and review nutrient management plans
- Action: Conduct ecosystem monitoring to evaluate success of programs
- Action: Ensure that there are matching funds available for federal programs, where applicable

Local

- Action: Review/change zoning codes and planning documents to reflect the importance of wetlands, buffers and open space for stormwater management
- Action: Promote buffers through setback ordinances
- Action: Review/change building codes to remove barriers to green building and low impact development
- Action: Implement broad public education campaigns about nonpoint source pollution
- Action: Conduct outreach to farmers with respect to nutrient management plans
- Action: Ensure that there are matching funds available for federal programs, where applicable