

ILLINOIS STATEWIDE NUTRIENT LOSS REDUCTION STRATEGY DRAFT REVIEW

IEPA offices, Springfield

19 May 2014

AGENDA

- Welcome and Introduction
 - Meeting Structure
 - Commenting Policy
- Review Chapters I-VII
- LUNCH—ON YOUR OWN (1 HOUR)
- Review Chapters VIII-XIII
- Final Questions
 - Timeline and comments reminder

MEETING STRUCTURE

- Discuss chapter summary
 - Fill out missing elements
 - Collect Policy Working Group member input
 - Address attendee questions

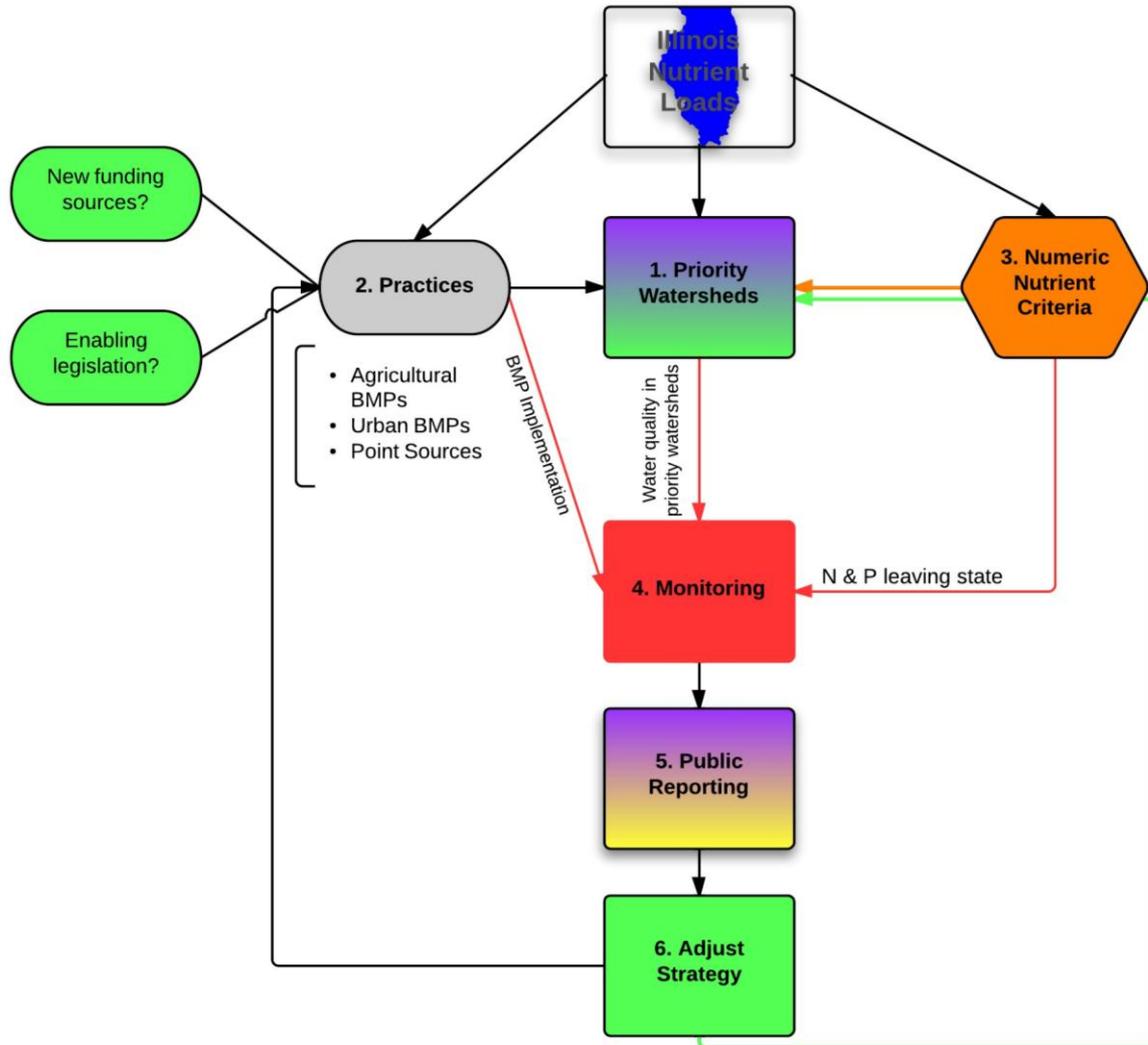
COMMENTS POLICY

- Policy Working Group members:
 - Suggested changes in the Word document of the strategy draft
 - Track changes
 - Save with last name in file name
 - Send to cmlay@illinois.edu by **MAY 30!**
- Non-members:
 - Coordinate with Policy Working Group member to submit comments
 - Or send a letter to appropriate agency
- Please be specific and provide details for proposed changes

TIMELINE

- Comments to Corrie Layfield by May 30!
- IEPA and IDA will adjust strategy
- IWRC will edit and format
- Draft out to Public Comment period in July
- Final adjustments made
- NLRS to USEPA by early September
- Outreach and Implementation
- 45% nutrient load reduction achieved!

Strategy Overview



Chapter I: Introduction

- Lays out the structure of the working group
- Describes the federal and state motivation to develop a nutrient reduction strategy
- Administrative and regulatory grounding of the strategy, as based on Clean Water Act programs and statutes, is explained

Chapter I: Introduction

- Changed name from Nutrient Reduction Strategy to Nutrient LOSS Reduction Strategy
 - Questions/concerns?

Chapter II: Science Assessment

- Has undergone peer-review and been updated
- Concerns about the SA should be addressed to Dr. Mark David

Chapter III: Watershed Prioritization

- Watersheds selected where nutrient reduction efforts are most likely to yield the greatest benefits
- Identified using Science Assessment and IEPA data
- Priority watershed status = funding and implementation activities may be more specifically targeted toward those locations
- Work to reduce agricultural non-point source losses in previously-identified priority watersheds will continue and inform actions to be taken in these new priority watersheds.

Chapter III: Watershed Prioritization

- New additions since previous meeting discussion: NRCS active watersheds
- Questions:
 - Are there any lingering questions about how the prioritization was developed?
 - Is the strategy clear about what priority watershed status means and how it will be applied?

Chapter IV: Goals and Milestones

- Guided by the federal *Gulf Hypoxia Action Plan 2008*, the Illinois Science Assessment, and the Policy Working Group.
- Reduce P by 25% by 2025
- N by 15% by 2025.
- Implementation will continue until loading of N and P is reduced by 45%

Chapter IV: Goals and Milestones

- Are specific items still needed in this section?

Chapter V: Key Nutrient Reduction Programs

- Obviously some programs are missing.
 - What programs still need to be included?
 - (ex. The Nature Conservancy, Trees Forever)
 - Can you supply Corrie with a contact for those programs?
- Other questions, comments, concerns?

Chapter VI: Point Sources

- Point source permits are issued by the Illinois EPA to control pollution loads in discharges from wastewater treatment plants and some industries.
 - Water quality standards
 - Nutrient reduction feasibility plans
 - Watershed groups
 - Compliance options

Chapter VI: Point Sources

- General questions about this section?
- Don't forget: specific comments and changes should be noted in the Word document (saved with your last name in the file name, and send to cmlay@illinois.edu by May 30!)

Chapter VII: Agricultural Areas

- Nutrient loss from farm fields is a primary contributor to high nutrient levels in local waterways.
- This section recommends:
 - Increased collaboration among federal and state cost-share programs to support voluntary implementation of BMPs
 - Outreach and education to involve individual farmers in addressing nutrient losses.
 - Research priorities
 - Economic strategies

Chapter VII: Agricultural Areas

- Implementation:
 - Cost-share Coordination Subcommittee of the NRCS State Technical Committee
 - Agriculture Water Quality Certification Exploratory Committee?
 - Outreach and Education Steering and Coordinating Committee?

Chapter VII: Agricultural Areas

- Agriculture Water Quality Certification Exploratory Committee?
 - Support for additional study expressed at Agriculture NPS subcommittee meetings
 - Concept: Producer implements various BMPs, reviewed by an independent certifier (i.e. Technical Advisor, Extension, CCA), if certified receives something like priority in cost-share/regulatory certainty/public recognition for efforts.
 - Should this committee be developed and included in the strategy?

Chapter VII: Agricultural Areas

- Agriculture Water Quality Certification Exploratory Committee?
 - Who should be on this committee?
 - Ex. CBMP, NRCS, IDA, SWCD, Environmental NGOs
 - What timeline should they have (i.e., six months, two years, five years, etc.)
 - Should IDA be the convening agency?

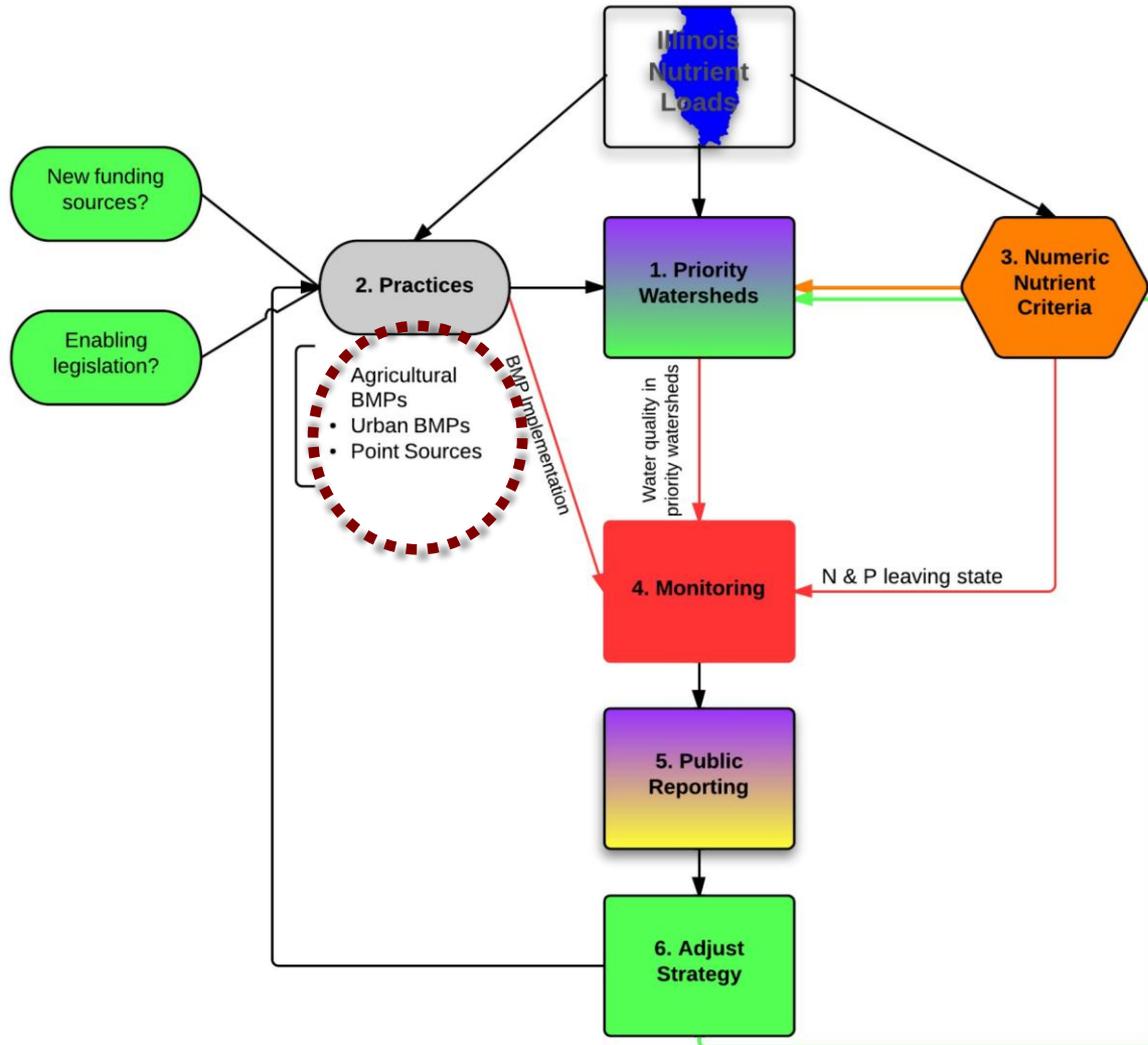
Chapter VII: Agricultural Areas

- Outreach and Education Steering and Coordinating Committee?
 - Support expressed at Ag NPS subcommittee meetings
 - Concept: Improve collaboration among industry initiatives (N-Watch, KIC), CCA continuing education requirements, state initiatives, and other technical service providers to raise visibility of programs and help producers see value of their BMP implementation

Chapter VII: Agricultural Areas

- Outreach and Education Steering and Coordinating Committee?
 - Should this committee be included in the strategy?
 - Who should be on it?
 - Convening agency?
 - Timeline?

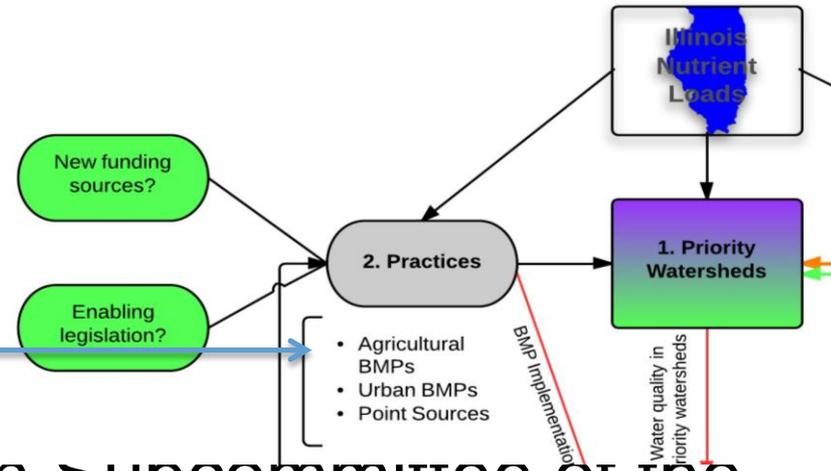
Strategy Overview



Strategy Overview

Ag BMP's

- Cost Share
 - Cost-share Coordination subcommittee of the NRCS State Technical Committee
- Certified Comprehensive Mgmt. Plan
 - Agriculture Water Quality Certification Exploratory Committee
- Outreach and Education
 - Outreach and Education Steering and Coordinating Committee



LUNCHTIME

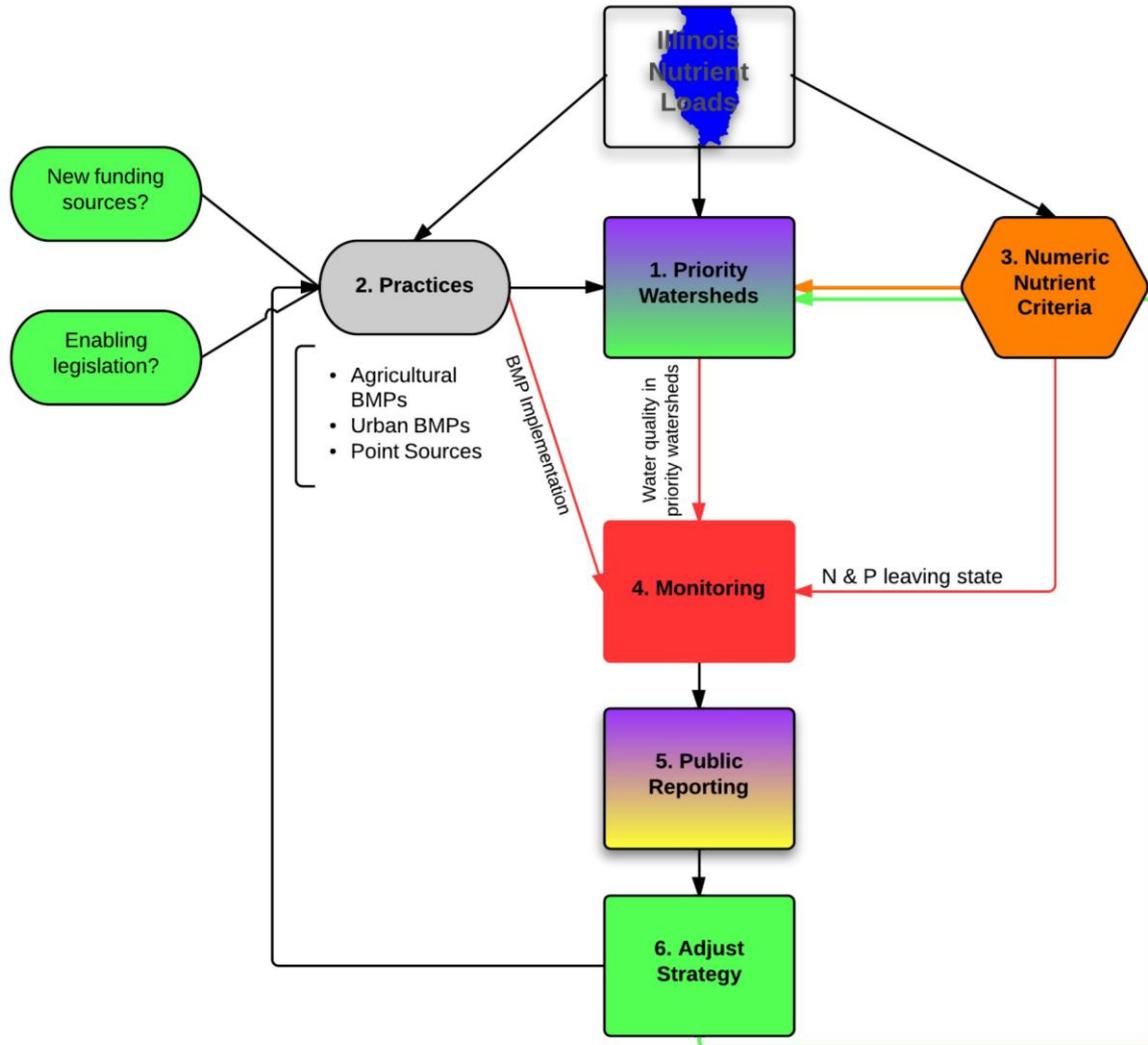
**PLEASE BE BACK IN 1
HOUR**

***(you may bring your lunch
back with you)***

Chapter VIII: Stormwater

- Urban nonpoint source pollution is a small contributor to Illinois's total nutrient loading; it can be a primary source of waterway impairments in local areas.
- Gains in water quality may come through improved funding/support for:
 - Green infrastructure
 - Training for MS4 programs
 - Improved monitoring
 - Legislative gaps

Strategy Overview



Chapter VIII: Stormwater

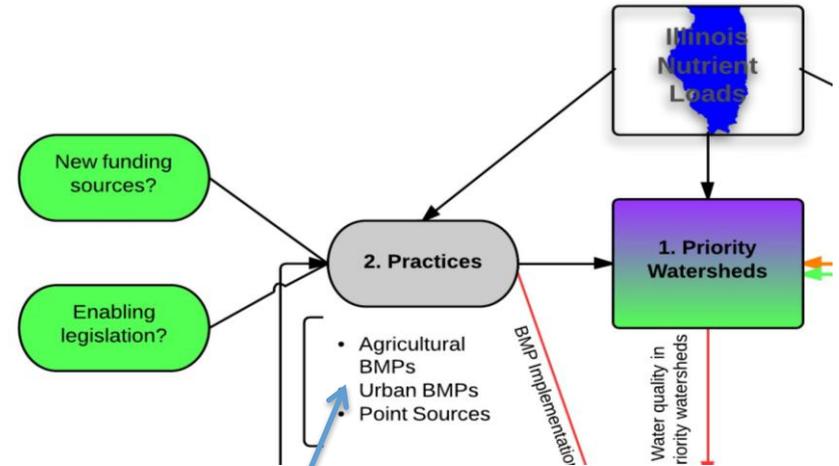
- There is not an obvious implementation mechanism for urban NPS:
 - Should an urban stormwater workgroup be developed in the strategy?
 - Is there existing infrastructure on which the workgroup can build?
 - Who should be in this workgroup?
 - What should it be called?

Strategy Overview

Urban Bmp's

Coordination of Green infrastructure, Training, Improved monitoring, Legislative gaps

– Urban Stormwater Working Group?



Chapter IX: Accountability and Verification Measures

- Track existing program reports and calculate nutrient load reductions using the approaches developed by the Illinois Science Assessment.
- This section identifies the data reported by Illinois agencies
- Proposes the establishment of a **Nutrient Monitoring Council** to collaborate on data collection, better share data across organizations, and track nutrient loading patterns.

Chapter IX: Accountability and Verification Measures

- Questions?
- Concerns?

Chapter X: Public Reporting

- Success and challenges in achieving nutrient reduction will be shared through:
 - annual reports published on the Illinois EPA website
 - annual meeting
 - Water quality information will also be shared in Illinois's biennial Integrated Report to the U.S. EPA

Chapter X: Public Reporting

- Are those reporting measures sufficient to apprise the public about nutrient loss reduction in Illinois?
 - If not, what should be added?
 - Why?

Chapter XI: Numeric Nutrient Criteria

- A Numeric Criteria Science Advisory Committee is proposed to develop appropriate criteria, ideally at the watershed level with a proposed timeline

Dates	Action
September – December 2014	Selection of Science Advisory Committee Members
January 2015—June 2016	Science Advisory Committee Conducts Review
July 2016	Science Advisory Committee Presents Determination(s)
August 2016—November 2016	Outreach/Discussion Among Stakeholders
December 2016 –March 2017	Illinois EPA Develops Rulemaking Package
April 2017	Illinois EPA Files Rule(s) With Illinois Pollution Control Board

Chapter XI: Numeric Nutrient Criteria

- This proposal meets the Stoner Memo suggestions and moves Illinois in a direction to achieve specific criteria:
 - Are there any additional concerns about this proposed approach?
 - How would you propose to develop criteria in a scientifically defensible manner?

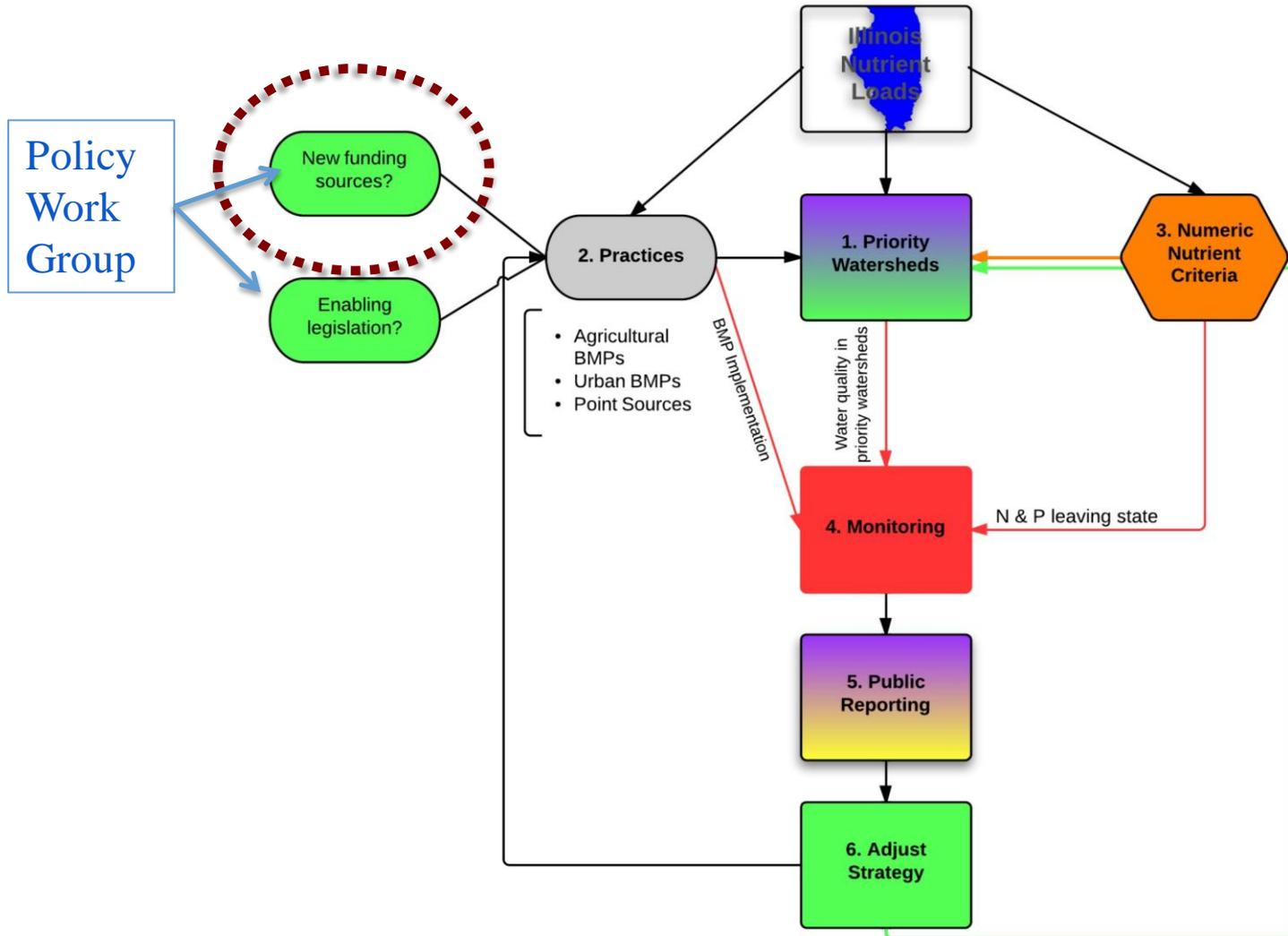
Chapter XII: Funding

- Clean Water Initiative was expanded to make non-point source projects eligible for loan funding
- Efforts are underway to include more nutrient reduction projects for funding consideration under existing programs.
- Additional collaboration among local, state, and federal organizations will help maximize current funding.

Chapter XII: Funding

- Funding possibilities also listed in Ag and Urban NPS Chapters
- What is the mechanism to continue exploring funding alternatives during the implementation phase?

Strategy Overview



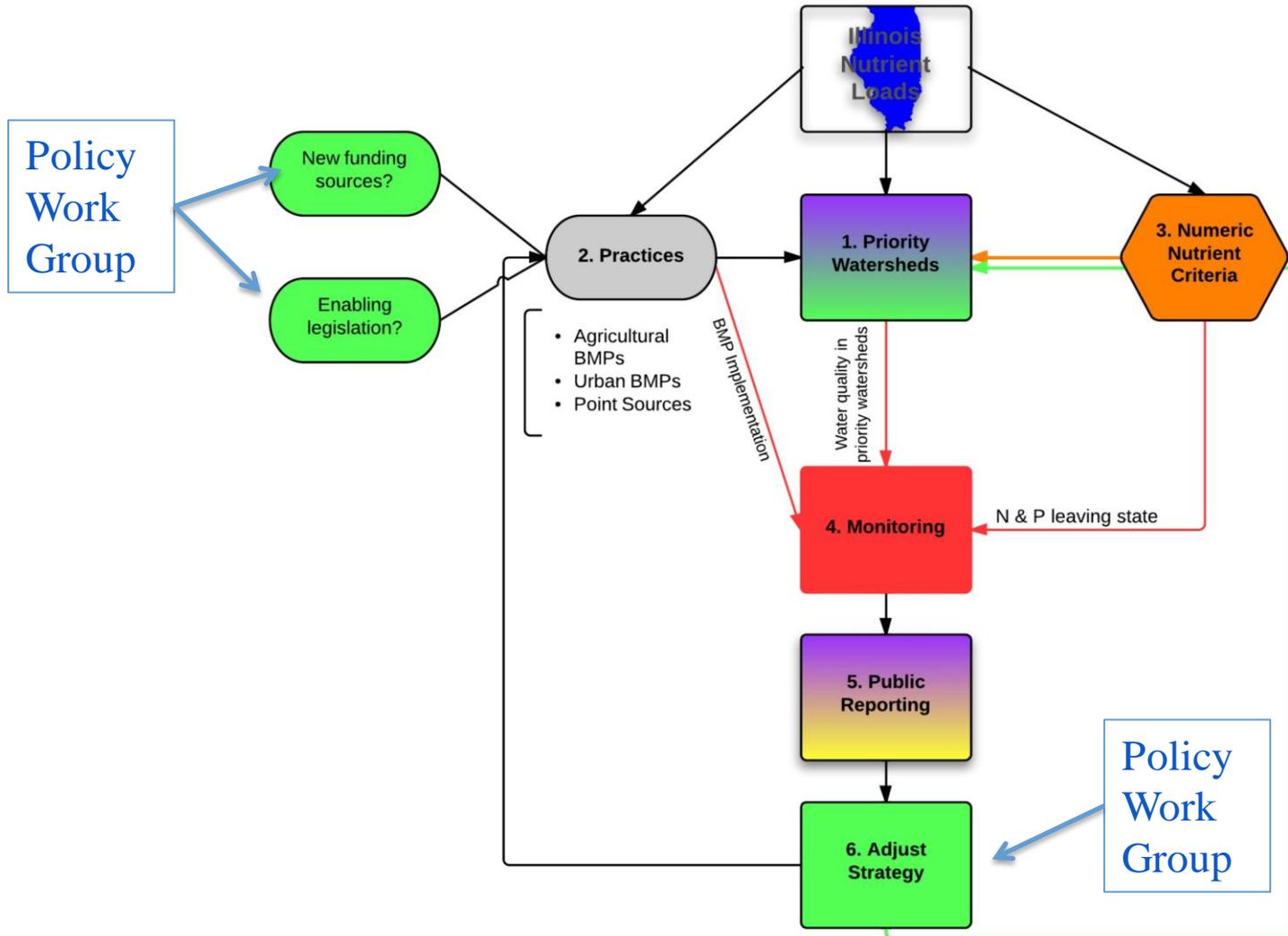
Chapter XII: Funding

- Discussion about:
 - Environmental Utility
 - Legacy Fund (modeled after Minnesota's, which was a small, temporary increase to sales tax)
- Should these ideas be included as potential funding sources or possibilities to be explored by the PWG during implementation phase?

Chapter XIII: Adaptive Management

- Strategy reviewed every five years by the Policy Working Group participants, or their successors, to determine what adaptive management actions should be taken
- The Illinois EPA and Department of Agriculture will take responsibility for the implementation of the necessary updates

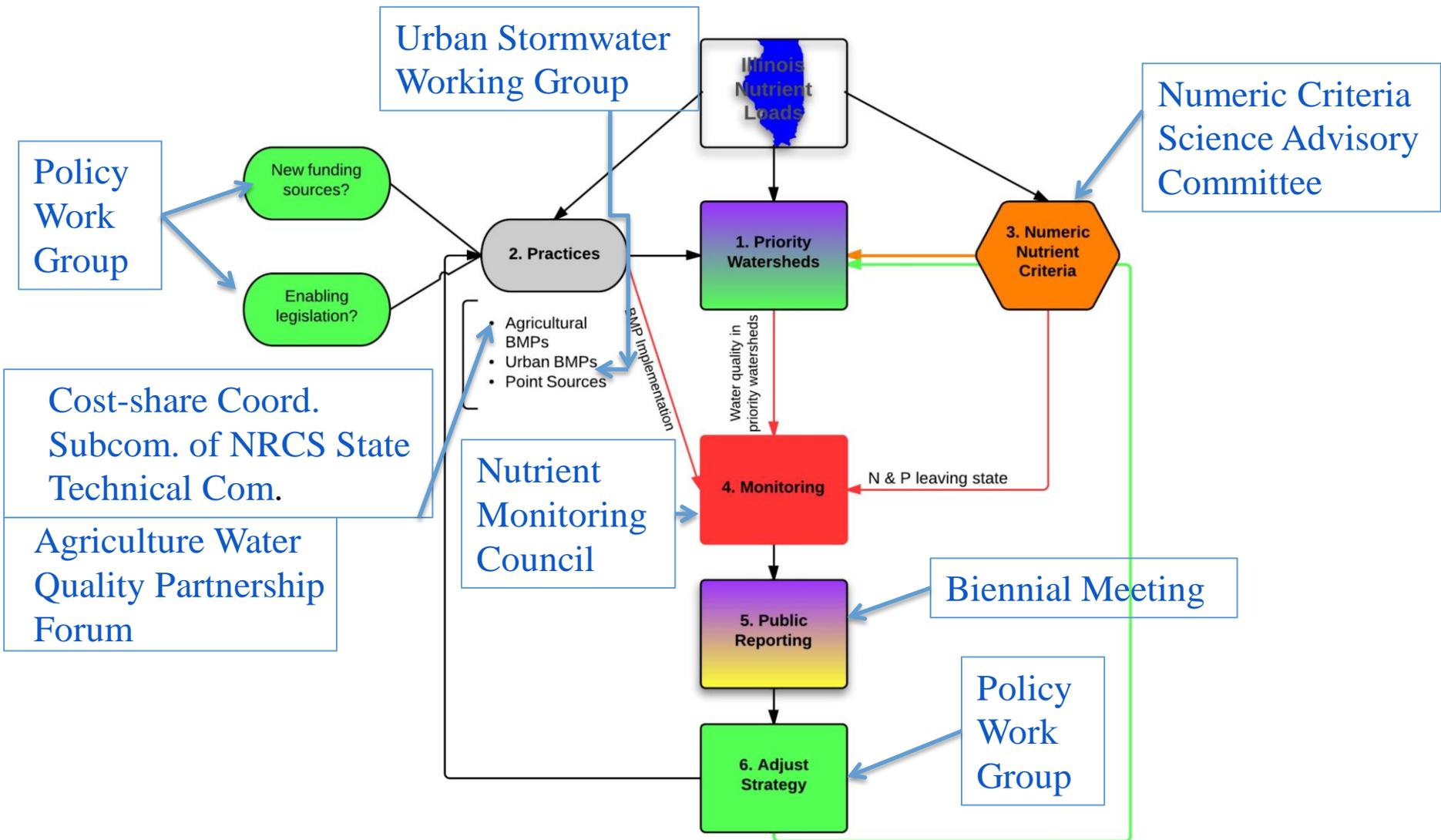
Strategy Overview



Chapter XIII: Adaptive Management

- All pieces of strategy are feeding into adaptive management
- Are there additional pieces that should be added to Illinois's model of adaptive management?
 - What are they?
 - Why?

Strategy Overview



Final Questions?

- If you didn't get to ask it, now's your chance:
 - Please keep it concise

Timeline Reminder

- Written comments due in Word document (track changes, your last name!) to Carrie Layfield (cmlay@illinois.edu) by May 30!!!!
- IEPA and IDA will review comments and make changes
- Formal comment period should open this July
- Strategy should be submitted to USEPA by September

Next Meeting

- No more meetings!
- Enjoy your summers!
- As always, any questions or comments can be directed to IEPA and IDA staff or Corrie Layfield (until July 25th)