

Ohio Nutrient Forum

Visioning Workshop

Elizabeth Toot-Levy

Senior Environmental Specialist, Northeast Ohio
Regional Sewer District

Association of Ohio Metropolitan
Wastewater Authorities

Data Needs

- A statewide nutrient mass balance that accounts for all point and non-point sources of nutrients in the water environment
- Sustainable mechanism to maintain this data with regular reporting on nutrient loadings and resulting water quality conditions in Ohio watersheds

Goals and Criteria

- Must be developed using sound science and realistic data
- Design nutrient goals to be protective of the designated uses
- One-size-fits all solution will not work
- Stressor Response / Weight of Evidence Approach

Target Development

- Weight of Evidence Based Approach
- Ohio's Trophic Index Criterion Approach
 - Multi-metric score that considers primary productivity, biological health, and in-stream nutrient concentrations
 - Used to determine reasonable potential
 - Potential to assess current loads and potential increases

Nutrient Water Quality Criteria should...

- Be technically and scientifically defensible, and adequately reflect the full range of biological, chemical, and physical properties of the waterway, ultimately protecting the designated use;
- Be based on demonstrated and quantified cause and effect relationships and appropriately qualified by the uncertainty in that relationship
- Not be used as the basis for imposing nutrient controls unless the weight of the evidence indicates that impacts have or will result from excess nutrients

Collective Approach

- All sources of nutrients (point and non-point) need to be addressed
- Without significant involvement from all parties (point and non-point) it will impossible to attain meaningful reductions and water quality improvements