

# **State Agency Activities and New Initiatives**

Ohio Department of Agriculture  
Ohio Department of Natural Resources  
Lake Erie Commission  
Ohio EPA



# **Ohio EPA's Role & Activities**

Ohio Nutrient Forum Workshop  
October 17, 2012



## Ohio EPA's Role - RE: Nutrients

- Regulation (scope is set by law)
  - Point source discharge permits
  - Standards (set uses of water and how clean)
  - Monitoring
  - Total Maximum Daily Loads
- Incentives
  - Grants & loans for PS and NPS projects
- Leadership & partnering
  - State agency with authority over water quality



## Why Build a Nutrient Strategy?

- Widespread impacts on water quality
  - High value recreation areas are at peril
  - Increasing costs to treat drinking water
- Find solutions that work for Ohio
  - Flexibility
  - Build on existing strengths, innovation where needed
  - Prioritize actions that reduce nutrient delivery



## Steps Taken to Date

- 2009 – research other examples & guidance
  - Gulf of Mexico Alliance template
  - U.S. EPA expectations
- *Framework for Ohio's Strategy* (Nov. 2011)
- Form specialized work groups
  - Lake Erie Phosphorus Task Force (1 & 2)
  - Director's Agricultural Water Quality Workgroup
  - Point Source & Urban Runoff Workgroup



## Next Steps

- Finalize *Framework* document:
  - Work group recommendations
  - Fill in gaps on load reduction calculations and tracking, priority setting and funding needs
  - Consider feedback from today's workshop
- Continue dialogue with U.S. EPA on aspects of nutrient standards for surface water



## Thank You

- Lunch is on your own – reconvene on TIME!

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