

Implementing NPS TMDLs - Iowa's New Strategy for Success

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Overview

- TMDL program history
- Program challenges and changes
- New program strategy
- Program connections
- How it all fits together
- Questions/discussion



clean water
starts with you.

IOWA DNR WATERSHED IMPROVEMENT

Program History

- Born out of consent decree (2000)
- Merged with 319 program into new WIS in 2005
- Initial focus = CD/bean counting (2000 - 2007)
- 2006 – began planning for post-CD era



Program Challenges

- 303(d) list is growing ('06/279; '08/439)
- No state support
- Shrinking federal support
- TMDL process can take several years to complete
- Limited staff resources
- Program capacity: 10-12 waterbodies/yr



Program Challenges

- Typically 90+ percent of pollutant load from NPS
- No state or federal regulatory incentives to implement NPS solutions
 - Rely on voluntary efforts
 - Must target for effective ROI
 - Can take years to implement
 - Measurable improvements can take even longer
 - Patience and long-view are important



Recent TMDL Changes

- Plan ahead 5 years
- Initially focus on
 - Significant public lakes
 - Stream segments draining < 30,000 acres
- Measure/monitor for WQ improvement
 - Implementing annual monitoring plan
 - Invest for long-term
 - Monitor before TMDL; during & after implementation

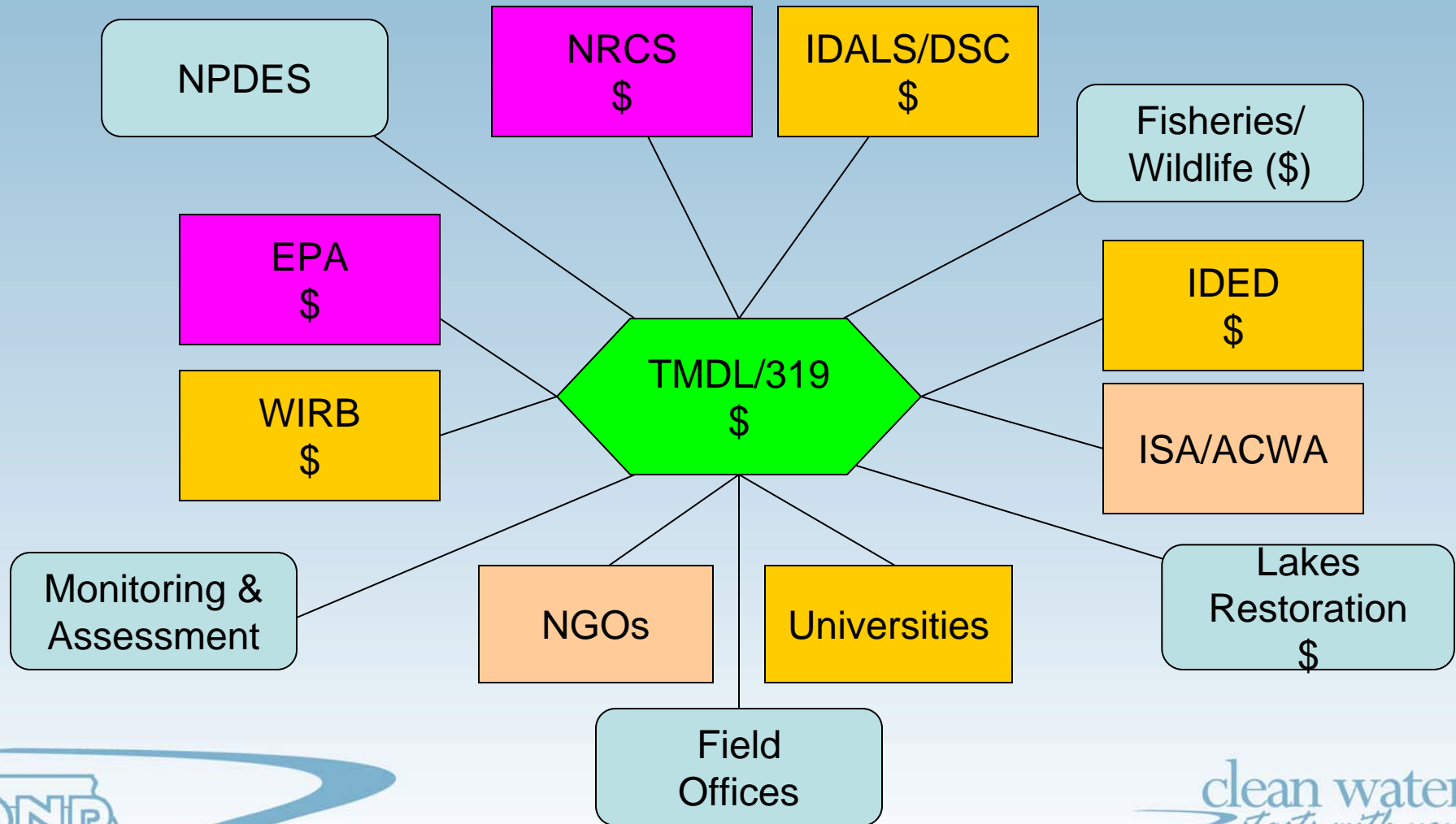


New Program Strategy

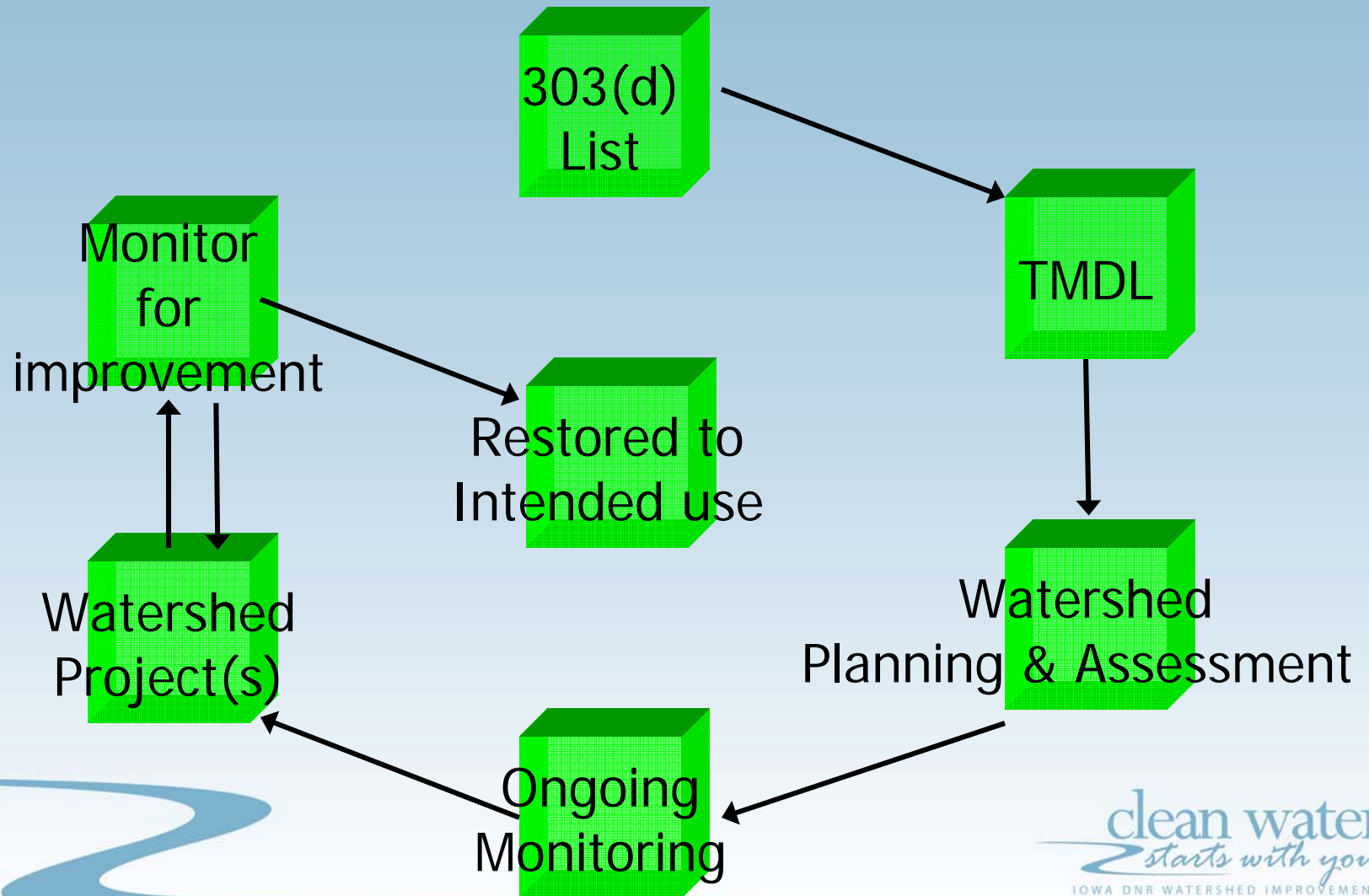
- Complete TMDL prior to implementation
- Seek input from stakeholders
 - Coordinate and collaborate with 319, other programs
- Focus on state and local priority waterbodies
 - High value/need
 - Strong local support & commitment to improve WQ
 - Increased likelihood of measurable results in a reasonable time frame (i.e. small watersheds)
- Build foundation for WS Management Plans and successful implementation



Program Connections...



...And How It All Fits Together



(S)Tool

for Success

**Successful
NPS TMDL
Implementation**

**Technically Sound
TMDL & Assessment**

**Local Leadership &
Watershed Plan**

**Time and Resources
to Implement**



Summary

- Absent regulatory incentives, successfully implementing NPS TMDLs takes considerable time and resources
- Must align TMDL priorities with local commitment
- Focus on small watersheds for measurable success
- Requires local planning and assessment
 - Use technology to your advantage
 - LiDAR (light detection and ranging)
 - Assessment tools (WS, stream, gully)
- Target implementation resources
 - Random acts of conservation vs. precision conservation
- Leverage all available program resources



Questions/Discussion



Thank You

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