



Leveraging Resources to Improve
Water Quality in Michigan

Michigan Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

- Collaboration between the State and Federal government, local conservation districts and non-government organizations (Pheasants Forever and Ducks Unlimited)
- Landowners agree to install and maintain conservation practices
 - USDA reimburses 50% of costs to install practices
 - The State of Michigan reimburses the remaining 50% of installation costs
 - USDA provides annual rental payments on those acres enrolled for life of the agreement (14 or 15 years)
- Enrollment cap/goal of 85,000 acres

Focused Conservation Practices

Only 8 out of 30 conservation practices are available under Michigan's CREP

- Filter Strips
- Riparian Buffer
- Sediment Control Basin
- Field Windbreak
- Wetland Restoration-Floodplain
- Wetland Restoration-Non-Floodplain
- Introduced Grass & Legume Establishment
- Native Grass, Forb, and Legume Establishment



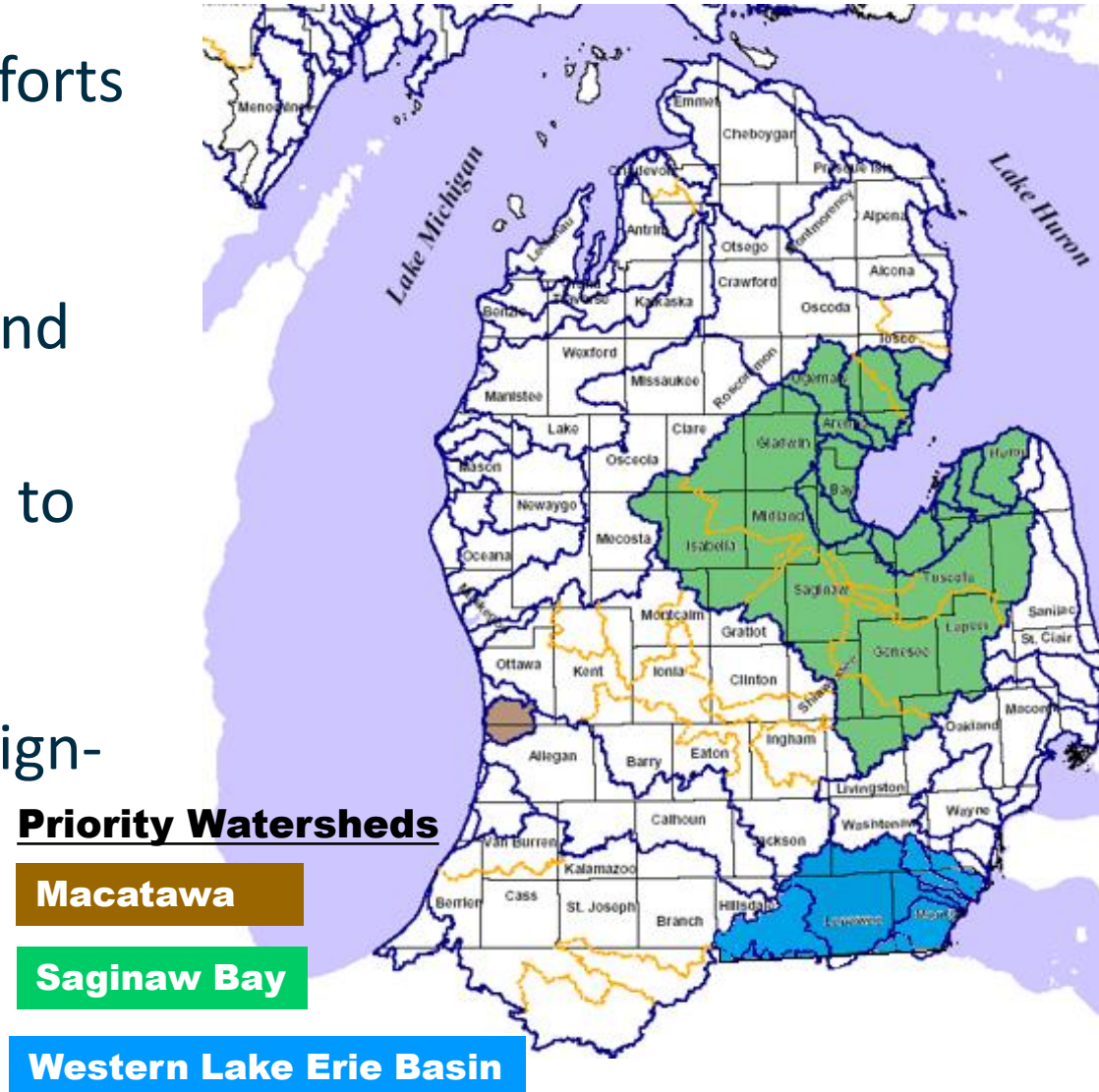
Benefits of CREP

Benefits to the Farmers/Landowners/Public

- Reduces soil erosion
- Decreases fertilizer inputs near water
- Increases water retention & infiltration
- Reduces runoff of sediment and nutrients
- Improves water quality
- Targets marginal cropland-
“Farm the best, conserve the rest”
- Provides a reliable annual payment on acres enrolled
- Voluntary program; avoids the need for regulation
- Provides habitat for a wide range of wildlife species

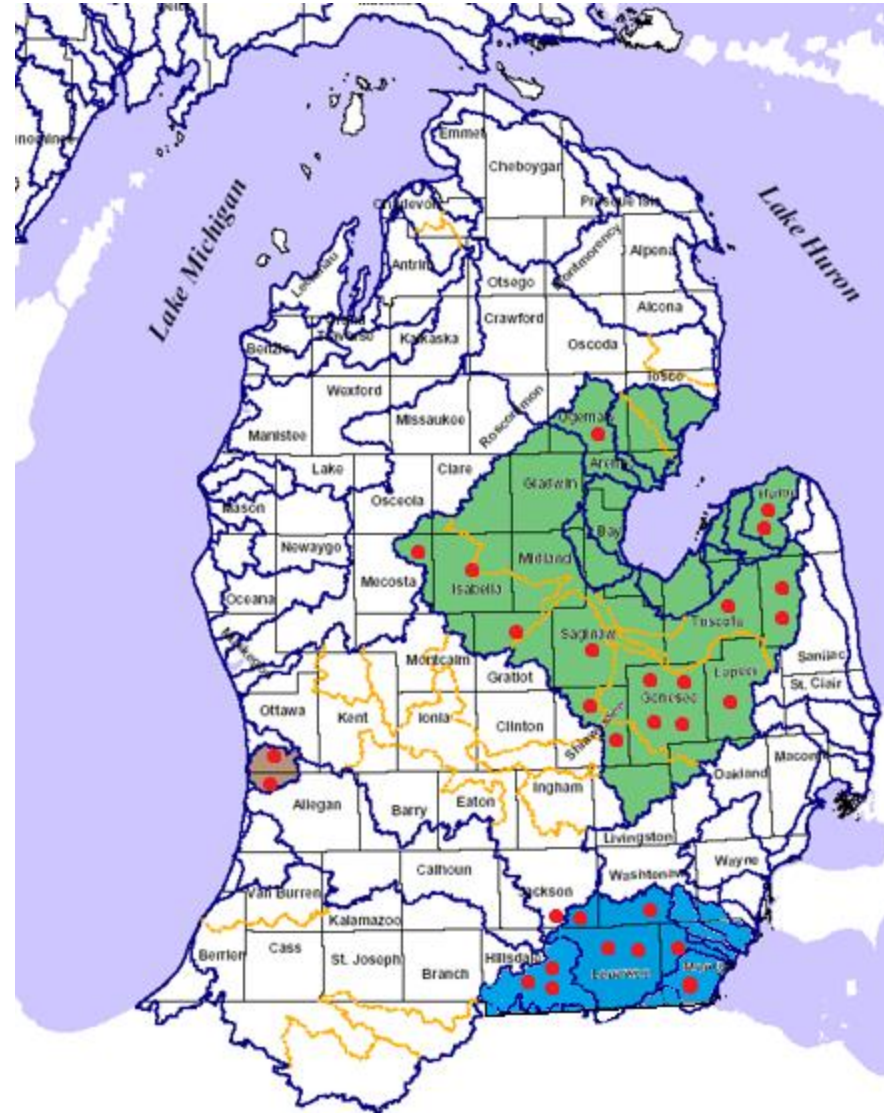
Advantages of CREP

- Targets conservation efforts in critical watersheds
- Focused practices that address water quality and wildlife habitat
- Landowners don't have to compete for funding nationally
- Allows for continuous sign-up opportunities
- State funding leverages federal funding



How CREP is Delivered

- Conservation districts provide local program delivery through promotion and boots on the ground technical assistance
- MAEAP technicians work with landowners to identify areas that could benefit from CREP practices
- Specialized technicians guide landowners through the enrollment process and provide assistance with implementation



History of Michigan CREP

- Original MDARD/USDA agreement signed in 2000
- 79,117 acres enrolled at peak
- 6,711 landowner contracts
- March of 2016 MI CREP was suspended due to a lack of state funding

**Corridor practices
>40,000 acres**



**Wetland restoration practices
>22,000 acres**



**Whole field practices
> 17,000 acres**

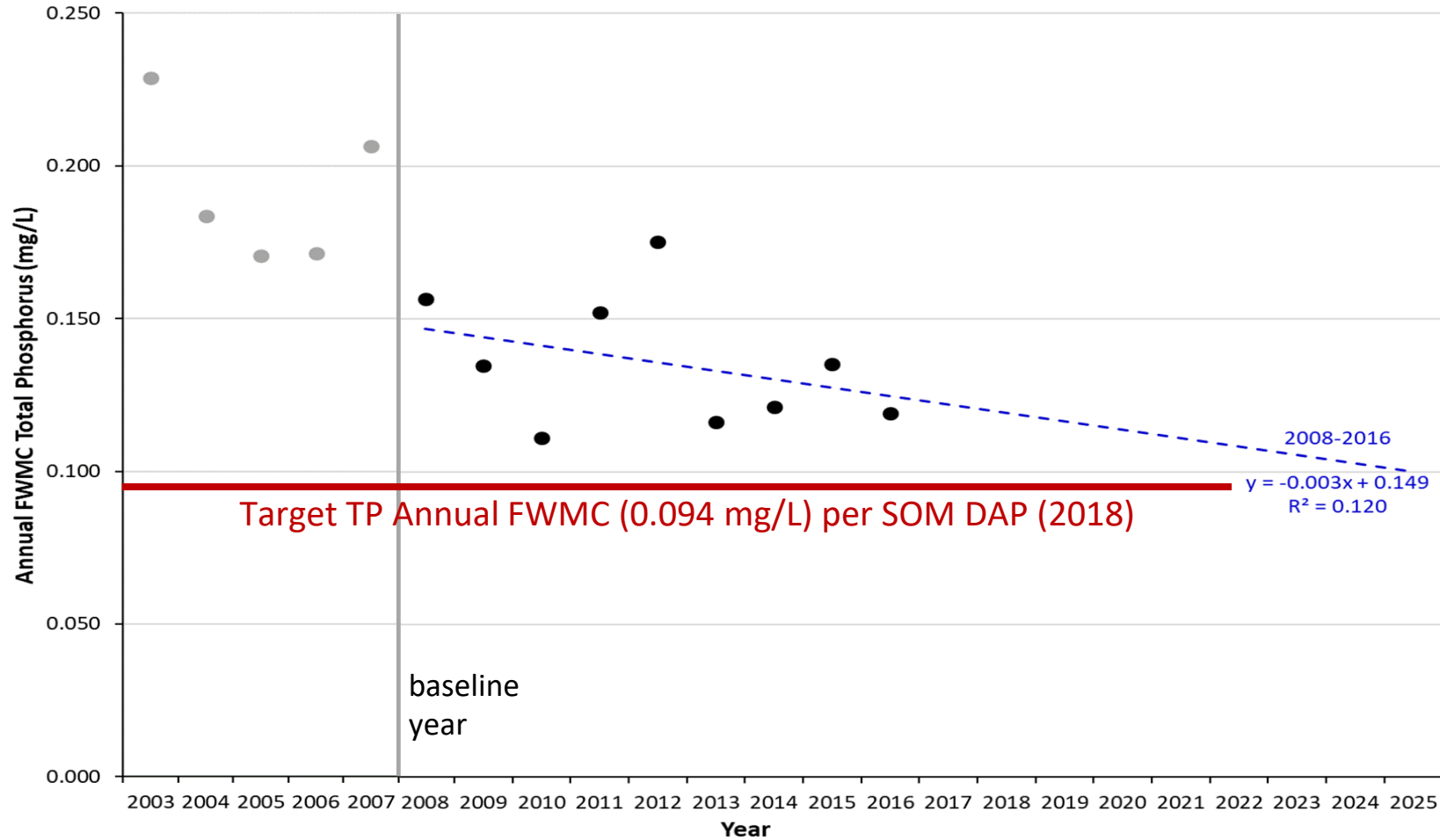


Where We Are Today

- Michigan CREP remains under suspension
- Due to contracts expiring less than 30,000 acres are still enrolled with more set to expire after September 2020
- Misinterpretation of eligibility requirements during a 2015 field audit in Lenawee County resulted in 5,000 acres being removed
- At least 12,000 acres in the WLEB have been brought back into production
- The CREP agreement expires September 30th, 2020

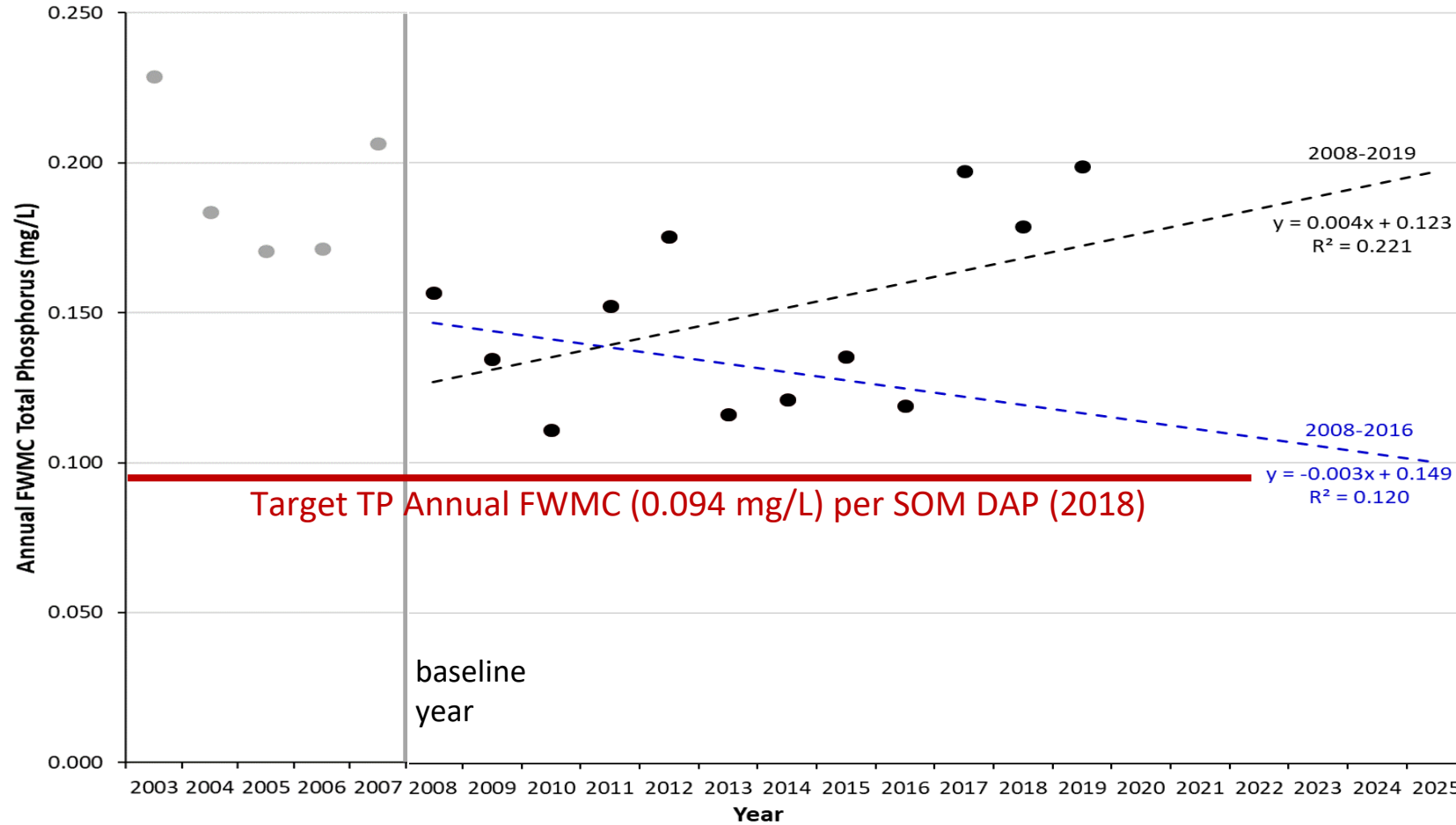


Why It's Important



Annual FWMCs Total Phosphorus (mg/L) at Heidelberg's River Raisin monitoring station (~10 mi u/s of Lake Erie) **2008-2016**

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(Annual FWMCs Total Phosphorus (mg/L) at Heidelberg's River (~10 mi u/s of Lake Erie) 2008-2019
Raisin monitoring station (~10 mi u/s of Lake Erie) 2008-2019

What \$10.6 Million in Funding Will Provide

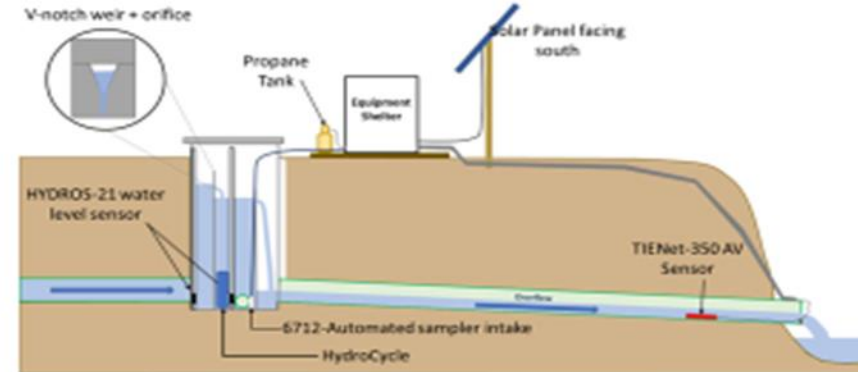
- Ability to lift suspension and resume enrolling/re-enrolling landowners in the program
- Reach the goal of 85,000 acres enrolled and the reduction of:
 - 833,000 tons sediment
 - 833,000 lbs. phosphorus
 - 1,666,000 lbs. nitrogen
- More support for local conservation districts to provide boots on the ground technical assistance to landowners
- Education and outreach support through MSU Extension



What \$10.6 Million in Funding Will Provide

- Expanded research
 - Controlled drainage
 - Edge of field phosphorus filtration
 - Other

Equipment/Computer Shelter



Tile Line Outlet



Questions?



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