



LWV Upper Mississippi River Region Inter- League Organization

Presentation to LWV MN Board

August 25, 2015



About the Upper Mississippi

- The Upper Mississippi River flows 1300 miles from Lake Itasca to St. Louis
- There are more than 425,000 acres of federal and state wildlife refuges along the Upper Mississippi.
- The river supports more than 127 species of fish and 30 species of freshwater mussels.
- Nearly 300 species of birds migrate through the river valley in spring and fall. The Mississippi Flyway is used by more than 40 percent of the migratory waterfowl traversing the U.S.



More about the Upper Mississippi

- From St. Cloud, Minnesota in the north to Cape Girardeau, Missouri in the south, the Upper Mississippi River provides water to 23 public water suppliers serving a combined population of approximately 2.8 million people.
- Approximately 278 facilities discharge wastewater to the Upper Mississippi River, including industrial facilities and municipal sewage treatment plants.
- More than 30 million people live in the basin. Nearly 80 percent of the population lives in urban areas including Minneapolis-St. Paul; St. Louis; Chicago; the Quad Cities; Des Moines; La Crosse; and Peoria.



Many common issues in the Upper Mississippi Watershed

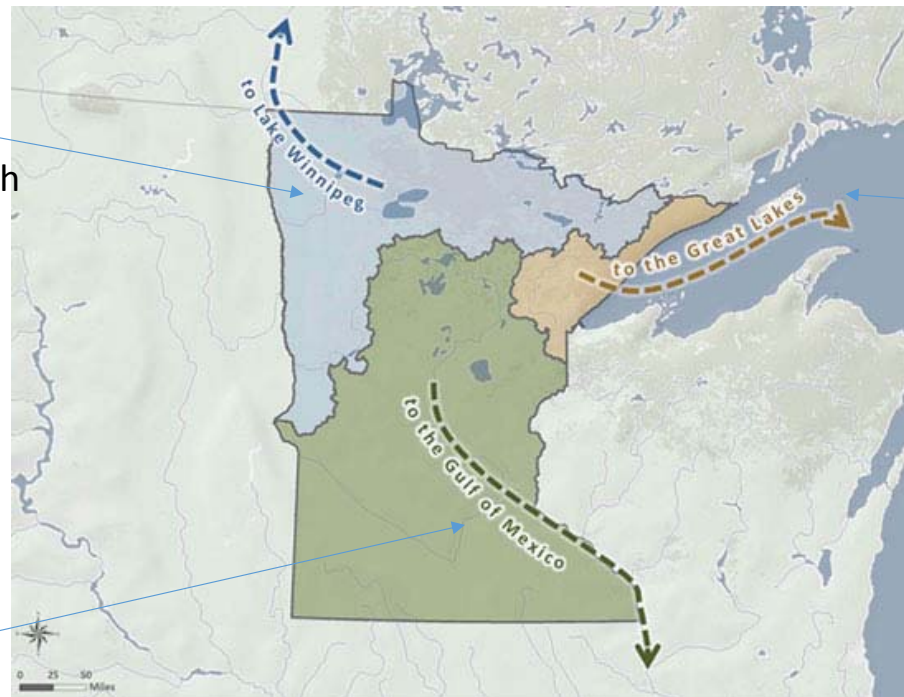
- Nutrients flowing into the Gulf have created a 'dead zone' where anoxic conditions affect fisheries, shellfish and shrimp; poor water quality also affects wildlife along the river's route
- Transport of hazardous materials on roadways, by rail or on the water, can threaten water supplies for thousands of people
- Aquatic invasive species, such as invasive silver and big-head carp are found along the river and into Minnesota
- Also - commercial navigation, ecosystem restoration, water quality, flood risk management, water supply, and other water resource issues

LWV UMRR ILO Purpose (from proposed by-laws)

- The purposes of the **LWV-UMRR ILO** are to
- -promote public understanding and active, informed citizen participation in evidence-based decision making as essential elements of responsible and responsive management of the natural resources of the Upper Mississippi River Region.
- -promote resource conservation, science-based stewardship, and long range planning, with the responsibility for managing natural resources shared and coordinated among levels of government.
- -promote efficient and economical government requiring competent personnel, the clear assignment of responsibilities, adequate financing, effective enforcement, and well defined channels for citizen input and review.

Minnesota is headwaters for three major watersheds

Hudson Bay Drainage
via Red River of the North

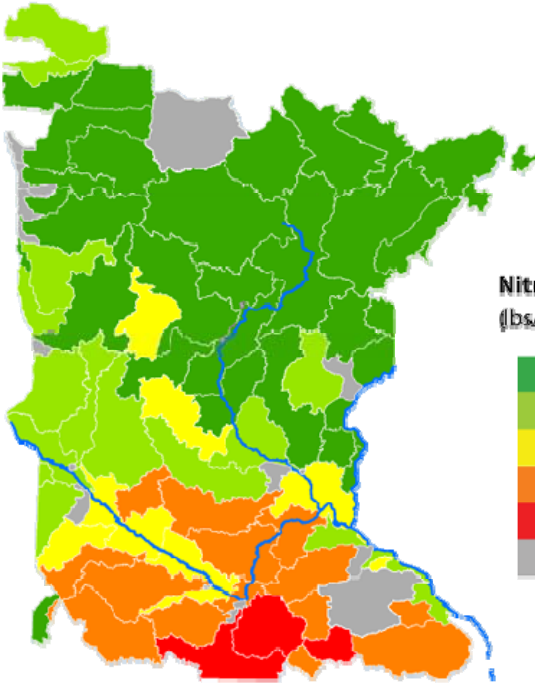


St. Lawrence Seaway
via Great Lakes

Gulf of Mexico
via Mississippi River

Source: MPCA website

Minnesota contribution to nitrate contamination of river

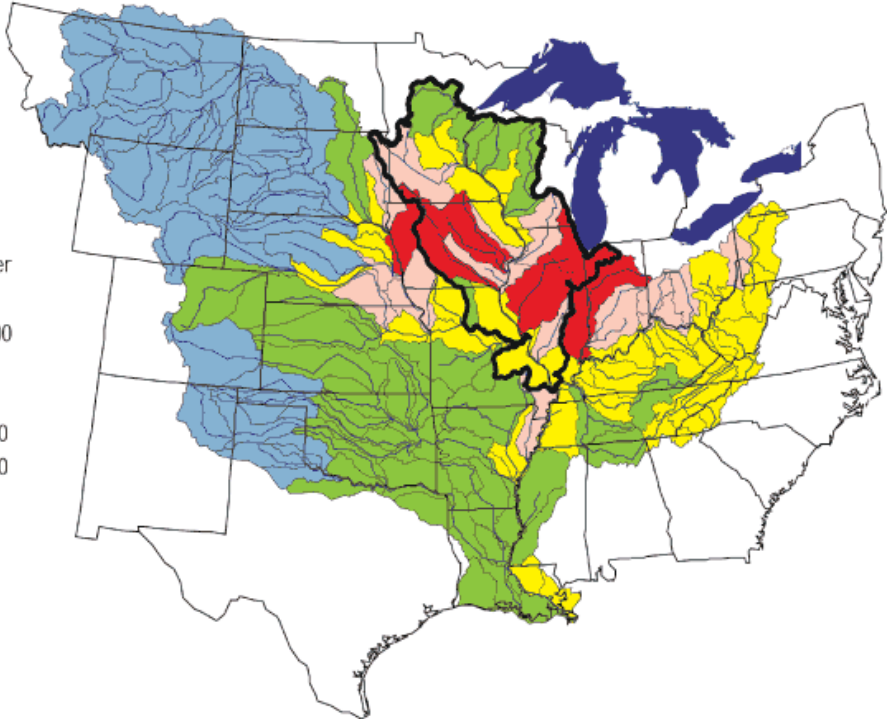


Nitrate getting into surface water (lbs/acre/year)

- Very low ($\leq 2.3 \text{ lbs/ac}$)
- Low
- Medium
- High
- Highest (>math>12 \text{ lbs/ac}</math>)
- No Data Available

EXPLANATION
Yields,
 in kilograms per square kilometer per year

- Less than 200
- 201 to 500
- 501 to 1,000
- 1,001 to 1,800
- 1,801 to 3,050



Source: MPCA and USGS website

Minnesota Nutrient Reduction Strategy

- **Nutrient Reduction Strategy.** No single solution exists for achieving the level of nutrient reductions needed to meet goals and milestones. It will take many actions and BMPs implemented over large areas of the state. The plan includes two overarching strategies, the first of which is:
 - **Develop a Statewide NRS Education/Outreach Campaign.** Develop and implement a coordinated NRS outreach campaign that integrates with other efforts to promote statewide stewardship of water resources. This statewide campaign is responsible for raising general public awareness about the need to reduce nutrients in Minnesota waters and will support BMP specific education activities.

UMRRILO – Establishment and Action

- Establishment has been approved by LWV US
- First Annual Meeting set for October 24 in Dubuque, Iowa
- Elect slate of officers
- Establish plan of action – nutrient reduction is likely topic for first two years
- Meet, network, make friends and working relationships
- Board will meet six times/year, location rotating around the region and participation by phone will always be offered
- Member from LWV MN Board sought for UMRR ILO Board
- Dues due at Annual Meeting - \$25/local League and \$100/state League

Appointee from each State Board (from proposed by-laws)

- **One representative and one alternate shall be appointed to the board ~~from~~ by each of the four state LWV boards of Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, and Wisconsin.** Alternate representatives vote only in the absence of the representative. **The terms of the state board representatives shall be two years without term limits.** Any vacancy of a state representative or alternate position may be filled by the appropriate state LWV board.