

Lessons from Lake Leaders

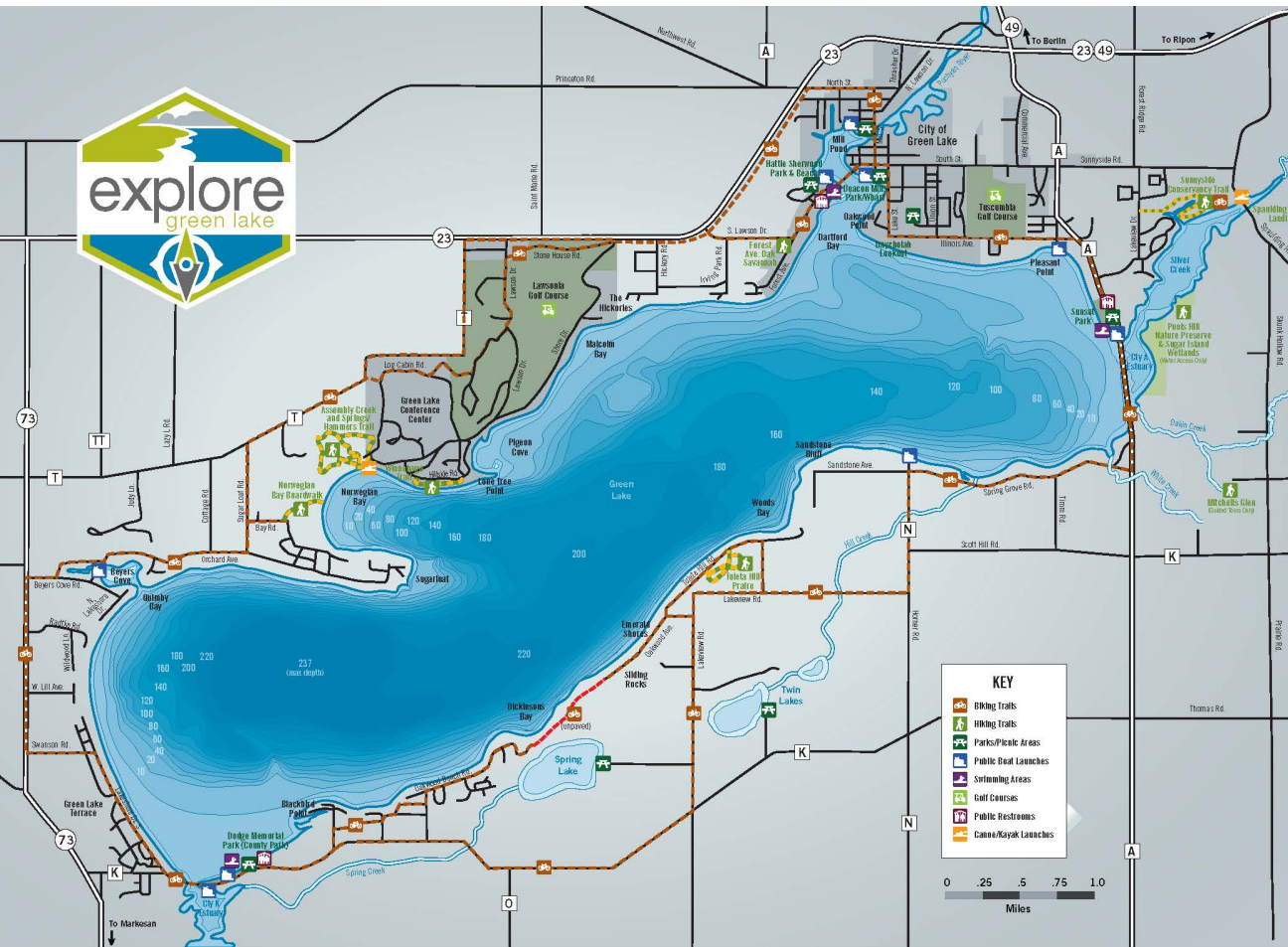
WISCONSIN LAKE LEADERS
May 20, 2016

Stephanie Prellwitz
Executive Director
Green Lake Association





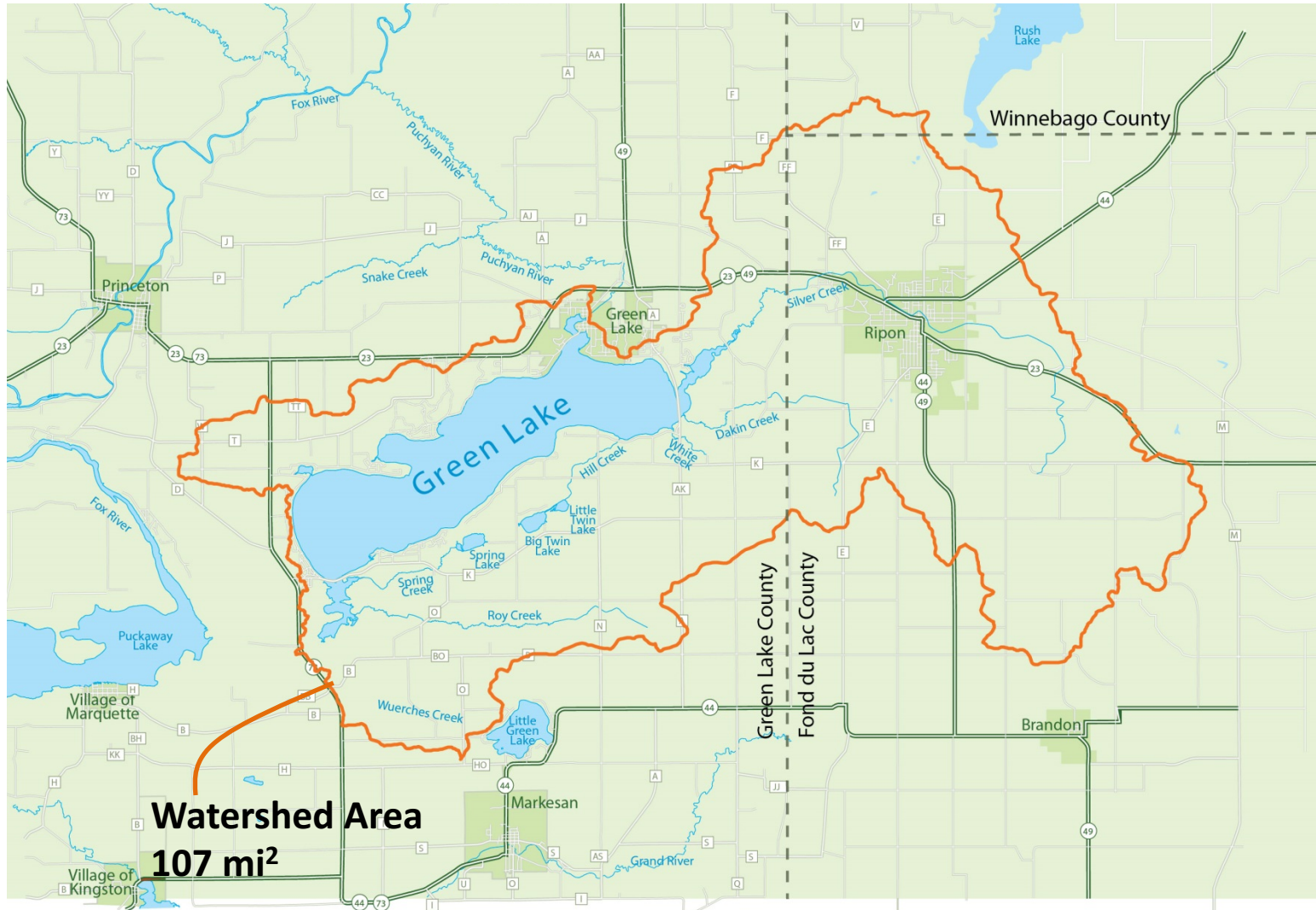
Green Lake



BIG GREEN LAKE

- Outlet: Puchyan River
- Avg Depth: 100 ft
- Max Depth: 237 ft
- Shoreline: 25 miles
- Surface Area: 11.5 mi²
- Retention Time: 21 yrs
- Stratified lake with two-story fishery

Green Lake Drainage Basin



Green Lake Impairment

2014

DNR classifies Green Lake as
an impaired waterway

Impairment Classification

Impairment

Low Dissolved Oxygen

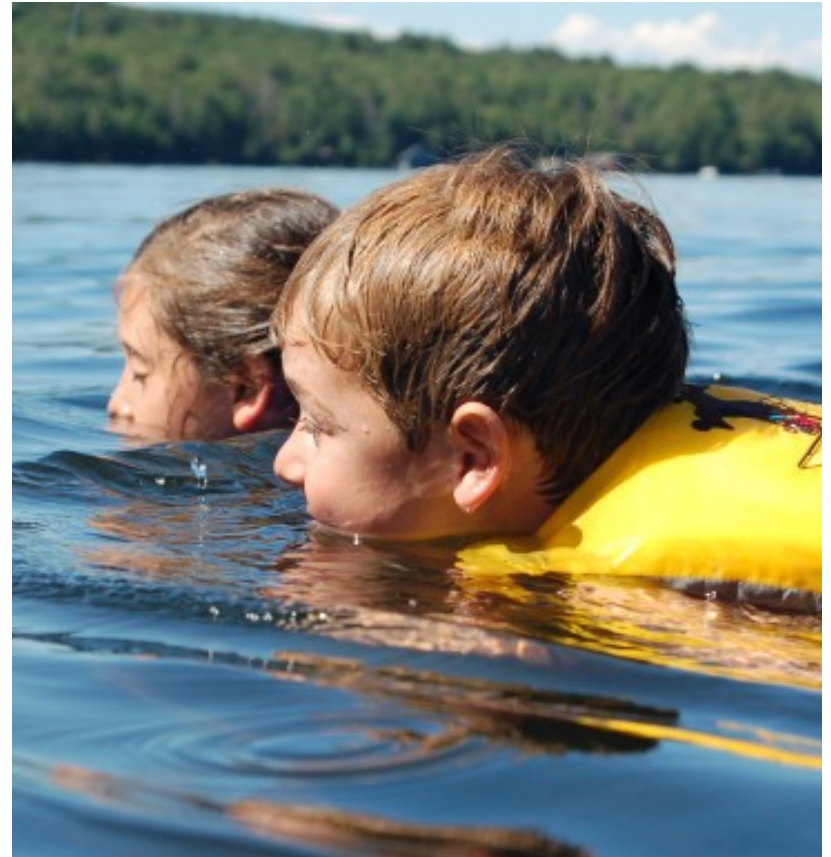
Pollutant

Total Phosphorus



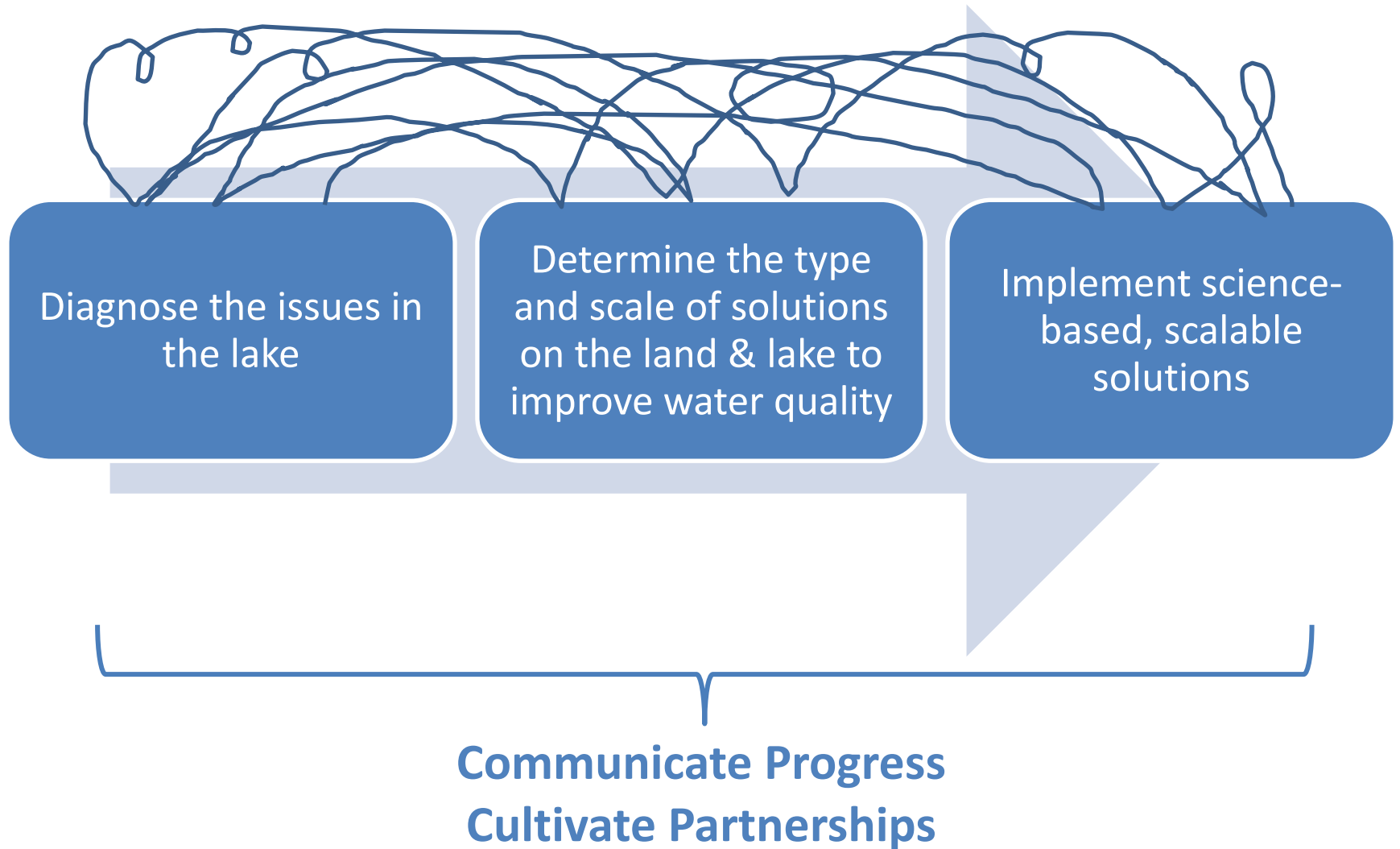
Green Lake Association

- Green Lake Association
 - Founded in 1951
 - Proactive homeowners, already seeing water quality decline
- A serious reality, a serious response
 - Refined mission: Singular focus on water quality
- Recipients of solutions vs. **Drivers of solutions**



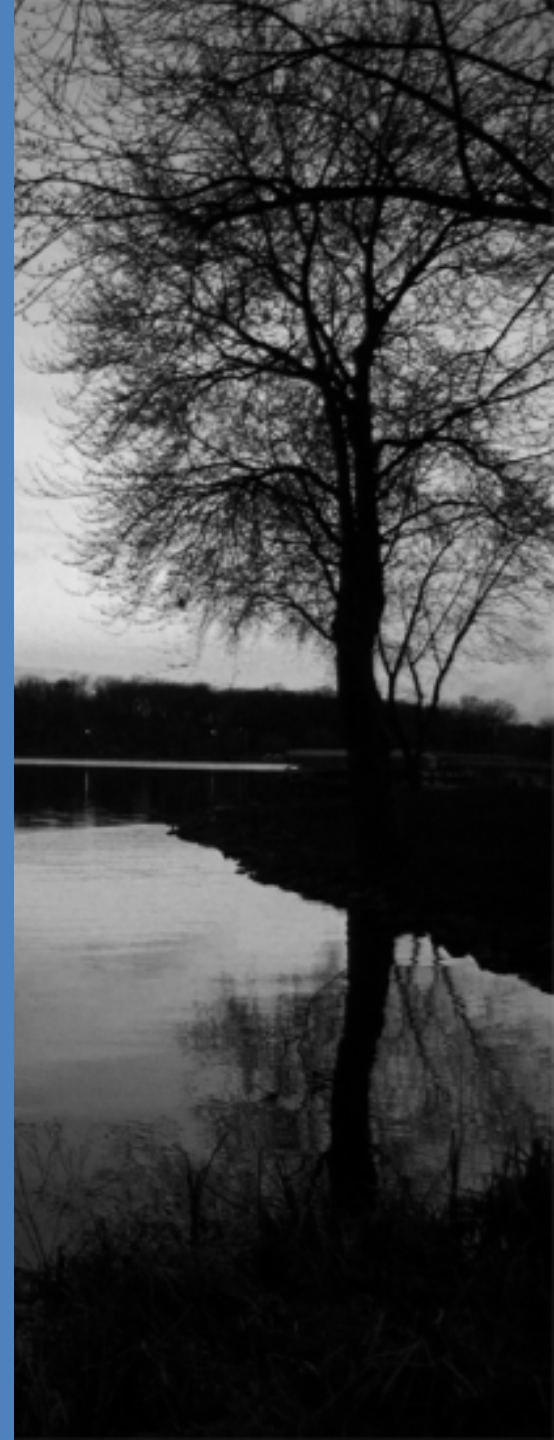
GREEN LAKE ASSOCIATION
CARING FOR OUR LAKE FOR GENERATIONS

General Process





Lessons
from
Lake Leaders

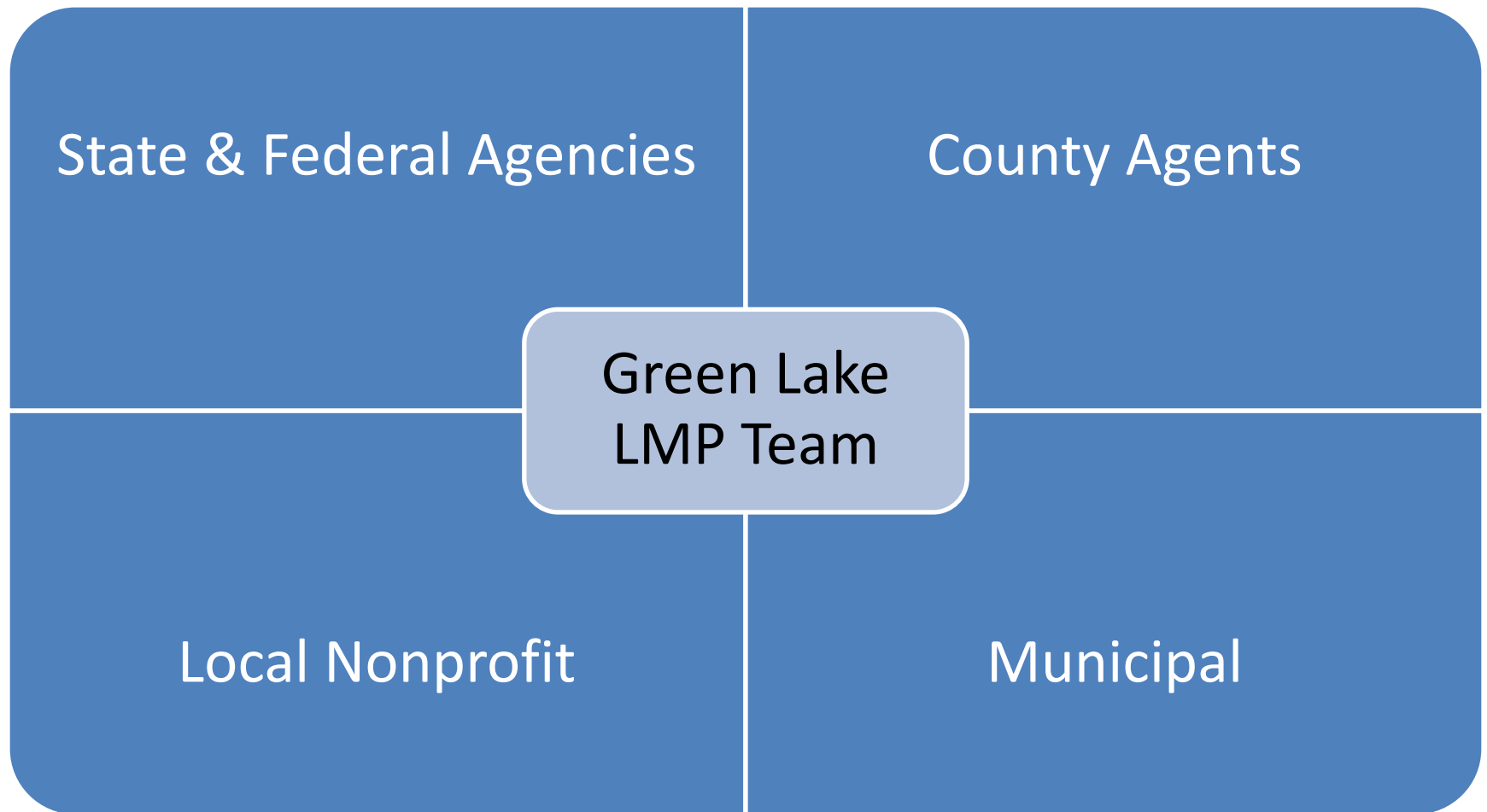




LESSON #1

Get the right people to the
table.

Green Lake's LMP Team Members



Green Lake's LMP Team Members

STATE & FEDERAL AGENCIES

- Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
- Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
- U.S. Geological Survey

COUNTY AGENTS

- Green Lake County LC Dept.
- Fond du Lac County L&WC Dept.

Green Lake LMP Team

LOCAL NONPROFIT

- Green Lake Association
- Green Lake Conservancy

MUNICIPAL

- City of Green Lake
- City of Ripon
- Green Lake Sanitary District



LESSON #1

Get the right people to the table.

- Outside partners can be good – and necessary! – but they need to bring something to the team and be balanced by local partners.



LESSON #2

Write a LMP and use it as a “living” document.

- Grants, grants, grant!
- The LMP is meant to be **flexible** and **evolving**.
- Don't get discouraged if it's not perfect.
- If you don't have what you need, it's not a problem.



LESSON #3

Good information is a good investment.

*...but balance **assessment** (research, water quality monitoring, etc.) with **action** (projects).*



LESSON #4

Consider the future and its
unknowns.

- Including, but not limited to:
 - Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)
 - Climate change
 - Agency funding and morale



LESSON #5

Do what is right, *then* figure out how to pay for it.



LESSON #6

Treat the disease, not the
symptoms.

*...but balance **research** with **shovel-ready
projects.***

Examples: Retentions ponds for phosphorus reduction and aquatic
plant harvesting program.



LESSON #7

You do not have unlimited
resources.



LESSON #8

Communicate.

- Before, during and after. Repeat.
- Communicate in ***multiple ways***, with ***multiple partners***, to ***various stakeholders***.



LESSON #9

Keep an open mind.

- Avoid objectors, obstructionists and politics.
- Give people the space to think outside of the box.
- If you are the expert, do not take offense if your toes get stepped on.



LESSON #10

Environmental problems are easy. It gets complicated when the solutions involve ***people.***



I used to think the top environmental problems were biodiversity loss, ecosystem collapse and climate change.

I thought that with 30 years of good science we could address those problems.

But I was wrong.

The top environmental problems are selfishness, greed and apathy – and to deal with those we need a spiritual and cultural transformation.

And we scientists don't know how to do that.

-Gus Speth