

# DNR

# BIOSOLIDS/SEPTAGE

# UPDATE

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# TODAY'S TOPICS

- STAFF
- REPORTING REMINDER
- DNR GUIDANCE
- WORK GROUP
- FUTURE BUDGETING
- REED BEDS
- ENFORCEMENT



# SEPTAGE STAFF

- **NER:** Heidi Schmitt  
Marquez  
– (920) 662-5145
- **NOR:** Alison  
Canniff  
– (715) 685-0450
- **SCR:** Steve  
Warrner  
– (920) 387-7870
- **SER:** Kimberly  
Thomas-Britt  
– (414) 263-8635
- **WCR:** Jeanne  
Calhoun  
– (715) 284-1482
- **Licensing:** Kelly  
Thompson  
– (608) 266-8948



# WPDES PERMIT STAFF

- Fewer changes most recently
- Get to know your DNR contact
- Current Vacancies
  - CO-2 Engineers
  - SER-Limits Drafter
  - SER-Permit Drafter
  - WCR-Wausau Field Engineer



# eREPORTING REMINDER

- Annual Reports were due Jan 31
- Email Reminder
  - Many reports remain late
  - Septage Staff: contacted you
- Please follow requests
  - ~ 2500 Contacts (emails)
- Problems: give your DNR contact a call



# DNR GUIDANCE

- Statutes
- Codes (Rules)
  - Agency
  - 36-41 Step Process
  - Approx 4 year Process
- Guidance



# DNR GUIDANCE

- Transparency
- 21 Day Comment Period
- Posted on Web
- Sign up for emails for pending guidance

<http://dnr.wi.gov/news/input/guidance.html>



# DNR SEPTAGE GUIDANCE

- Statewide Consistency
- Continued Consistency
- Changes of Opinion
- Predictable Responses to unwritten rules
- Roadmap to Code Changes



# WORK GROUP TOPICS

→ **Dep. Secretary, Matt Moroney**

- **Master Operator (MO)  
Qualifications**

- Advantages to Guidance
- Work Experience Credits
- Expected Submittals
- DNR Activities



# WORK GROUP TOPICS

- **Absentee OIC Issue**
  - “Selling a License”
  - Communication:
    - Letter
    - Email
    - Insert
  - Penalties-Higher Expectations
  - New Businesses—More Focus



# WORK GROUP TOPICS

- **Emergency OIC Situation**
  - Death/Incapacitation
  - Solution:
    - Focus on Small Businesses
    - Department Notifications
      - Step by Step
    - Streamline the Variance Process
    - Clear Expectations
      - Department
      - Business



# ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE

- Biosolids
  - Winter Land Application issues
- Industrial Waste
  - Manure Pit Approvals
  - Site approvals



# SEPTAGE BUDGETING

- **FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY**
  - Budgets
  - No More “Shell” Game
  - Septage Program
    - 2.1 FTE Funded
    - 3.8-4.3 FTE
      - Licensing 0.5→1.0
      - Statewide Coordination 0.1→0.35
      - Field 1.5→3.0



# SEPTAGE BUDGETING

- UW System Study
  - Septage Program
  - 11 Recommended
  - Actual 2.1
- 1970s (reported)
  - 2 staff—Face time for all
- Times have changed



# SEPTAGE BUDGETING

- Consider:
  - What Level of Service do you wish for?
    - Less
    - Same
    - More
  - What responses do you wish for?
    - Annual Reports
    - Licenses
    - Certifications



# SEPTAGE BUDGETING

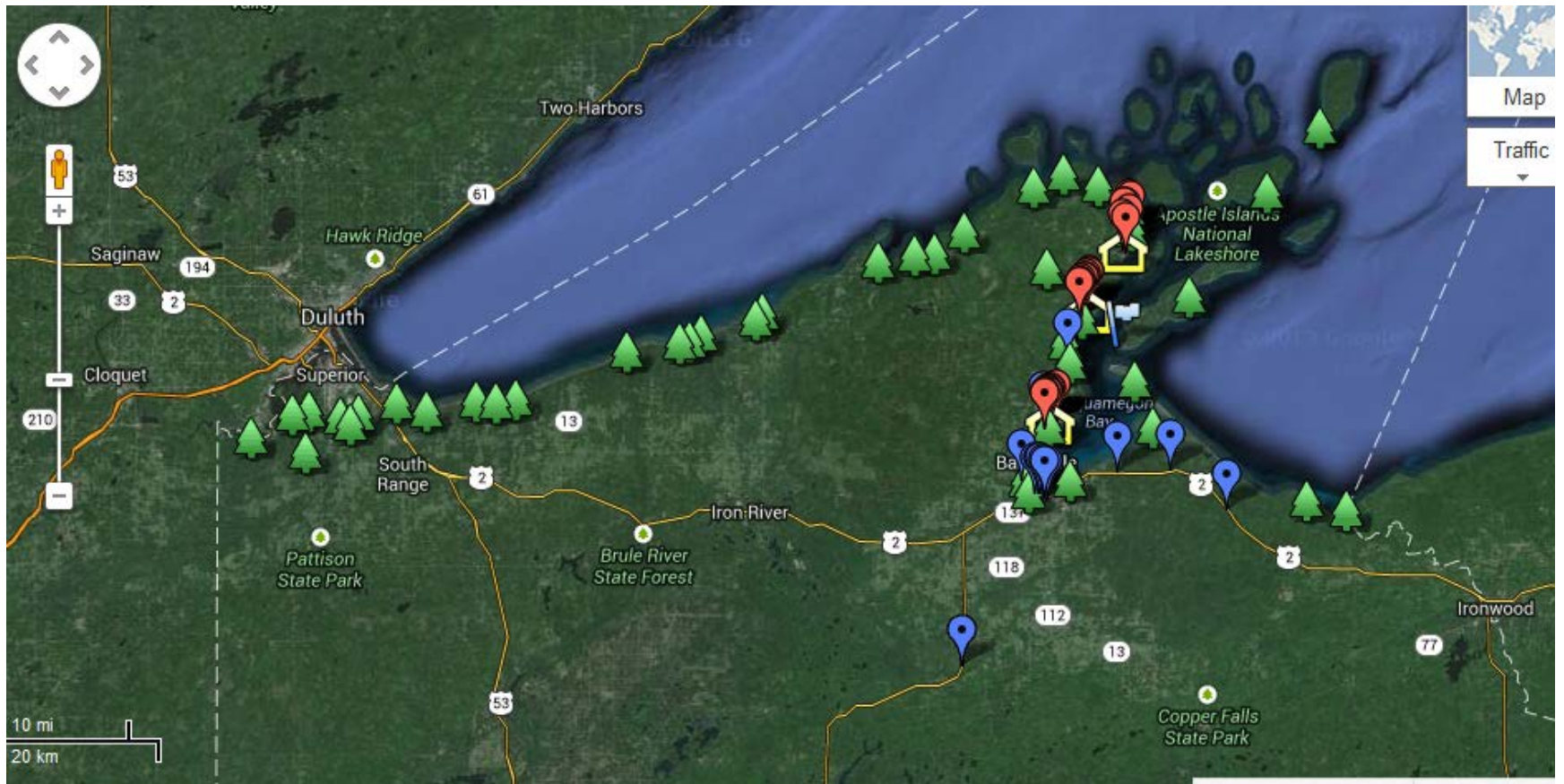
- Complaints
  - Department has obligation to follow up
- Level Playing Field
  - Partnership has limits
  - It costs to Play



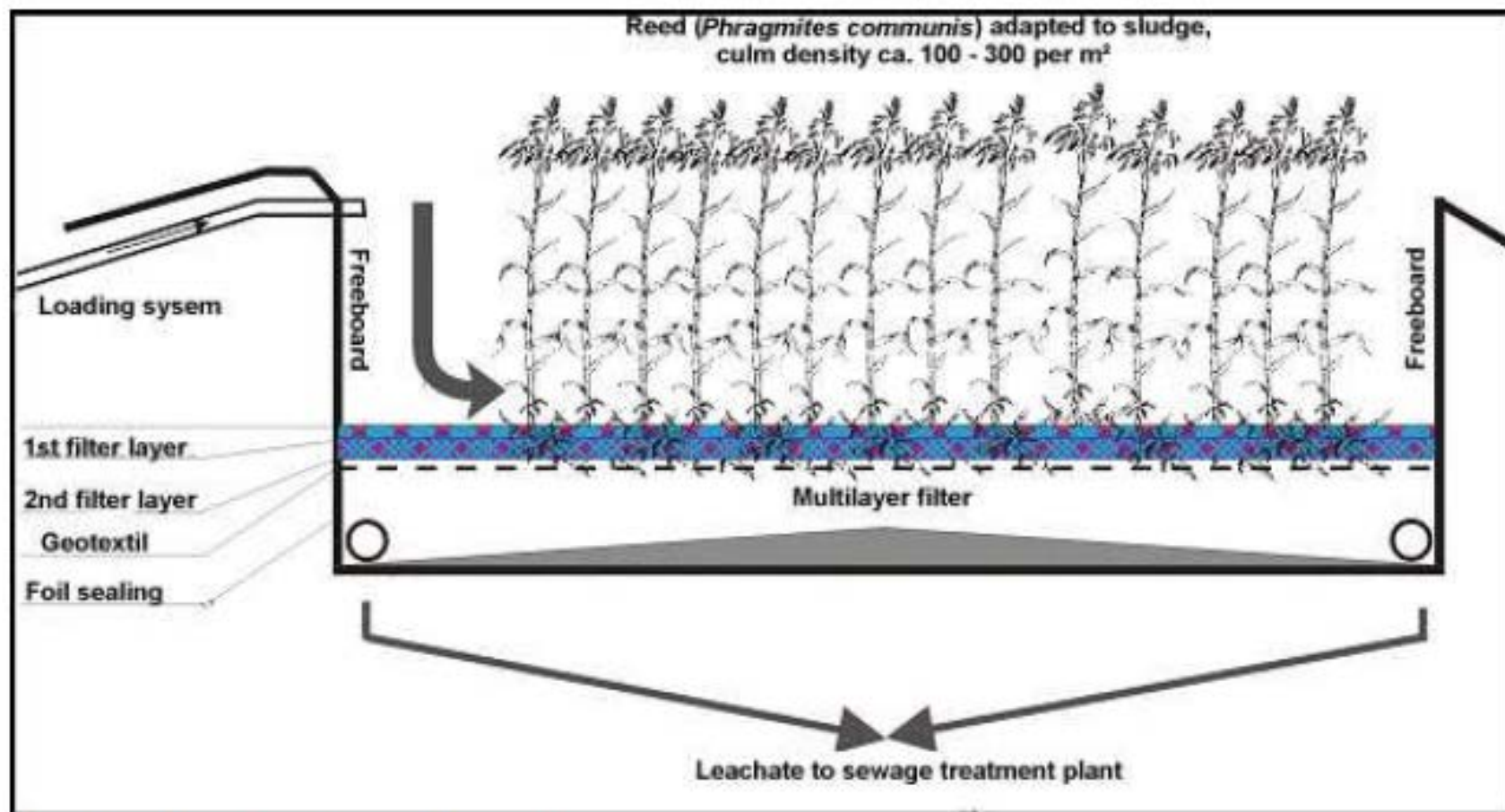
# REED BEDS

## New Information

- Seeds: More viable than initially thought 10-15 yrs ago
- Consider seed impacts:
  - Surveys
  - Reed Harvesting Issues
  - Sludge Removal/Transportation Issues
  - Control & Eradication Efforts



Reed (*Phragmites communis*) adapted to sludge, culm density ca. 100 - 300 per m<sup>2</sup>



A. Initial state at beginning of operation





# REED BEDS

Partner Meeting: Jan 7, 2014

- EPA
- Tribal Facilities
- WPDES Permitted Facilities
- DNR WW Staff
- DNR Wetland/Invasive Experts
- Contractor/Consultants



# REED BEDS

## Future Outcomes:

- Guidance Development
  - Surveys, Reed Harvesting, Sludge Harvesting, Transportation
- Incentives:
  - Replace Invasive with Native Variety



# RECENT ENFORCEMENT

- STEPPED Enforcement
- Septage Citations
  - County Court
  - DNR Press Release
- DOJ CASE
  - Dept. of Justice
  - Lawsuits—Civil & Criminal
  - DOJ Press Release
- OTHER STATES



# REVIEW

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# THANK YOU

Thanks for attending...  
...see you next year!