

AN ANALYSIS OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS' CHANGING RESPONSIBILITIES: THE DISTRICT ROLE IN CONSERVING AND PROTECTING GREAT LAKES LAND AND WATER RESOURCES

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

AN ANALYSIS OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS' CHANGING RESPONSIBILITIES: THE DISTRICT ROLE IN CONSERVING AND PROTECTING GREAT LAKES LAND AND WATER RESOURCES

Since the 1930s, private landowners in the United States have been served by a nationwide system of local conservation agencies known variously as soil and water conservation districts, conservation districts and land conservation committees (hereafter referred to as the districts). Since their inception, districts have provided a variety of important resource management and conservation services, advice and education to private landowners and communities across the U.S. There are currently 3,000 districts across the country, including 209 located wholly or partially within the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence drainage system.

In 1990 a partnership of state, regional and federal agencies with an interest in soil erosion and sediment control, surveyed the districts located within the Great Lakes basin.¹ The goal of the survey was to solicit responses related to district involvement in nonpoint source pollution in three principal areas: water quality programs; projected needs to implement current and anticipated programs, i.e. personnel, equipment, or cost-sharing and other incentives; and needs to be met through other means such as additional regulation, state or federal funding or technical assistance and research/information needs.

Great Lakes basin districts reported significant financial, technical support and administrative needs in 1990.² Requirements included two additional full time staff positions per district to provide technical and educational support at an estimated cost of \$15.8 million, equipment needs of \$5.3 million, an additional \$2.6 million in technical staff support from both the federal and state level, and \$40.2 million in additional landowner incentives to encourage participation in conservation programs. The total package amounted to \$63.9 million.

This 2000 survey was undertaken by a similar partnership of entities with an interest in soil erosion and sediment control in the Great Lakes basin. Primary partners are the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) Great Lakes Committee, the Great Lakes Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Task Force and the Great Lakes Commission. During the survey process, representatives of these agencies consulted with federal, regional, state and local partners on issues ranging from survey design to data interpretation. The objective of the 2000 Survey, and focus of this report, is to update the understanding of district activities and identify existing unmet needs in the delivery of their conservation mission.

In 2000, Great Lakes basin districts again reported significant unmet needs. These included \$25 million in personnel needs which amounts to approximately three staff members per district. Districts identified an additional \$5 million in equipment needs in order to fulfill their mission. Other areas where additional support is required includes \$50 million in incentives and \$6 million in research needs.

Given their origin in the 1930s and events precipitated by the Dust Bowl, districts have traditionally played a significant role in soil erosion control. Over the past ten years, this activity has gradually decreased in importance to the general district mission as other issues increase in significance. Although district programs related to agricultural issues remain the most significant component of their regular activity, hydromodification, urban and forestry programs have become more important. Technical support and information/education activities are the most intensive component of districts' programs, however regulatory activities, especially in agriculture, hydromodification and urban issues, are also important.

There has been a significant growth in resource management on a watershed basis because the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and state funded programs are giving increasing emphasis to this type of management. However, it is difficult for districts to work efficiently on larger scale watershed based projects. Districts are hampered administratively by jurisdictional lines that, in the Great Lakes basin, do not correspond to watershed boundaries. Implementing formal, watershed-based management practices is even more challenging because districts remain most closely allied with traditional partners, such as the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service and local governments, neither of which regularly operate at the watershed level. Districts are not yet taking full advantage of

¹ The partnership included: the National Association of Conservation Districts' Conservation Technology Information Center and Great Lakes Committee; the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Soil Conservation Service (now Natural Resources Conservation Service); the Ohio Department of Natural Resources; and the Great Lakes Commission.

² All 1990 dollar amounts have been adjusted for inflation using the American Economic Research Institute's Cost-of-Living Calculator found at www.aier.org.

non-traditional partners, such as other federal agencies and watershed organizations, or the watershed-based opportunities these partners represent.

Districts are, however, well-positioned to take advantage of advances in information technology and communications presented by Geographical Information Systems and the Internet.

Despite a significant regulatory role, districts continue to view cost-share practices as an important tool in meeting their environmental and resource management goals and objectives. Districts remain conservative in their estimation of unmet needs for cost-share and other funding needs. This was also an aspect of the 1990 survey.

CURRENT BASINWIDE NEEDS

Dollars Requested	In millions
District Staff	\$25
Equipment	\$5
Incentives/cost-share	\$50
Research and Education	\$6
TOTAL	\$86 million

SURVEY RECOMMENDATIONS

FEDERAL LEVEL

CONGRESS SHOULD:

- Increase funding support for technical assistance provided by federal agencies. Technical assistance dollars are spent at the local level in every one of the 209 soil and water conservation districts. This should include funding to provide technical training for districts personnel and engineering support for districts.
- Increase funding to allow adequate levels of expenditures for equipment so SWCD personnel can efficiently carry out their functions.
- Increase funding to support cost-share incentives to landusers to install Best Management Practices to improve soil and water resources.
- Increase the level of funding for research and education to provide better conservation improvement tools and to facilitate their implementation.

AGENCIES SHOULD

- Establish formal partnerships with districts to assist and support the delivery of programs and services at the local level. This should include increasing district opportunities to receive direct funding and technical assistance support from these agencies.
- Involve districts in Great Lakes projects, initiatives where attention to soil and water conservation will advance overall resource management and environmental quality goals..

STATE LEVEL

LEGISLATURES SHOULD:

- Increase funding for district activities in the Great Lakes Basin to meet state objectives at the local level.
- Direct at least a portion of the funds raised from environmental bond issues for conservation districts. Seven Great Lakes states have passed environmental legislation or bonds designed to restore and protect water, land and air resources.

AGENCIES SHOULD:

- Work with state conservation district associations to implement an internship or exchange program that would enable districts to develop the requisite technical expertise for implementing complex programs.

LOCAL LEVEL

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS SHOULD:

- Ensure that districts are adequately supported to deliver a full range of services through budgetary appropriations and administrative report.

DISTRICT LEVEL

DISTRICTS SHOULD:

- Expand their federal partnerships to include other arms of the USDA, such as the Farm Services Agency, the Agricultural Research Service and the US Forest Service, as well as other federal agencies such as the US Geological Survey, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the US Army Corps of Engineers, the US Environmental Protection Agency and the US Fish and Wildlife Service.
- Be aware of regional and binational agencies, such as the Great Lakes Commission, the Great Lakes Fishery Commission and the International Joint Commission. Districts should work through their state associations and the NACD Great Lakes Committee to address local needs that should be raised at the regional or national levels.
- Become aware of the technical support and assistance available through state and federal partnership programs.
- Consider a watershed-based resource management approach, adopting a model similar to that undertaken by New York districts.
- Begin to partner more actively with watershed groups, and conservation and environmental organizations where missions and/or goals coincide.

NACD GREAT LAKES COMMITTEE

THE COMMITTEE SHOULD:

- Use the results of the survey to pursue enhanced funding and programmatic improvements for Great Lakes conservation districts.
- Convene a meeting of district leadership, state soil and water conservation agencies, USDA NRCS, NACD, US EPA, the US Army Corps of Engineers, the Great Lakes Commission and other regional partners to discuss the findings and recommendations of this survey.
- Act as a conduit representing local and/or regional issues and interests to the regional and national level through the agencies and organizations with which it regularly cooperates.

CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION AND ISSUE OVERVIEW

Since the 1930s, private landowners in the United States have been served by a nationwide system of local conservation agencies known variously as soil and water conservation districts, conservation districts and land conservation committees (hereafter referred to as the districts). At least 75 percent of the nation's land base is privately owned, therefore land use decisions made by individuals will impact the environmental health and economic prosperity of the entire nation. Since their inception, districts have provided a variety of important resource management and conservation services, advice and education to private landowners and communities across the U.S. There are currently 3,000 districts across the country, including 209 located wholly or partially within the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence drainage system.

In 1990 a partnership of state, regional and federal agencies with an interest in soil erosion and sediment control, surveyed the districts located within the Great Lakes basin.¹ The goal of the survey was to solicit responses related to district involvement in nonpoint source pollution in three principal areas: water quality programs; projected needs to implement current and anticipated programs, i.e. personnel, equipment, or cost-sharing and other incentives; and needs to be met through other means such as additional regulation, state or federal funding or technical assistance and research/information needs.

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This survey is designed to update the understanding of district activities and resource needs in the Great Lakes Basin. The Farm Bill is due for re-authorization in 2002. Since 1985, successive Farm Bills have emphasized the importance of good environmental stewardship on America's farms through programs that promote conservation practices, such as the Wetlands Reserve Program, the Conservation Reserve Program and the Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program. One of the specific goals of this survey is to determine how local conservation needs and priorities are changing in order to help Congress better direct conservation programs, such as those anticipated to be in the new Farm Bill.

Local conservation needs in the Great Lakes basin, identified through this survey process, will guide the work of the NACD Great Lakes Committee. The Committee addresses unmet needs in regional soil conservation and water quality policy and acts as an important information conduit from the national and regional levels to the state associations and district offices. It is also committed to conveying local concerns to regional and federal agencies with a mandate in water quality, and soil erosion and sediment control.

THE DISTRICT ROLE IN CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

Districts are an important component of the interdependent federal-state-local conservation partnership that helps get conservation practices on the ground. No one group can do the job on its own, each leverages additional funds and provides critical support to the others. If one drops out, the capacity to deliver conservation programs is dramatically diminished.

While the district role varies from state to state and even within individual states, they all play a key information and education role and provide a degree of technical support. District personnel inform landowners about the kind of state and federal support that is available and the programs for which they can qualify. Where technical expertise in a

¹ The partnership included: the National Association of Conservation Districts' Conservation Technology Information Center and Great Lakes Committee; the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Soil Conservation Service (now Natural Resources Conservation Service), the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and the Great Lakes Commission.

² All 1990 dollar amounts have been adjusted for inflation using the American Economic Research Institute's Cost-of-Living Calculator found at www.aier.org.

particular district matches a state or federal program, district personnel facilitate access to these programs by helping landowners develop applications and write conservation plans. For example, in Michigan districts facilitate landowner participation in the federal Farm Bill programs.

Districts provide technical support, deliver information/education programs and some undertake regulatory functions for both rural and urban/suburban landowners. In rural America, districts help farmers plan and implement conservation practices to keep soil on the land and out of waterways. They work with landowners and other partners to protect groundwater resources. Districts help landowners protect and restore wetlands, providing important habitat and water purification benefits. Districts offer formal educational opportunities, such as workshops and classroom experiences. They also provide important resource-related information to the various media in their communities to promote conservation efforts and highlight the importance of informed natural resource management decisions. Regulatory work varies from plan review and inspection to permitting and enforcement on a variety of local and state instituted programs.

In urban and suburban areas, districts work with developers to help them employ best management practices that reduce the negative water quality impacts of construction. Districts help interested homeowners manage their property to minimize environmental impacts. They plant trees and other land cover to hold soil in place, help clean the air, provide cover for wildlife and beautify neighborhoods.

Districts' activities have changed dramatically since their inception in the 1930s and have evolved considerably over the past ten years. Since 1990, there have been many changes to federal and state programs, and additions to the district mission. These changes to the districts role reflect a national trend to decentralize authority and responsibility for resource management, including planning and implementation responsibilities, from the federal level to the state and local level. State and local players have the advantage of being closer to the resource than those at the federal level. Local authorities are usually in more direct contact with those stakeholders who depend on the local resources.

Conservation districts are uniquely positioned to play a key role in this era of decentralization. They are responding to this trend by assuming an increased level of responsibility and authority than they have possessed in the past. Districts are providing much more technical support and undertaking, in some cases, regulatory activity. They require additional resources for the effective and efficient fulfillment of their expanded mandate as revealed in the survey results presented in this document.

CHAPTER TWO: SURVEY AND METHODS

This survey of soil and water conservation districts in the Great Lakes basin follows a survey of district programs in nonpoint source pollution taken in 1990. This 2000 survey builds upon the 1990 survey, allowing for direct comparison between many categories over the ten year period. It goes beyond its predecessor, however, in covering a number of additional topics and subject areas not included in the original. This is reflective of the expanding role and changing responsibilities of conservation districts over the ten year period.

Section One of the 2000 survey³ addresses program activity and staff support in the following nine issue areas: 1) agriculture; 2) hydromodification; 3) urban issues; 4) ground water management; 5) forestry; 6) land disposal; 7) resource recovery; 8) mining; and 9) other. Within these nine issue areas there are 38 specific program areas. Districts are asked to identify those program areas in which they provide technical support; provide information/education; and/or exercise regulatory functions.⁴ In addition, districts are asked to estimate full-time equivalent (FTE) staff numbers employed in each activity area of a given issue.

Section Two of the 2000 survey addresses the following operational issues: surface water quality monitoring; communications/outreach; partnerships; personnel resources/assistance; funding/future needs; and 6) knowledge of the NACD-Great Lakes Committee.

Districts identified as being wholly or partially within the Great Lakes Basin were mailed a survey. This includes districts from the following states: Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin. The number of districts that lie within the basin varies for each state, for example, Michigan has 81 districts that lie within the basin and Illinois and Pennsylvania each have three districts within the basin. Of the 209 districts that received a survey, 148 responded. For the list and location of districts responding to the survey, see Appendix Two.

Results are presented in the following chapters and include: Current Programs; Technical Personnel and Staffing; Communication and Partnership; and Current Resources and Future Needs. Appendix three covers selected survey results by state. Where possible, direct comparisons are made to results from the 1990 survey.

The 1990 survey addressed eight issue areas encompassing 27 potential programs. These eight issue areas include: 1) agriculture; 2) construction site erosion control; 3) hydromodification; 4) land disposal; 5) mining; 6) oil field waste; 7) urban runoff; and 8) water quality monitoring. Districts were asked to identify those programs in which they provide technical support and/or educational programs. The 1990 survey did not address regulatory function. Direct comparison of findings between the 2000 and 1990 survey is possible in four issue areas: 1) agriculture; 2) hydromodification; 3) land disposal; and 4) mining. Several specific elements of the other four issue areas surveyed in 1990 are included in the 2000 survey, allowing for additional comparison. Comparisons are presented after each issue area, using the categories included in the 2000 survey. In addition, the 1990 survey addressed issues related to staffing and funding. Where possible, direct comparisons are made to results for these areas as well.

³ For a complete copy of the 2000 survey, see Appendix One. A more detailed methodology is included in Appendix Two.

⁴ Districts are not asked to identify regulatory functions for those programs listed under the "other" issue area because these are activities for which regulatory authority either clearly resides with another agency or does not yet exist.

CHAPTER THREE: CURRENT PROGRAMS

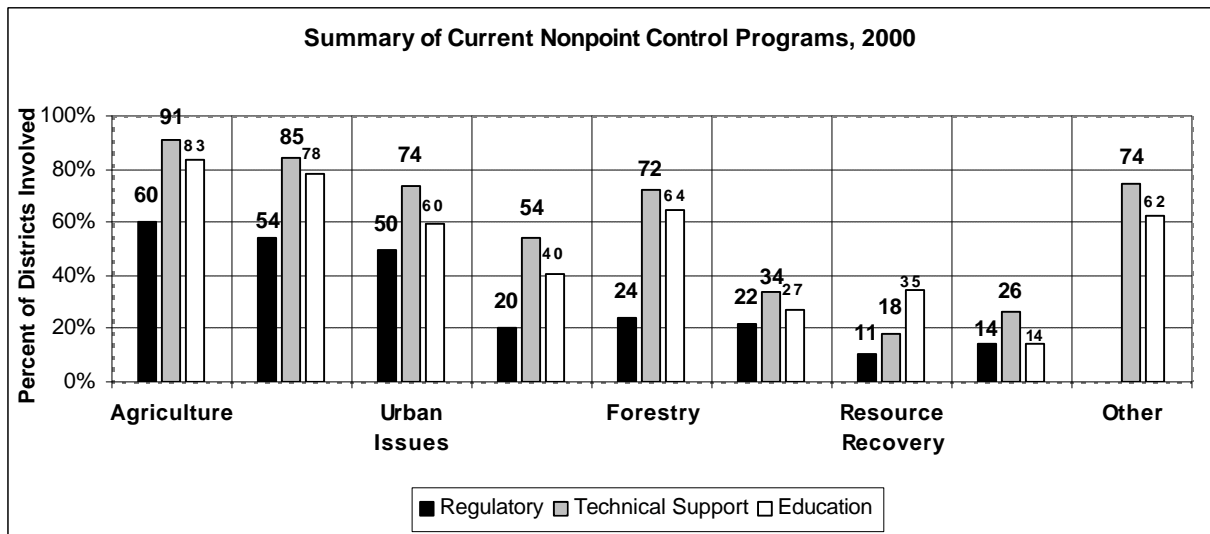
This section describes the current level of activity for each of the 38 programs in the nine issue areas. The percentage of districts that provide technical support or information/education, and/or perform regulatory functions is reported for each program area. Generally, the results are presented as basin-wide aggregates. However, because the degree of regulatory authority that districts possess varies by state, findings for this activity area are sometimes broken out for individual states. A summary of current programs for each issue area is provided below.

Agriculture is the strongest issue area for districts, followed by Hydromodification and Urban Issues (see Figure One). Across all but one issue area (Resource Recovery), districts are most actively involved in providing technical support, followed by education and then regulatory activity. This emphasis on technical support and education is consistent with the districts' mission, and because the degree of regulatory authority varies from state to state, it is expected that this would be lower than the other two activity areas.

1. AGRICULTURE

The 2000 survey asks districts to report on their regulatory, technical support, and educational activities in six agricultural program areas: erosion control; animal waste/nutrient management; agricultural chemical control; drainage/

Figure One

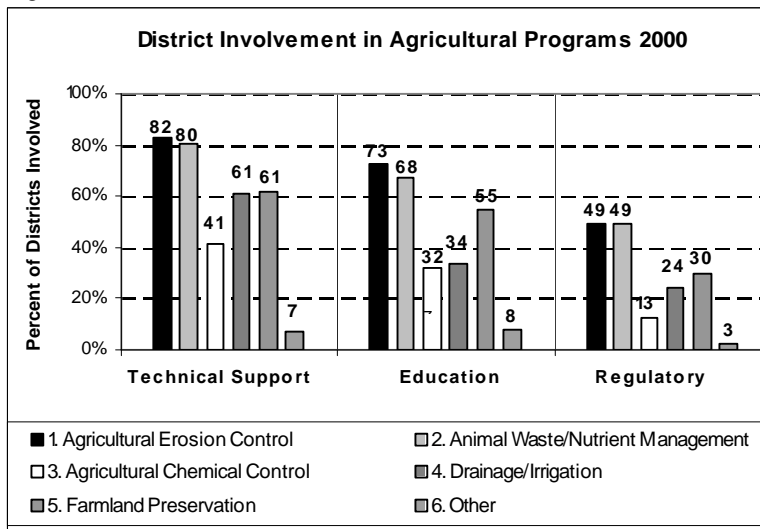


irrigation; farmland preservation; and other. In each of the six agricultural program areas, the percentage of districts involved in technical activity is slightly higher than in information or education activity, both of which are higher than the percentage of districts involved in regulatory activity. Erosion control and animal waste/nutrient management programs have the highest proportion of district participation, followed by farmland protection, drainage, and agricultural chemical control. In addition to these, districts also report programs in Agriculture Environmental Management (New York), emergency response support (preparing property maps reflecting location of dangerous chemicals) and new agricultural technologies (see Figure Two). Aggregate data indicate that the largest percentage of districts responding to the 2000 survey report undertaking activities in one or more agricultural programs, indicating that this is the strongest issue area for districts (see Figure One).

For erosion control and animal waste/nutrient management programs, district involvement is strongest in technical support. Eighty-two percent of the districts responding offer technical support for erosion control activities, while 80 percent provide technical support for animal waste/nutrient management. As can be expected from the district mission, information and education activity is also important in these areas. Seventy-three percent of districts report education programs related to erosion control, while 68 percent undertake educational activity for animal waste/nutrient management. Interestingly, regulatory activity is also high. While 49 percent of districts undertake some form of regulatory activity in erosion control, that activity is concentrated in Indiana where 62 percent of the Indiana districts responding have regulatory authority and Ohio, where 77 percent of districts have regulatory responsibility. Similarly, for waste/nutrient management, 49 percent of districts report regulatory authority with responsibility clustered in Ohio (85 percent) and Wisconsin (75 percent).

Farmland preservation programs form the next most significant program area in agricultural issues. Sixty-one percent of districts responding to the survey offer technical support in this area, while 55 percent have information/education programs and 30 percent of districts report some form of regulatory activity related to farmland preservation. Regulatory activity is concentrated in Wisconsin where 80 percent of districts report having regulatory functions, while a small percentage of districts (less than 30 percent) report similar activities in three other states.

Figure Two



Compared to erosion control, nutrient management and farmland preservation, district programs in drainage/irrigation are not as common. The most important component of districts' drainage/irrigation programs is technical support. Sixty-one percent of the districts responding provide technical support in this area, while only 32 percent have education programs and 24 percent undertake some form of regulatory activity. Regulatory activity is focused in Ohio where 54 percent of the Ohio districts responding have regulatory authority.

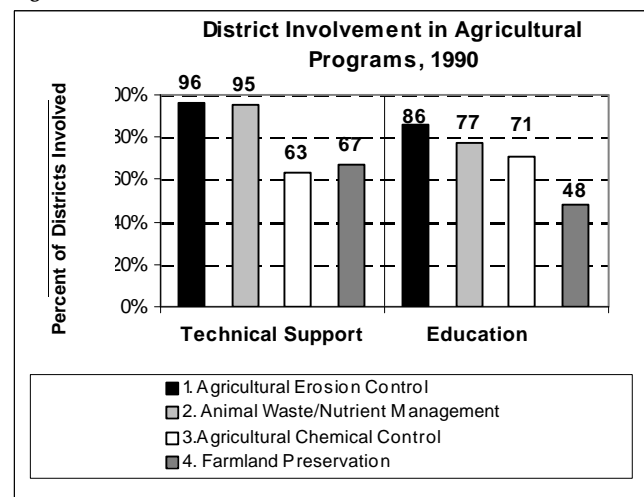
Finally, districts' agricultural chemical control programs are relatively limited.

Forty-one percent of districts responding have technical support programs in this area, 32 percent provide information/education, while only 13 percent have a regulatory role. Regulatory efforts have no appreciable state focus, 19 percent of Michigan districts responding have regulatory functions, while 15 percent of Ohio districts have a regulatory role. This may reflect delegation of regulatory responsibility from local governments rather than from the state level.

COMPARISON WITH 1990 SURVEY

There are four agricultural program areas in the 2000 survey that are directly comparable to those surveyed in 1990 — agricultural erosion control, animal waste/nutrient management, agricultural chemical control and farmland protection. For each of the first three program areas, there is a decline in both technical support and education activities between the 1990 and 2000 surveys. The largest decrease is in information/education activities for agricultural chemical control, down from 74 percent of districts responding in 1990 to 32 percent in 2000. While the percentage of districts reporting technical support activities in farmland protection is down slightly, from 67 percent to 61 percent, education activities are up slightly from 48 percent to 54 percent (compare Figures Two and Three). The apparent decline in the percentage of districts reporting programs in agricultural erosion control, animal waste/nutrient management and agricultural chemical control may be attributed to the increased number of programs measured in the agriculture issue area. The decline may also reflect the fact that districts were able to choose regulatory activities in addition to technical support and education in the 2000 survey. It is possible that some regulatory activities were counted as technical support activities under the 1990 survey artificially increasing the number of programs reported then. In the 1990 survey, districts reported the most programmatic activity in agricultural issue areas and this remains true for the current survey.

Figure Three



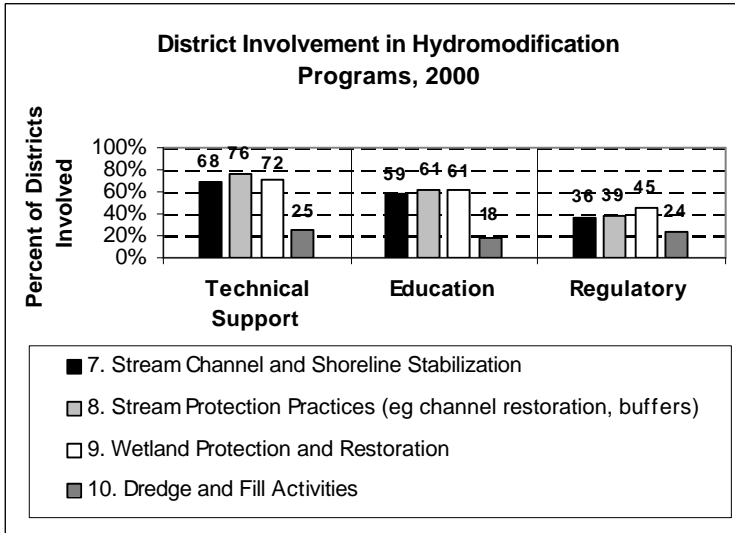
1. HYDROMODIFICATION

Districts are asked to identify their involvement in the following four hydromodification programs: stream channel and shoreline stabilization, stream protection practices, wetland protection and restoration, and dredge and fill activities. In general, district involvement is strongest in technical support, followed closely by information and education activity,

while about half as many districts report regulatory activity as provide technical assistance (see Figure Four). Aggregate data indicate that the second largest percentage of districts responding to the 2000 survey undertake activities in one or more hydromodification programs (see Figure One).

Involvement in stream protection practices, wetland protection and restoration, and stream channel and shoreline stabilization programs is fairly high for districts. For stream protection programs (such as channel restoration and buffer

Figure Four



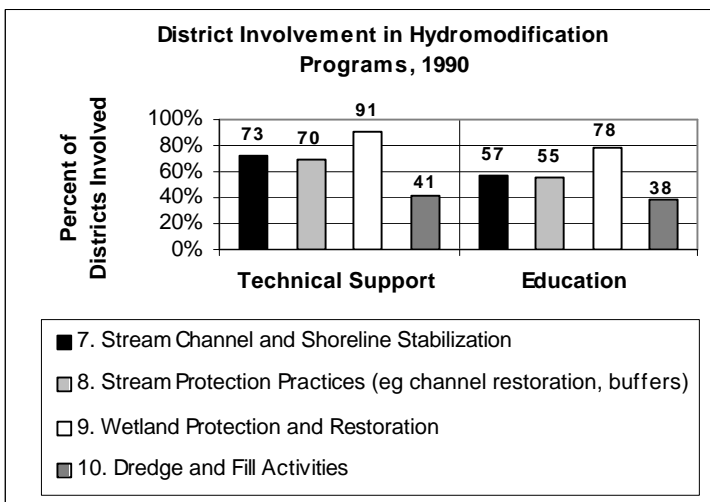
installation). Seventy six percent of the districts responding give technical support, 61 percent have an information/education function and 39 percent have some form of regulatory authority. Regulatory activities are focused in Minnesota (57 percent) and Ohio (46 percent). The significant proportion of districts involved in stream protection practices is due to federal programs, such as the National Buffer Initiative and the Conservation Reserve Program and federal/state partnerships such as the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

Participation in wetland protection and restoration activities is equally significant. Seventy-two percent of districts report technical support activities, 61 percent offer information/education and 45 percent have regulatory authority related to wetland protection and/or restoration. Regulatory authority is clustered in Minnesota, where six

out of seven (86 percent) of the districts responding undertake regulatory activity, and Ohio where 65 percent of districts have regulatory authority.

Stream channel and shoreline stabilization programs have similar rates of participation, with 68 percent of districts reporting technical support, 59 percent involved in information/education, and 36 percent exercising regulatory

Figure Five



authority. Regulatory activities for stream channel and shoreline restoration is clustered in Minnesota (57 percent) and Ohio (42 percent).

In contrast, the number of districts with programs related to dredge and fill activities are significantly lower than the other three hydromodification areas — only 25 percent provide technical support, 18 percent report information/education programs and 24 percent engage in regulatory activities. Regulatory activity is focused in Minnesota (43 percent) and Michigan (33 percent).

COMPARISON WITH 1990 SURVEY

The percentage of districts reporting activities in hydromodification issue areas declined between 1990 and 2000 with one exception; technical support for stream protection practices rose from 70 percent to 76 percent

between the two surveys (compare Figures Four and Five). The largest downward change in both technical support and education came in dredge and fill activities which dropped from 41 to 25 percent in the technical support area and from 38 to 18 percent in information and education activities. This is due to changes in federal law such as Swampbusters, which is a Farm Bill program that prohibits draining or filling wetlands. Since most districts follow the Natural Resources Conservation Service's technical guides, federal prohibition on wetland filling has passed to the local level.

At the same time, technical support for wetland protection and restoration apparently dropped from 91 to 72 percent and information/education activities dipped in this program area from 78 to 61 percent. This decline may be attributed

to the fact that districts were able to choose from a range of options in the 2000 survey that were not available to them in 1990, possibly leading them to split the technical support functions between technical support and regulatory activity. It is also valuable to note that although the percentage of districts with programs in specific hydromodification areas may have declined since 1990, this is currently the second most significant area in terms of district participation (see Figure One).

3. URBAN ISSUES

The 2000 survey asks districts to identify activities in five program areas related to urban issues:⁵ stormwater management, floodplain management, greenways, urban forestry and construction site erosion control. Urban issues are the third largest programmatic area for districts. Aggregated data indicate that 79 percent of districts offer technical support in at least one of the five areas surveyed, while 62 percent offer information/education programs and 52 percent have some form of regulatory authority (see Figure One).

Construction site erosion control has the highest percentage of district involvement in all three activity areas with 50 percent of districts reporting technical support activities, 47 percent reporting information/education activities and 39 percent reporting regulatory functions. Regulatory activity is clustered in Indiana (85 percent) and Ohio (42 percent).

Stormwater management is the second most significant program for districts in this issue area. Floodplain management, greenways and urban forestry are program areas among which activities are almost equally distributed, although there is slightly less involvement in regulatory activities for greenway and urban forestry than in technical support or education activities for these two program areas (see Figure Six).

COMPARISON WITH THE 1990 SURVEY

The 1990 survey did not include urban issues as a separate issue area, however three of the program areas surveyed in 2000 can be directly compared to those addressed in the 1990 survey (compare Figures Six and Seven). Of the three program areas, construction site erosion control experienced the most significant decline with technical support activities down to 50 percent in 2000 from 69 percent in 1990 and information/education activities at 45 percent in 2000, down from 57 percent in 1990. The apparent decline in construction site erosion control is most likely attributed to the fact districts had the option of choosing from a range of technical support or regulatory activities in the 2000 survey. The percentage of districts participating in both stormwater management and floodplain management remain consistent between the two surveys.

Figure Six

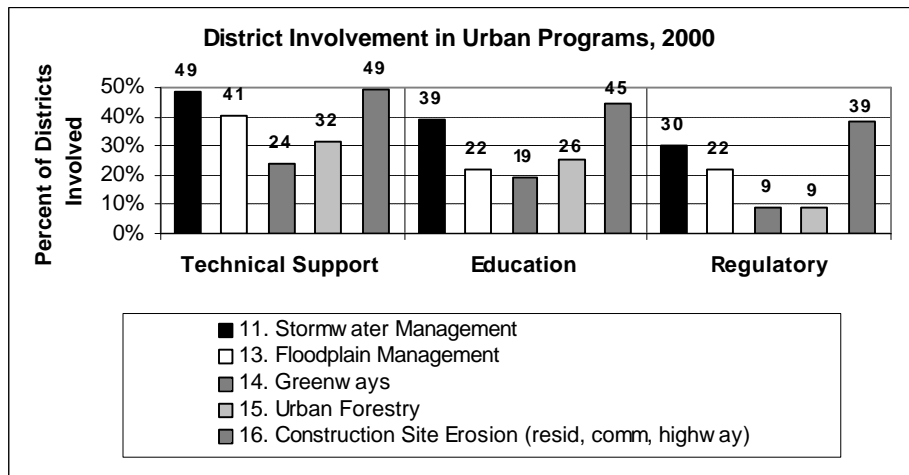
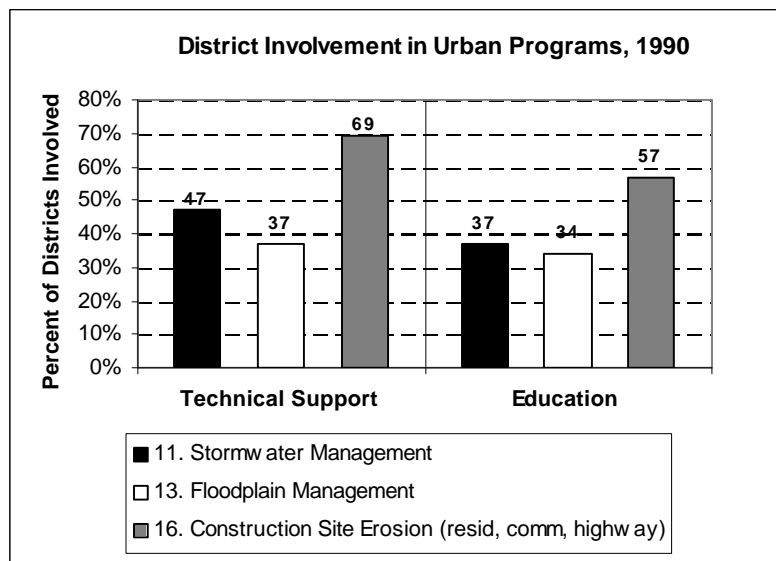


Figure Seven



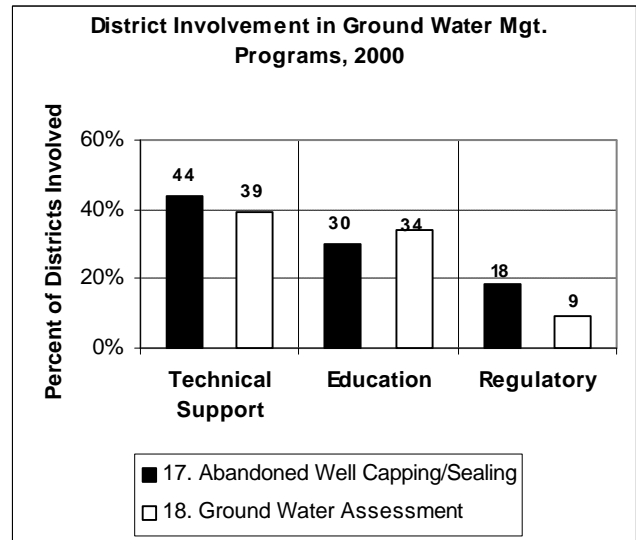
⁵ Six program areas were surveyed, however Farmland Protection was surveyed twice and its data aggregated under section one, agriculture issues. Data related to this program area can be found there.

4. GROUND WATER MANAGEMENT

As part of the effort to capture the range of activities in which districts are involved, the 2000 survey asks them to identify activities in two programmatic areas related to groundwater management: abandoned well capping/sealing and ground water assessment (see Figure Eight). For abandoned well-capping/sealing 44 percent of districts report technical support activities while 30 percent undertake information/education activities and 18 percent have regulatory functions. Michigan, with 37 percent of the districts reporting regulatory functions here, is the state with the most significant participation in this area. In ground water assessment, 39 percent of districts reporting have technical support programs, 34 percent have information/education functions and nine percent undertake regulatory activities.

Compared to other issue areas where districts are very active, on the whole groundwater management is not yet a significant program area for Great Lakes basin districts. Although a larger percentage of districts report technical assistance, education or regulatory activities in groundwater management than land disposal, resource recovery or mining, these activities are not as significant as agriculture, hydromodification, urban issues or forestry (see Figure One).

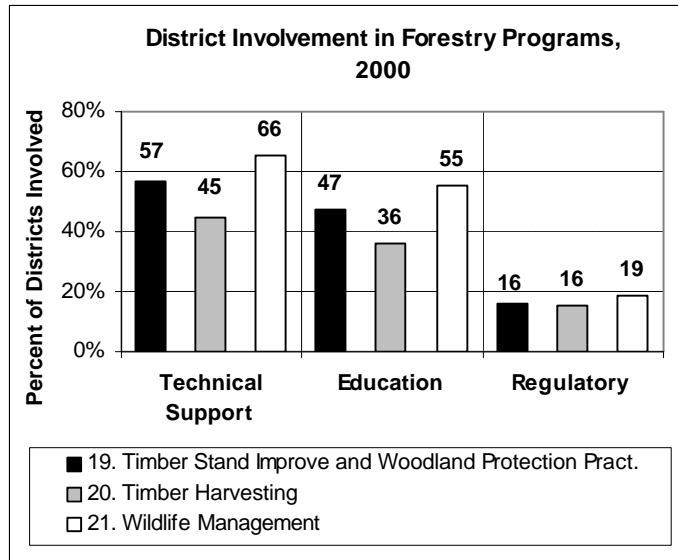
Figure Eight



5. FORESTRY

Forestry programs include timber stand improvement and woodland protection practices, timber harvesting and wildlife management. A similar proportion of districts report technical support and education activities in each of the three program areas with a slightly higher percentage of districts involved in wildlife management (see Figure Nine). All three program areas have an approximately equal percentage of districts reporting regulatory activities. Michigan districts report the most programmatic participation of all the states responding. Forestry-related programs form the fourth most significant issue area for districts (see Figure One).

Figure Nine



COMPARISON WITH 1990 SURVEY

When comparing results for timber stand improvement from the 2000 survey to its 1990 predecessor, it appears that district involvement is down considerably. In 1990, 73 percent of districts had technical support programs and 80 percent had education programs. In 2000, those numbers are down to 57 percent and 47 percent respectively. This decline is most likely because cost-share funding for timber stand improvement is no longer available through either the Agricultural Conservation Program or the Stewardship Incentives Program. However, forestry-related

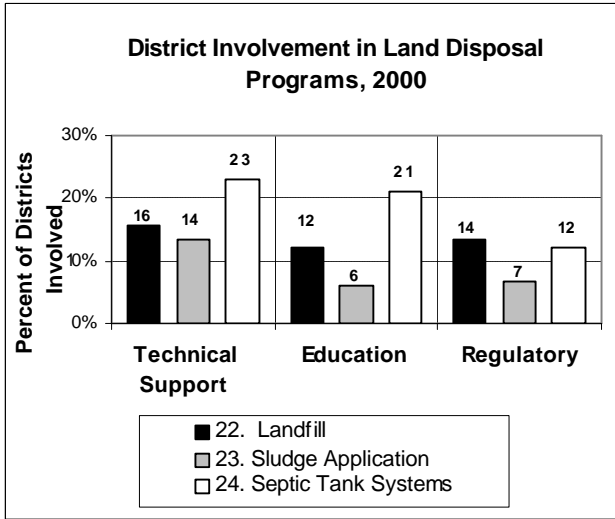
programs remain an important component of Great Lakes basin district programmatic activities, reported as the fourth most significant issue area after agriculture, hydromodification and urban issues.

6. LAND DISPOSAL

The 2000 survey asks districts to identify activities in three land disposal program areas including landfill, sludge application and septic tank systems. District activity in this issue area is comparatively light when considering the other issues listed above (see Figure One). The highest proportion of district participation is in septic tank systems — 23 percent of districts report technical support in this area and 21 percent have education programs. Twelve percent report regulatory responsibilities; New York, Michigan and Wisconsin districts lead others with 19, 15 and 15 percent (respec-

tively) reporting regulatory responsibilities. Landfill activities are next — 16 percent of the districts responding report technical support programs, 12 percent have education programs and 14 percent have regulatory functions related to landfill. Of those districts reporting regulatory functions, Indiana has the largest concentration with 54 percent. Finally, of districts with programmatic activities related to sludge application, 14 percent offer technical support, 6 percent offer information/education and 7 percent, divided among Michigan, Minnesota and New York, have regulatory responsibilities (see Figure Ten).

Figure Ten

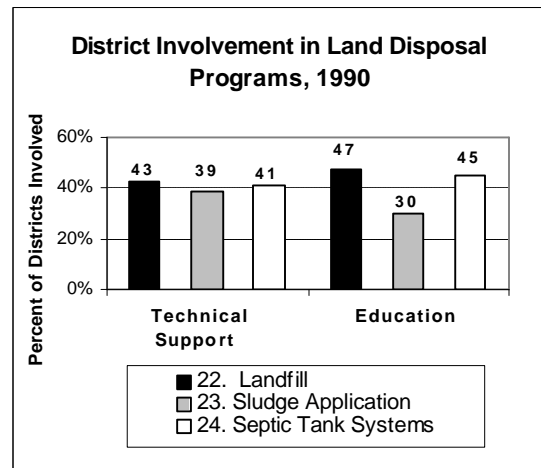


dramatic decline in the percentage of districts with both technical support and education activities in these three program areas (compare Figures Ten and Eleven). In 1990 approximately 40 percent of the districts responding offered technical support in all three land disposal areas while the proportion of districts with education programs was similar. These results represent a decline of over 30 percent and reflect a shift in district responsibilities away from land disposal activities. It is possible that responsibility for septic tank installation and inspection, for example, has been assumed by local water boards as water systems expand into rural areas.

COMPARISON WITH 1990 SURVEY

The results in this category for the 2000 survey are directly comparable to the 1990 survey and show a

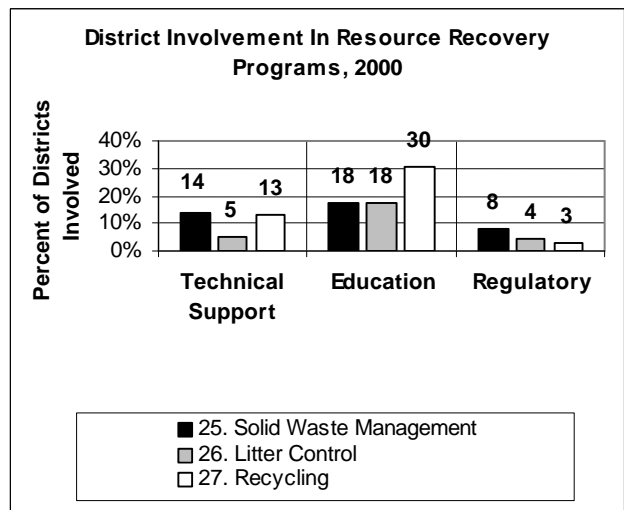
Figure Eleven



7. RESOURCE RECOVERY

Resource recovery-related programs include solid waste management, litter control and recycling. The percentage of districts involved in this area is comparatively small. Less than 15 percent report technical support activities for any of the three program areas. Participation in information and education activities is slightly higher. Thirty percent of the districts responding undertake education activities related to recycling, and 18 percent related to both litter control and solid waste management. Less than 10 percent of districts have regulatory programs in this issue area. Because results in this area are scattered throughout Great Lakes basin districts, it is likely that responsibility for regulatory programs in this area comes from local governments (see Figure Twelve).

Figure Twelve



8. MINING

Mining programs include mined land reclamation, active mining, and oil/gas wells. The program area where districts reported the most activity is in mined land reclamation, such as gravel, sand or copper mines (see Figure Thirteen). Here 23 percent of the districts responding indicate they provide technical support, 11 percent undertake educational activity and 11 percent have regulatory functions. Regulatory activities are focused in Wisconsin, where 30 percent of districts report having this kind of role and Michigan, New York and Minnesota where 15 percent or less of districts report regulatory functions related to mined land reclamation.

The remaining two program areas — active mining and oil/gas wells — generate comparatively little activity. Eight percent of districts provide technical support for active mining, while five percent offer education programs in this area and four percent have some kind of regulatory responsibility. For oil/gas wells, five percent offer technical support, three percent have educational activities directed to this subject and two percent have regulatory authority. In both cases regulatory authority is reported by less than 15 percent of districts in any one state.

Figure Fourteen

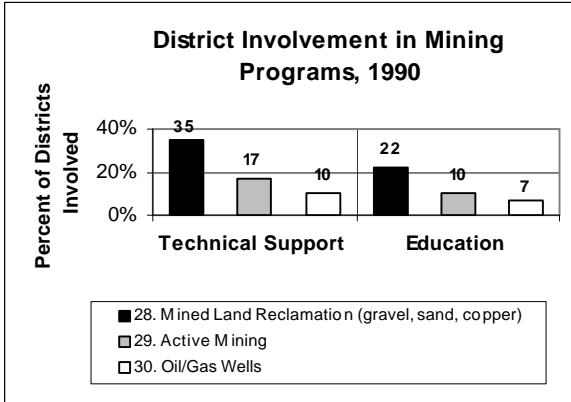
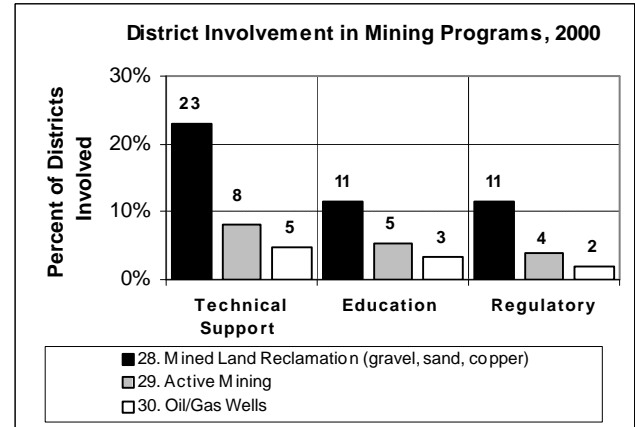


Figure Thirteen



COMPARISON WITH 1990 SURVEY

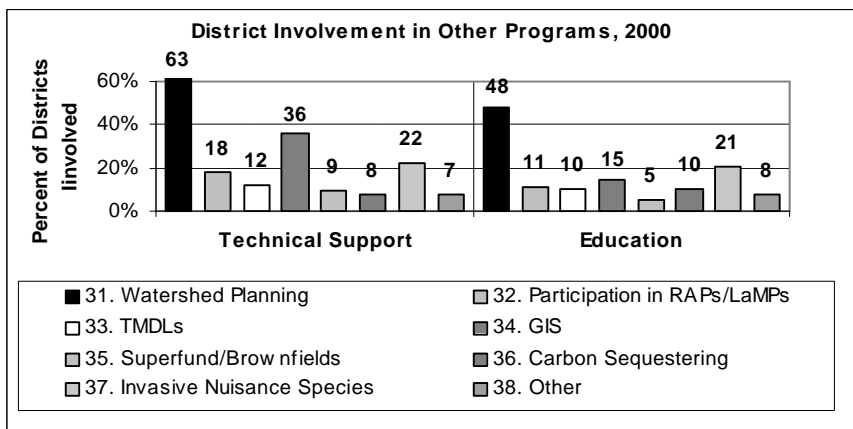
The results from the 2000 survey, compared to its predecessor, demonstrate a marked reduction in district activities related to mined land reclamation, active mining, and oil/gas well

programs. The proportion of districts reporting technical support and education programs declined by almost 50 percent between the two surveys (compare Figures Thirteen and Fourteen). Similar to land disposal programs discussed above, these results reflect a shift in programmatic emphasis over the ten years between the two surveys.

9. OTHER ISSUES

The 2000 survey includes a ninth issue area for “Other,” which includes activities not captured in the previous eight. There are six programmatic areas addressed here, including watershed planning, participation in Remedial Action Plans (RAPs)/Lakewide Management Plans (LaMPs), Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs), Geographic Information Systems (GIS), superfund/brownfields, carbon sequestering, invasive nuisance species and other. For each of these areas, the survey asks districts to indicate their technical support and educational activities (see Figure Fifteen).

Figure Fifteen



For those districts responding with technical support programs in “Other” issue areas, 63 percent report programs in watershed planning, 36 percent in GIS, 22 percent related to invasive nuisance species, 18 percent in RAPs/ LaMPs and 12 percent in TMDLs. Less than 10 percent of the districts reporting had programs in the remaining areas.

The high rate of district involvement in watershed planning activity reflects an ongoing concern in this area, which was also reflected in the 1990 survey. The 1990 survey identified several related emerging priorities including water quality protection, urban and suburban activities, especially involving storm water runoff, and groundwater protection.

SURFACE WATER QUALITY MONITORING

The survey asks districts to report the specific parameters they monitor for surface water quality. Fifty percent of the districts responding monitor at least one measure of water quality, 25 percent monitor three to six parameters and 8 percent monitor seven or more. The most common measure of water quality tested is nutrient content. However, those districts monitoring multiple parameters typically measure flow, pH and temperature. Additionally, 22 percent of districts also report that they monitor habitat.

CHAPTER FOUR: TECHNICAL PERSONNEL AND STAFFING

The survey asks districts to indicate the number of staff (FTE) they have working on technical support, educational, or regulatory tasks in the nine issue areas. Many districts reported more staff than their budgets could accommodate. A phone interview with a subset of districts responding revealed that district staffing is dynamic and fluid. An effective district uses all the resources available to implement strong programs. Such resources can include district employees; other county personnel; state or federal government staff, such as the US Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA NRCS); private groups and volunteers. This apparently led to some confusion about which personnel to include in the FTE column. A quantitative result is therefore not possible to develop for this aspect of the survey; instead a qualitative description of district staffing, indicating the richness of district partnership, was developed. This qualitative description is presented below.

1) MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL, SHARED EMPLOYEES:

A district often receives personnel and technical support from state or federal agencies. Often two or more county offices will share a technical staff member who is either a state or federal employee. Sometimes this person is allotted a specific percentage of time to work with a specific district. For example, a state forester might be assigned to three counties and spend 1/3 of his/her time equally in each county. Other arrangements are made on an "as needed" basis. For example, a district manager is able to refer forestry issues as they arise to the state forester whose office is in the next county. Often regulatory functions, technical support and education efforts flow back and forth and are shared in different proportions among county, state and federal employees.

2) TEMPORARY, PARTTIME EMPLOYEES:

Some district functions are grant driven and, if state or federal money is available for a project, the district may hire a temporary employee for all or a portion of a fiscal year. In other cases, districts are able to raise funds locally that provide them additional staffing flexibility.

3) SHARED SPACE/SHARED EQUIPMENT:

Often district offices are physically housed with the federal USDA NRCS office in that county. Federal and state employees work side by side with district personnel sharing functions and tasks as they arise on a daily basis. A "joint government effort" was one term used to try to describe this aspect of a district's daily operations.

4) DISTRICT EMPLOYEES UNDERTAKE MULTIPLE TASKS:

In a small office employees often perform multiple tasks, especially in the areas of education and technical support. For example, a spring tree sale involves public relations and education, technical support and administrative functions often carried out by the same person. The most effective districts work creatively with their local, state and federal partners to offer a full range of services and expert advice to the landowners and clients that require their help.

The 2000 survey also asks districts to indicate how many technical personnel or specialists they have on staff, from a list of 13 (Appendix One). Conservation technicians are the most common staff persons in districts, with 188 technicians reported in the 148 districts responding to the survey. Forty-eight percent of the districts responding also have education specialists or coordinators. Watershed coordinators/planners are located in 32 percent of districts, foresters in 28 percent, nutrient management specialists in 27 percent, wildlife specialists in 20 percent and wetlands specialists in 18 percent. Less than 15 percent of districts report urban erosion specialists or engineers on staff, while fewer than 6 percent of districts have urban stream specialists, modelers, soil scientists or biosolids technicians.

PROJECTED STAFFING NEEDS

The 2000 survey asks districts to identify budgetary resources that they would request if they could ask for a "no-strings-attached" increase in administration, technical support and personnel (Chart Three). The total of the average request in these three categories is \$140,292. Using a conservative estimate of \$42,000 (\$35,000 in annual salary, 20 percent in benefits) per staff member, this amounts to three people per district. This staffing need is higher than that identified by the 1990 survey which identified the need for two additional staff members per district.

CHAPTER FIVE: COMMUNICATION AND PARTNERSHIP

Given the fundamental importance of partnership to achieving on-the-ground conservation practices, the 2000 survey asks districts to report on their communication mechanisms and collaborative relationships. This series includes questions asking districts what methods they use to communicate with a list of six partners, how frequently they collaborate with eight potential partners and their reasons for partnering.⁶

COMMUNICATION

The survey asks districts to indicate the methods they use to communicate with the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD), their state associations, other districts, watershed groups, and state and federal agencies. Communication methods include e-mail/phone, newsletters, web-sites and site visits.

Districts report that their primary mode of communication with NACD is through newsletters (77 percent) or e-mail/phone (54 percent). State associations are contacted through similar means; 91 percent of districts use e-mail or phone to keep in touch with their state association, 81 percent report using newsletters, and 26 percent of districts report visiting state association offices. E-mail/phone (93 percent) and newsletters (68 percent) are strong communication tools among districts, along with 44 percent reporting site visits to other districts. E-mail/phone and newsletters are popular ways for districts to keep in touch with watershed groups – 66 percent and 64 percent of districts report this as a method of communication, an additional 44 percent indicate they have site visits to or from watershed groups. Districts generally communicate with state and federal agencies via e-mail/phone, at 93 percent and 89 percent respectively.

PARTNERSHIP

Districts' potential partners range from federal, state and regional agencies to local entities such as watershed and environmental groups. The 2000 survey asks districts to report the entities with which they always partner, those with which they carry out the most programs and those with which they seldom or never partner.

The US Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is the most common partner for districts. Thirty-four percent of districts report NRCS as the partner with which they always work, while an additional 54 percent report they undertake most programs with NRCS. Less strong partnerships are enjoyed with other federal agencies. Six percent of districts report they always partner with other federal agencies, while 32 percent undertake most programs with them and 56 percent report seldom partnering with other federal agencies. Nineteen percent of districts report always partnering with state agencies, while 72 percent report most programs are undertaken with state agencies. State/regional commissions are not considered strong partners by the districts. Five percent report always partnering with these entities, 23 percent undertake most programs, 56 percent seldom partner with state/regional commissions and seven percent never partner with them.

Districts partner with NRCS to obtain technical support (91 percent) and for education and information exchange (65 percent). Other federal agencies are partners because of information/education (52 percent) and funding opportunities (44 percent). Districts see state agencies as a good source of funding (86 percent) and technical support (72 percent). State and regional commissions are looked to for information/education opportunities (61 percent) as well as a source of funding support (34 percent).

Not surprisingly, districts partner frequently with local governments and other districts. Thirty-one percent of districts report they always partner with local governments, while 54 percent indicate they partner with local governments for most programs. Districts also collaborate regularly with each other; 30 percent report they always partner with other districts and 51 percent report most programs are undertaken in conjunction with other districts. No district reported that it did not cooperate with local governments or other districts.

Districts partner less frequently with watershed groups and environmental non-governmental organizations. This is to be expected given that the frequency and nature of these groups varies across the Great Lakes basin. Only 11 percent of districts report always partnering with watershed groups, and, although 48 percent indicate that most programs are

⁶ For the complete list of partners and reasons for partnering, see the survey in Appendix One.

undertaken in conjunction with watershed groups, 35 percent of districts report seldom partnering with them. Districts do not partner frequently with environmental non-governmental organizations. Only six percent of districts report always partnering with these groups. Twenty-six percent cooperate on most programs, but 62 percent seldom partner with environmental groups and two percent never work with these groups.

Districts view local governments as a source of both funding (70 percent) and as partners in information/education work (66 percent). Other districts are looked to as partners in information/education (85 percent) as well as to provide technical support (72 percent). Watershed and environmental groups are other strong information/education partners – 76 percent and 81 percent respectively, and are also partnered with for technical support reasons – 39 percent and 31 percent.

Communication and partnership form the foundation of effective conservation programs. Efficient mechanisms for communication and collaboration become even more important as the district mission broadens in scope and districts pursue partnerships with a broader array of agencies and organizations.

CHAPTER SIX: CURRENT RESOURCES AND FUTURE NEEDS

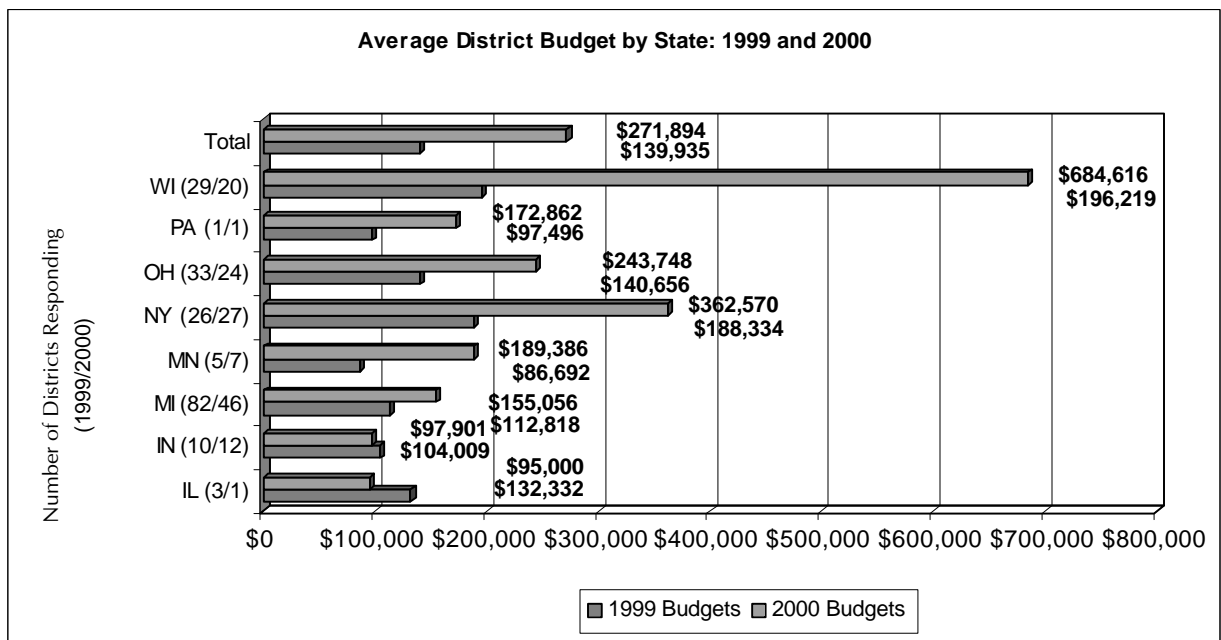
CURRENT BUDGETS

The 2000 survey asks districts to indicate their existing total budget (see Chart One). The average annual budget, calculated for all districts that responded to this question, is \$284,294. Budgets range from lows in the mid-\$90,000s in Indiana and Illinois, to an average of \$684,616 for Wisconsin districts. When compared to 1990 average budgets adjusted for inflation, six of the eight states show an increase in average budgets in 2000. The most significant budget increase is in Wisconsin which is up 243 percent over its 1990 average. Other state increases range from 35 percent in Michigan to 114 percent in Minnesota. The decline in Indiana budgets most likely reflects a shift in responsibility that has district employees paid out of county budgets, rather than district budgets. Therefore, in terms of programmatic application, Indiana districts have considerably larger budgets now than they did in 1990.

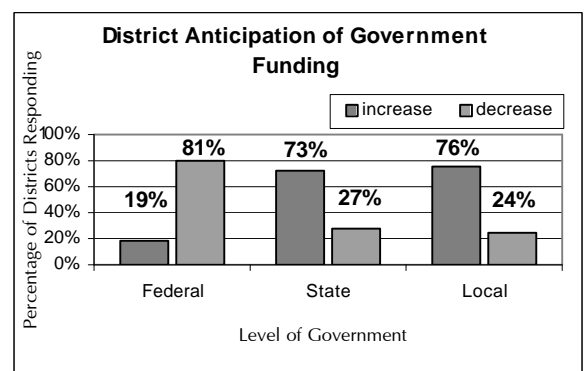
PROJECTED DIRECTION OF GOVERNMENT FUNDING

The 2000 survey asks each district to indicate in what direction financial support from federal, state and local government appears to be moving. A large percentage of districts anticipate a marked drop in federal support, with a com-

Chart One



mensurate increase in reliance upon state and local government funding. At the time of the survey, however, economic indicators in the Great Lakes states were more favorable than they are currently. This less favorable economic climate may lead districts to anticipate reduced support from state and local governments. As indicated in Chart Two, 81 percent of the districts responding to this question expect a reduction in federal funds, with 73 and 77 percent anticipating an increase in state and local spending respectively. This same trend is also reflected on a state-by-state analysis of anticipated revenues. The exception is Wisconsin, where districts anticipate a drop in both federal and state funding, although they do expect an increase in funding from local governments.



⁷ All 1990 dollar amounts have been adjusted for inflation using the American Economic Research Institute's *Cost-of-Living Calculator* found at www.aier.org/cgi_bin/colcalculator.cgi.

FUTURE BUDGET NEEDS

The 2000 survey asks each district to project future budget needs in eight areas by responding to the following question: "If you could request a no-strings-attached budgetary increase: how much would you request for each of the following categories?": administration, personnel, technical support, cost-share practices, office equipment, research/information, and other needs.

Discussions with district managers and members of the NACD Great Lakes Committee suggest that the responses to this question are very conservative. Despite the request that they consider this category as essentially an unencumbered windfall, most districts appear to have tempered their responses to fall within the realm of the possible for their state governments. Those districts reporting dollar amounts and those reporting percentages were equally conservative in their estimates. For example, with the exception of cost-share practices, those districts responding to the question with percentages rarely requested an increase above 20 percent.

Chart Three illustrates the total request of the 148 districts responding to the survey. The bottom row shows a basin-wide district average for each category with a total average request of \$501,447 per district. When extrapolated to all 209 districts in the basin, the total local conservation need basin-wide could amount to \$104,802,423, assuming the average of the 148 responses is also applicable to the 61 districts that did not respond.

Although almost all states in the Great Lakes basin have cost share programs, districts see a very real need for additional funds to implement cost-share practices. For example, one New York district estimates \$2,000,000 is required in this category in order to provide assistance to over 200 dairy farms within the county. One Ohio district estimates \$1,000,000 in cost-share needs, while three other New York districts suggest \$500,000 would meet their cost-share requirements. New York districts have the highest state total for this field at \$311,300. On average, the districts responding could use an additional \$145,448 each in cost-share funds. This is somewhat lower than the average

Chart Three⁹

State	Admin	Personnel	Tech Support	Cost-share Practices	Office Equip	Field Equip	Research/Info	Other	Totals
IL	\$20,000	\$40,000	\$20,000	\$30,000	\$10,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$120,000
IN	\$110,000	\$575,000	\$375,000	\$730,000	\$155,000	\$166,000	\$26,000	\$85,200	\$2,222,200
MI	\$1,077,740	\$2,297,460	\$1,140,200	\$3,012,000	\$553,500	\$573,500	\$374,500	\$2,221,900	\$11,520,800
MN	\$87,000	\$420,000	\$80,000	\$265,000	\$44,000	\$136,000	\$32,000	\$15,000	\$1,079,000
NY	\$728,000	\$2,570,000	\$885,000	\$6,226,000	\$489,500	\$816,000	\$602,000	\$32,000	\$12,348,500
OH	\$182,000	\$523,000	\$185,000	\$1,490,000	\$168,000	\$207,000	\$104,000	\$603,000	\$3,462,000
PA	\$0	\$80,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$80,000
WI	\$305,000	\$1,245,000	\$820,000	\$2,210,000	\$75,000	\$94,000	\$203,000	\$0	\$4,952,000
TOTAL	\$2,509,740	\$7,750,460	\$3,775,200	\$13,963,000	\$1,495,000	\$1,992,500	\$1,341,500	\$2,957,100	\$35,784,500
District Average	\$27,886	\$70,459	\$41,947	\$145,448	\$15,573	\$22,139	\$22,358	\$155,637	\$501,447

request per district reported in the 1990 survey which was \$201,350 for incentive payments. This difference may be due to the fact many states have increased the amount of funds they make available for cost-share practices, particularly for water quality related efforts, since the 1990 survey. The high response to this category reflects, however, the

8 Although survey designers anticipated that districts would respond to this question with dollar amounts, 14 districts returned percentage figures. While it is difficult to ascertain whether the response refers to a percentage of the district's total budget or that particular item within the budget, it is most likely that they refer to specific budget items. Three districts report they would use as much resources "as they can get" or are available

9 The final line, District Average, was calculated by dividing the total amount requested for each field, by the total number of responses to that field. A zero or blank response was not averaged into the total.

ongoing emphasis that districts place on cost-share practices for achieving voluntary compliance from landowners. Cost-share practices are very expensive but effective in helping districts achieve their environmental goals.

The next largest specific items on the chart, administration at \$27,866, personnel at \$70,459 and technical support at \$41,947 with combined total of \$140,272, may reflect ongoing staff shortages in districts which was a significant finding of the 1990 survey. Using a conservative estimate of \$42,000 (\$35,000 in annual salary, 20 percent in benefits) per staff member, the 2000 request amounts to three people per district. Districts report the need for \$15,573 in office equipment and \$22,139 in field equipment. Additionally, they require at least \$22,358 in research and information that they currently lack.

Finally, the 2000 survey asks districts to consider "other" budget items, not specifically identified, for which they required additional funds. This category has an average of \$155,637, although only 19 districts completed this item.

New York districts had the highest estimates in five of the eight budget categories. The wide variation among states, evident in Chart Three, is likely due to the difference in the number of districts responding in each state. However, it may also reflect differences in the size and scope of district responsibilities from state to state. All states in the basin, excluding Pennsylvania where only one district responded and Illinois where two districts responded to the survey, estimated at least one million dollars in needs. This is an indication that district needs are basin wide and not just concentrated in one or two states. In addition, the 148 districts that responded reported needs of close to \$75 million. If this is extended to all 209 districts in the basin, it would amount to as much as \$104,802,423 in local conservation needs basin wide.

SUPPORT FROM PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

The 2000 survey asks districts to indicate whether they require funding, technical training and/or engineering support from several common partner organizations including state water quality and conservation agencies, USDA NRCS, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) and other agencies. Overwhelmingly, districts identify state conservation and water quality agencies and USDA NRCS as the entities from which they most require funding. These agencies are also identified as necessary for providing technical training and engineering support to districts. NACD, EPA and the other category are not viewed as important in meeting district requirements, although both NACD and EPA are identified as organizations from which districts would like to see funding support and technical training. Districts identify local or county government most often in the "other" category and indicate that funding is what is most required from this level of government.

CHAPTER SEVEN: FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

FINDINGS:

Given their origin in the 1930s and events precipitated by the Dust Bowl, districts have traditionally played a significant role in soil erosion control. Over the past ten years, this activity has gradually decreased in importance to the general district mission as other issues have increased in significance. Although programs related to agricultural issues remain the most significant component of district activity, hydromodification, urban and forestry programs have become more important. Technical support and information/education activities are the most intensive component of districts' programs. However, regulatory activities, especially in agriculture, hydromodification and urban issues, are also important.

There has been significant growth in resource management on a watershed basis because the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and state funded programs are increasing their emphasis on this type of management. Districts are hampered administratively by jurisdictional lines that, in the Great Lakes basin, do not correspond to watershed boundaries. Implementing formal, watershed-based management practices is even more challenging because districts remain most closely allied with traditional partners, such as the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service and local governments, neither of which regularly operate at the watershed level. Districts are not yet taking full advantage of non-traditional partners, such as other federal agencies and watershed organizations, and the watershed-based opportunities these partners represent.

Districts are, however, well-positioned to take advantage of advances in information technology and communications presented by Geographical Information Systems and the Internet.

Districts continue to view cost-share practices as an important tool in meeting their environmental and resource management goals and objectives. Follow up conversations with district representatives suggest that many district estimates of unmet funding needs remain conservative, i.e. they recorded funds they are likely to receive given budgetary realities, rather than indicating the full complement of funds required to address identified needs.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

I CONGRESS:

- 1) Congress should increase funding support for technical assistance provided by federal agencies. This should include funding to provide technical training for district personnel and engineering support for districts.
- 2) Increase funding to allow adequate levels of expenditures for equipment so SWCD personnel can efficiently carry out their functions.
- 3) Increase funding to support cost-share incentives to landusers to install Best Management Practices to improve soil and water resources.
- 4) Increase the level of funding for research and education to provide better conservation improvements tools and to facilitate their implementation.

II FEDERAL AGENCIES:

- 1) The U.S. Department of Agriculture, through its state and field offices, works closely with soil and water conservation districts on the delivery of local programs. Other federal agencies that are increasingly developing watershed-based programs and strategies for land use planning and resource management decision-making – EPA, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) – should establish formal linkages and partnerships with districts to assist and support in the delivery of programs and services at the local level. This should include increasing district opportunities to receive funding and technical assistance support from these agencies.
- 2) Involve districts in Great Lakes projects, initiatives where attention to soil and water conservation will advance overall resource management and environmental quality goals.

III STATE

- 1) Seven Great Lakes states have passed environmental legislation or bonds designed to restore and protect water, land and air resources. Where the objective of the bonds matches the conservation district mission, state legislators should direct at least a portion of the funds raised to conservation districts. Applications from districts should be solicited for all competitive grant programs.

Minnesota legislators should consider environmental bond issues as a mechanism for directly supporting the conservation district mission.

- 2) Districts are well-positioned to provide a range of services to aid in program delivery at the local level. Unfortunately, district capacities are not equal across the Great Lakes basin or within states. State soil and water conservation agencies should work with state associations and districts to implement an internship/exchange program that would enable districts to develop the requisite technical expertise for implementing complex programs.
- 3) As found in the survey, state funding for district activities is quite strong in the Great Lakes basin. However, state legislatures must increase districts' base funding to support district activities meeting state objectives at the local level.

III LOCAL

- 1) Local and county governments and their constituencies directly benefit from the regulatory, education and technical support conservation districts provide. These governments should ensure that districts are adequately supported to deliver the full range of services, either through budgetary appropriations, or by providing administrative support.

IV DISTRICTS

- 1) At the federal level, districts have traditionally partnered with the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service. As noted in recommendation two, federal agencies need to expand their partnerships with districts while, in turn, districts should expand their federal partnerships to include other arms of the USDA, such as the Farm Services Agency, the Agricultural Research Service and the US Forest Service, as well as other federal agencies such as the USGS, the NOAA, the USACE, the EPA and the USFWS.
- 2) Districts should be aware of regional and binational agencies, such as the Great Lakes Commission, the Great Lakes Fishery Commission and the International Joint Commission, whose basin-wide mandates in resource management issues related to the conservation, protection and enhancement of Great Lakes resources would benefit from district involvement. Districts should work through their state associations and the NACD Great Lakes Committee to address local needs that should be raised at the regional or national levels.
- 3) Districts should become aware of the technical support and assistance available through state and federal partnership programs. These include Farm*a*Syst, a national program cooperatively supported by the USDA Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service (CSREES), USDA NRCS, and the EPA. Another is Sea Grant Advisory services, a network of university-based outreach agents with expertise in a range of coastal issues. The Conservation Technology and Information Center at Purdue University is a national, nonprofit public/private partnership working to promote soil and water quality and equip agriculture with affordable, integrated management solutions. Resource, Conservation and Development (RC&D) Councils usually cover several counties, in which residents work to improve their economy and the environment through the conservation, development, and better use of their natural resources. RC&D places heavy emphasis on natural resources.
- 4) Given state and federal agency emphasis on watershed-based resource management approach, districts in other states should consider adopting a model similar to that undertaken by New York districts. The Finger Lakes-Lake Ontario Watershed Protection Alliance (FL-LOWPA) is a coalition of 25 counties wholly or partially in the New York State Lake Ontario drainage basin. FL-LOWPA fosters coordinated watershed management programs across the Lake Ontario Basin based on local needs. FL-LOWPA programs enhance and protect water quality through a combination of nonpoint source pollution control; watershed planning and research; and public education (<http://www.fllowpa.org/>).
- 5) The state and federal emphasis on watershed-based resource management means that districts should also begin to partner more actively with watershed groups and conservation and environmental organizations where missions and/or goals coincide. This will increase the efficiency and effectiveness of local environment and resource management education programs and ensure that landowners and local residents receive a common message from multiple sources.

V NACD GREAT LAKES COMMITTEE

- 1) The NACD Great Lakes Committee should use the results of the survey to seek enhanced federal funding and program improvements for Great Lakes conservation districts and provide aid to state associations and districts as they pursue increased funding and program improvements at the state and local levels.
- 2) This survey presents a wealth of information about the district mission in the Great Lakes basin. The NACD Great Lakes Committee should convene a meeting to discuss survey findings, recommendations and implementation opportunities. Participants should include district leadership, state spo; amd water cpmservatopm agemcoes. USDA NRCS, NACD, EPA, USACE, the Great Lkaes Commission and other regional partners.
- 3) The NACD Great Lakes Committee should act as a conduit representing local and/or regional issues and interests to the regional and national level through the agencies and organizations with which it regularly cooperates.

APPENDIX ONE-SURVEY

<http://www.glc.org/swcdsurvey/>

APPENDIX TWO: METHODOLOGY

I SURVEY DEVELOPMENT

Great Lakes Commission staff developed an initial survey that incorporated and enhanced the 1990 survey. The National Association of Conservation Districts — Great Lakes Committee reviewed the initial draft and consulted at least one conservation district in each state in order to gain district input on the survey questions. A sub-committee of the Great Lakes Committee used the suggested revisions to refine survey questions and develop an instruction sheet. The revised survey and instruction sheet were reviewed by the Great Lakes Committee which gave final approval after final refinements were made.

In consultation with the Great Lakes Committee, surveys were mailed to 209 districts identified by the Conservation Technology Information Center as being wholly or partially within the Great Lakes basin. This was a change from the 1990 survey which was sent to 189 districts. The 1990 survey was sent only to those districts entirely within the watershed boundary of the Great Lakes basin.

II SURVEY PROCESS

The survey was mailed from the Great Lakes Commission to 209 districts between November 11 and 14, 2000 with a due date of December 1, 2000. Each survey was accompanied by a letter of introduction signed by the chair of the Great Lakes Committee, the state representative on the Committee and the Executive Director (now President and CEO) of the Great Lakes Commission. Twenty-five percent of those surveyed responded by the due date. The Great Lakes Commission staff initiated a follow up procedure that included having Great Lakes Committee members call overdue districts in their state, working with the state association to encourage districts to respond, and calling districts directly in the case of New York and Michigan.

III SURVEY CONTENT

Section One of the survey lists 38 individual tasks grouped into 9 program areas and asks respondents to indicate for which of these tasks their district had regulatory, technical assistance and/or information/education responsibilities. (See Appendix One) Where the district had regulatory functions, they were asked to indicate under what level of authority that function was granted — federal or state statute, or local ordinance. Section One also asks respondents to estimate full-time staff equivalent (FTE) associated with each aspect of the program area. While the entire survey was designed to be filled out quickly and with ease, survey developers were particularly careful to ensure participants were able to fill out Section One rapidly by making this section primarily a checklist.

Section Two encompassed 12 questions designed to give a broad overview of how districts communicate, partner and generate revenue. This section also complemented the 1990 survey by asking districts to estimate a series of potential resource needs. This series of questions required some fill-in-the-blank as well as check-off responses.

IV PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED

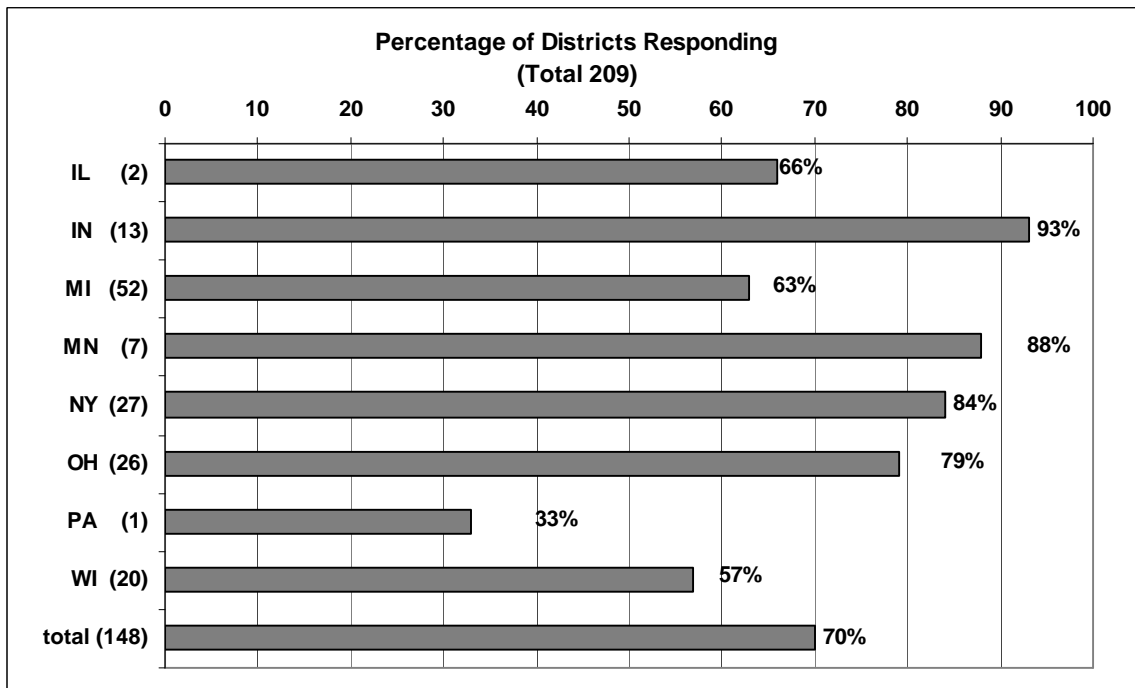
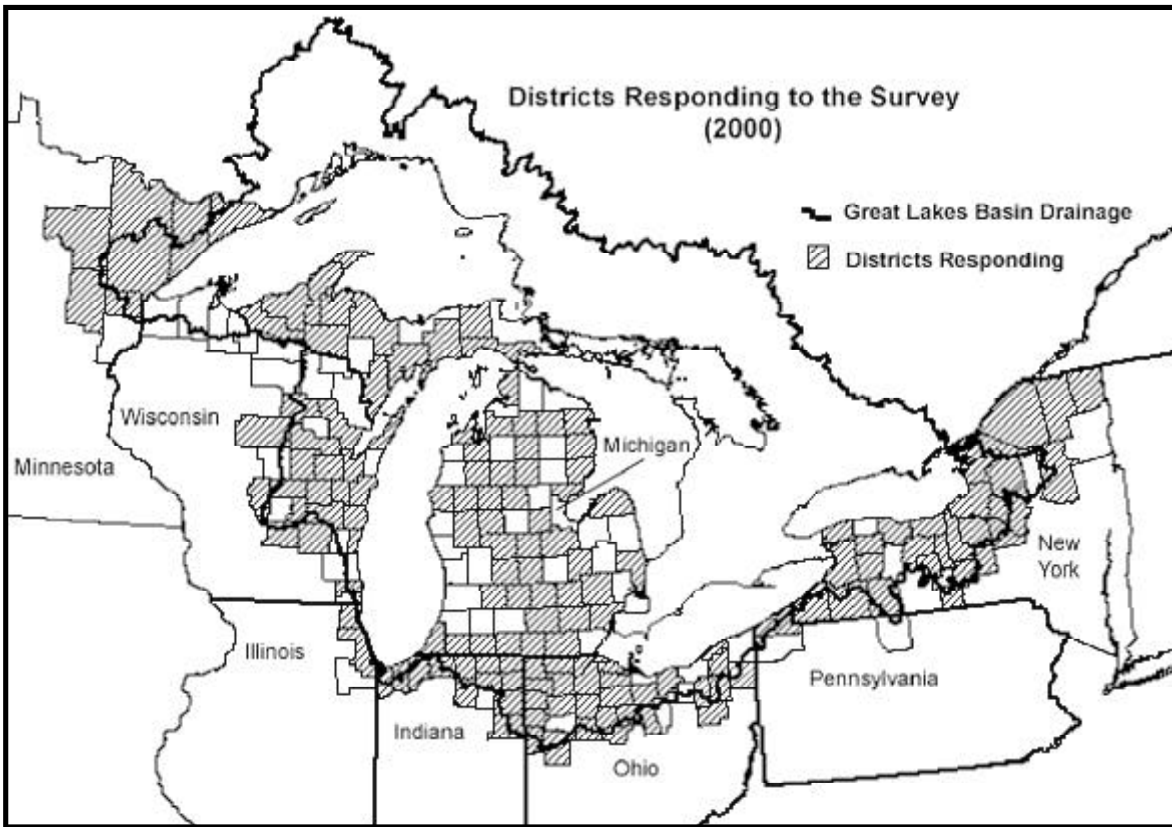
In general, the survey appears to have been filled out accurately, although some questions were not interpreted as the survey writers had anticipated and others were left blank. The most serious discrepancy between anticipated and actual results is in Section One where districts were asked to indicate the number of staff (FTE) they had working on regulatory, technical support or educational tasks in the nine program areas. While compiling survey data, Great Lakes Commission staff noticed that many districts report more staff than their budget line can accommodate. Following up with phone interviews, Commission staff discovered that the staffing function in districts is dynamic and fluid, and relies heavily on partnership to work well (See Chapter Two).

Section One has an additional interpretive challenge. The survey asks districts to indicate the level of government from which they receive authority to undertake regulatory activities — federal, state or local. Unfortunately, it was not clear to many who filled out the survey that this referred only to the regulatory programs and they filled this section out for all three activity areas. This has effectively rendered the data from this question unusable because it is impossible to tell which level of government relates to which activity.

Additionally, question 47, which asks districts to indicate where they receive funding information, was generally not filled out. Great Lakes Commission staff conclude that the question was poorly placed on the page and easy to skip over if the survey was completed in a hurry.

While the 1999 survey enjoyed a 100 percent return rate, this 2000 survey had a 71 percent return rate — 148 of 209 districts surveyed responded to the survey. That is understandable as the 2000 survey is somewhat more complicated than the 1990 survey. Due to the significant level of activity in districts, some elected not to fill out the survey.

APPENDIX THREE: DISTRICTS RESPONSE TO THE SURVEY



DISTRICTS RESPONDING TO SURVEY

ILLINOIS DISTRICTS RESPONDING TO SURVEY

LAKE COUNTY SWCD
NORTH COOK Co. SWCD

ILLINOIS DISTRICTS NOT RESPONDING TO SURVEY

WILL-SOUTH COOK SWCD

INDIANA DISTRICTS RESPONDING TO SURVEY

ADAMS COUNTY SWCD
ALLAN Co. SWCD
DEKALB Co. SWCD
ELKHART COUNTY SWCD
KOSCIUSKO COUNTY SWCD
LAGRANGE Co. SWCD
LAKE Co. SWCD
LAPORTE COUNTY SWCD
NOBLE COUNTY SWCD
PORTER COUNTY SWCD
ST. JOSEPH COUNTY SWCD
STEBEN COUNTY SWCD
WELLS COUNTY SWCD

INDIANA DISTRICTS NOT RESPONDING TO SURVEY

WHITLEY Co. SWCD

MICHIGAN DISTRICTS RE- SPONDING TO SURVEY

ALCONA Co. SWCD
ALPENA Co. SWCD
ANTRIM Co. SWCD
ARENAC Co. SWCD
BARAGA Co. SWCD
BARRY Co. SWCD
BRANCH Co. SWCD
CASS Co. SWCD
CLARE Co. SWCD
CLINTON Co. SWCD
CRAWFORD-ROSCOMMON SCD
DELTA Co. SWCD
EMMET SCD
GALIEN RIVER SWCD
GENESEE SCD
GOGEBIC SCD
GRATIOT SCD
GRAND TRAVERSE SWCD
HILLSDALE CD

HOUGHTON-KEWEEANAW SWCD
HURON SCD
INGHAM
IONIA SWCD
IOSCO SWCD
IRON SWCD
JACKSON SWCD
LEELANAU SCD
LENAWEE SWCD
LUCE-WEST MACKINAC SCD
MARQUETTE Co. SWCD
MASON-LAKE SCD
MECOSTA SCD
MENOMINEE SCD
MIDLAND CD
MISSAUKEE SWCD
MONTCALM SCD
MONTMORENCY SCD
NEWAYGO SCD
OAKLAND Co. SWCD
ONTONAGON SCD
OSCEOLA-LAKE SCD
OTSEGO SCD
SAGINAW SCD
SCHOOLCRAFT SWCD
SOUTH LIVINGSTON SCD
ST. CLAIR Co. SWCD
ST. JOSEPH COUNTY SCD
THORNAPPLE-GRAND SCD
WASHTENAW COUNTY SCD
WAYNE SWCD
WEXFORD SWCD

MICHIGAN DISTRICTS NOT RESPONDING TO SURVEY

ALGER Co. SWCD
ALLEGAN Co. SWCD
BAY Co. SWCD
BENZIE Co. SWCD
CALHOUN Co. SWCD
CHARLEVOIX Co. SWCD
CHEBOYGAN Co. SWCD
CHIPPEWA Co. SWCD
DICKINSON COUNTY SWCD
GLADWIN SCD
ISABELLA SCD
KALAMAZOO SCD
KALKASKA CONSERVATION DIST.
KENT SCD
LAPEER SWCD
MACOMB SWCD
MANISTEE SWCD

MONROE Co
MUSKEGON COUNTY SWCD
NORTHWEST LIVINGSTON SCD
OCEANA SWCD
OGEMAW SCD
OSCODA SCD
OTTAWA SWCD
PRESQUE ISLE SCD
SANILAC SCD
SHIAWASSEE SWCD
ST. JOSEPH RIVER SWCD
TUSCOLA SCD
VAN BUREN SWCD

MINNESOTA DISTRICTS RESPONDING TO SURVEY

ATKINS COUNTY SWCD
CARLTON COUNTY SWCD
COOK COUNTY SWCD
ITASCA COUNTY SWCD
LAKE COUNTY SWCD
NORTH ST. LOUIS SWCD
SOUTH ST. LOUIS SWCD

MINNESOTA DISTRICTS NOT RESPONDING TO SURVEY

PINE COUNTY SWCD

NEW YORK DISTRICTS RE- SPONDING TO SURVEY

ALLEGANY COUNTY SWCD
CATTARAUGUS COUNTY SWCD
CAYUGA COUNTY SWCD
CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY SWCD
CHEMUNG Co. SWCD
CLINTON COUNTY
CORTLAND COUNTY SWCD
ERIE COUNTY SWCD
FRANKLIN Co. SWCD
GENESEE COUNTY SWCD
HAMILTON Co. SWCD
HERKIMER Co. SWCD
JEFFERSON COUNTY SWCD
LEWIS COUNTY SWCD
MADISON COUNTY SWCD
MONROE COUNTY SWCD
NIAGARA COUNTY SWCD
ONEIDA COUNTY SWCD
ONONDAGA COUNTY SWCD
ONTARIO COUNTY SWCD
OSWEGO COUNTY SWCD

SENECA COUNTY SWCD
ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY SWCD
TOMPKINS Co. SWCD
WAYNE Co. SWCD
WYOMING COUNTY SWCD
YATES COUNTY SWCD

NEW YORK DISTRICTS NOT
RESPONDING TO SURVEY

ESSEX COUNTY
LIVINGSTON COUNTY SWCD
ORLEANS COUNTY SWCD
SCHUYLER COUNTY
STEBEN COUNTY SWCD

OHIO DISTRICTS RESPONDING
TO SURVEY

AUGLAIZE SWCD
CRAWFORD SWCD
DEFIANCE SWCD
FULTON SWCD
GEAUGA SWCD
HANCOCK SWCD
HARDIN SWCD
HENRY SWCD
HURON SWCD
LAKE SWCD
LORAIN SWCD
LUCAS SWCD
MARION SWCD
MERCER SWCD
OTTAWA SWCD
PAULDING SWCD
PORTAGE SWCD
PUTNAM SWCD
RICHLAND Co. SWCD
SANDUSKY SWCD
SENECA SWCD
SUMMIT SWCD
TRUMBULL Co. SWCD
VAN WERT Co. SWCD
WILLIAMS SWCD
WOOD COUNTY SWCD
WYANDOT SWCD

OHIO DISTRICTS NOT
RESPONDING TO SURVEY

ALLEN SWCD
ASHLAND Co. SWCD
ASHTABULA SWCD
CUYAHOGA SWCD
ERIE SWCD
MEDINA SWCD

PENNSYLVANIA DISTRICTS
RESPONDING TO SURVEY

ERIE Co. CD

PENNSYLVANIA DISTRICTS NOT
RESPONDING TO SURVEY

CRAWFORD Co. CD
POTTER COUNTY CD

WISCONSIN DISTRICTS
RESPONDING TO SURVEY

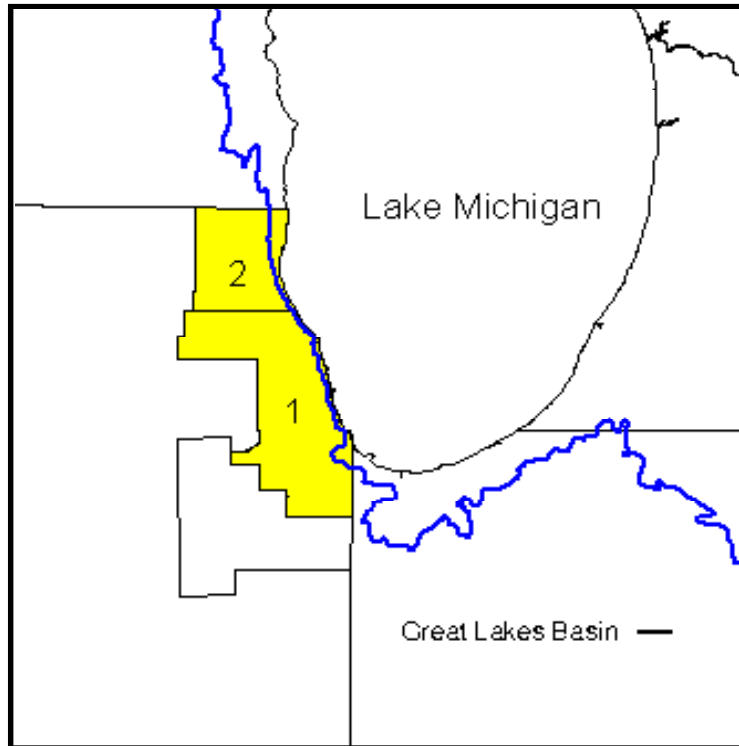
ADAMS Co. LAND CONSERVA-
TION DEPT. (LCD)
BROWN Co. LCD
CALUMET COUNTY LCD
COLUMBIA COUNTY LCD
DODGE COUNTY LCD
DOOR COUNTY LCD
FOND DU LAC Co. SCD
GREEN LAKE COUNTY LCC
LANGLADE COUNTY LCC
MANITOWOC COUNTY LCC
MARATHON COUNTY LCD
OCONTO COUNTY LCC
OUTAGAMIE COUNTY LCC
OZAUKEE COUNTY LCC
RACINE COUNTY LCC
SHAWANO COUNTY LCC
SHEBOYGAN COUNTY LCC
WAUPACA COUNTY LCC
WAUSHARA COUNTY LCC
WINNEBAGO COUNTY

WISCONSIN DISTRICTS NOT
RESPONDING TO SURVEY

ASHLAND, BAYFIELD, DOUGLAS,
& IRON Co. LCD
FLORENCE COUNTY LCC
FOREST COUNTY LCC
KENOSHA LCC
KEWAUNEE Co. LCC
MARINETTE COUNTY LCC
MARQUETTE COUNTY LCC
MENOMINEE COUNTY LCC
MILWAUKEE COUNTY LCC
ONEIDA Co. LCD
PORTAGE COUNTY LCD
VILAS Co. LCD
WALWORTH COUNTY LCC
WASHINGTON COUNTY LCD
WAUKESHA COUNTY LCC

APPENDIX FOUR: SELECTED SURVEY RESULTS BY STATE

ILLINOIS



Illinois Districts Responding	66 %
District Name	Label
North Cook County	1
Lake County	2
Will-South Cook County	

ILLINOIS

Total number of districts in Great Lakes basin: 3

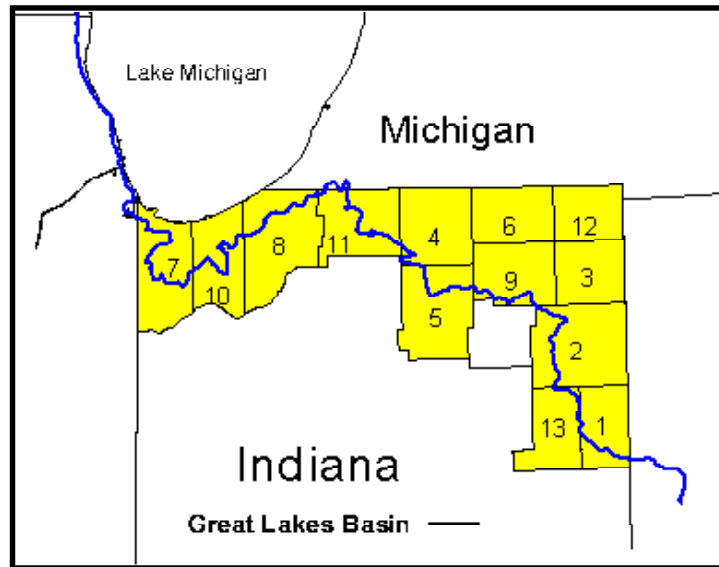
Total number of districts responding to survey: 2

SURVEY CATEGORY	STATE AMOUNT	NUMBER OF DISTRICTS RESPONDING TO SURVEY CATEGORY
TOTAL BUDGET:	\$95,000	1
AVERAGE BUDGET	\$95,000	1
EMERGING PRIORITIES AND FUTURE NEEDS		
ADMINISTRATION:	\$20,000	1
PERSONNEL:	\$40,000	1
TECHNICAL SUPPORT	\$20,000	1
COST-SHARE PRACTICES:	\$30,000	1
OFFICE EQUIPMENT:	\$10,000	10
FIELD EQUIPMENT:		0
RESEARCH/INFORMATION:		0
OTHER:		0

Anticipated Changes in Government Funding (Total Number of Responses per Category)		
	Increase	Decrease
Federal	0	1
State	1	1
Local	1	1

Assistance Desired by Illinois Districts from Different Sources (Total Number of Responses per Category)						
	State Water Quality Agency	State Conservation Agency	USDA-NRCS	NACD	USEPA	Other
Funding	2	2	1	2	2	1
Technical Training	1	2	2	0	1	0
Engineering Support	1	2	2	0	2	0

INDIANA



Indiana Districts Responding	93%
District Name	Label
Adams	1
Allen	2
De Kalb	3
Elkhart	4
Kosciusko	5
Lagrange	6
Lake	7
La Porte	8
Noble	9
Porter	10
St. Joseph	11
Steuben	12
Wells	13

INDIANA

Total number of districts in Great Lakes basin: 14

Total number of districts responding to survey: 13

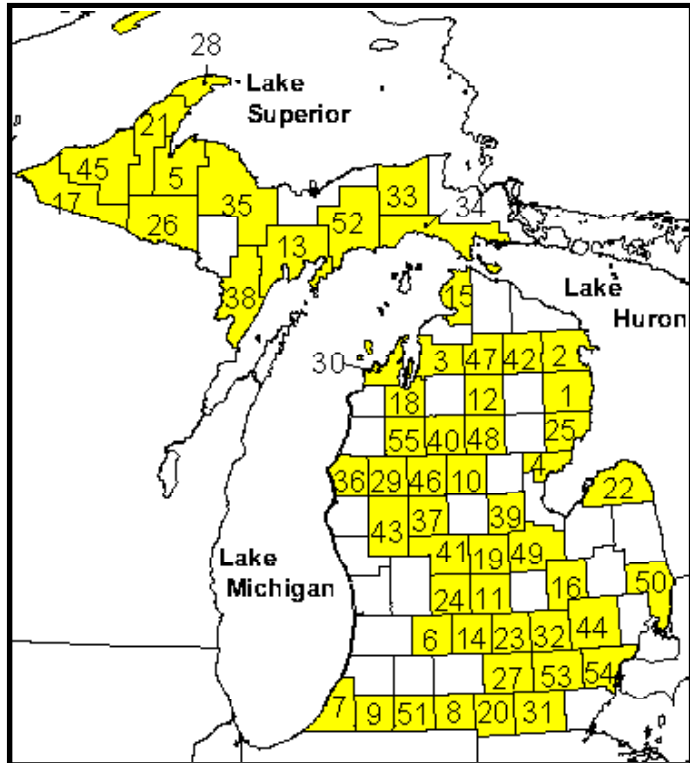
SURVEY CATEGORY	STATE AMOUNT	NUMBER OF DISTRICTS RESPONDING TO SURVEY CATEGORY
TOTAL BUDGET:	\$1,174,816	
AVERAGE BUDGET	\$97,901	12
EMERGING PRIORITIES AND FUTURE NEEDS (AVERAGES)		
ADMINISTRATION:	\$18,333	6
PERSONNEL:	\$71,875	8
TECHNICAL SUPPORT	\$41,667	9
COST-SHARE PRACTICES:	\$91,250	8
OFFICE EQUIPMENT:	\$17,222	9
FIELD EQUIPMENT:	\$18,444	9
RESEARCH/INFORMATION:	\$6,500	4
OTHER:	\$21,300	4

Anticipated Changes in Government Funding (Total Number of Responses per Category)		
	Increase	Decrease
Federal	1	10
State	9	2
Local	8	3

Assistance Desired by Indiana Districts from Different Sources (Total Number of Responses per Category)						
	State Water Quality Agency	State Conservation Agency	USDA-NRCS	NACD	USEPA	Other
Funding	9	11	8	2	7	3
Technical Training	2	7	12	0	0	0
Engineering Support	2	6	12	0	0	0

MICHIGAN

Michigan Districts Responding				63%
District Name	Label	District Name	Label	
Alcona	1	Lake	29	
Alpena	2	Leelanau	30	
Antrim	3	Lenawee	31	
Arenac	4	Livingston	32	
Baraga	5	Luce	33	
Barry	6	Mackinac	34	
Berrien	7	Marquette	35	
Branch	8	Mason	36	
Cass	9	Mecosta	37	
Clare	10	Menominee	38	
Clinton	11	Midland	39	
Crawford	12	Missaukee	40	
Delta	13	Montcalm	41	
Eaton	14	Montmorency	42	
Emmet	15	Newaygo	43	
Genesee	16	Oakland	44	
Gogebic	17	Ontonagon	45	
Grand Traverse	18	Osceola	46	
Gratiot	19	Otsego	47	
Hillsdale	20	Roscommon	48	
Houghton	21	Saginaw	49	
Huron	22	Schoolcraft	52	
Ingham	23	St. Clair	50	
Ionia	24	St. Joseph	51	
Iosco	25	Washtenaw	53	
Iron	26	Wayne	54	
Jackson	27	Wexford	55	
Keweenaw	28			



MICHIGAN

Total number of districts in Great Lakes basin: 81

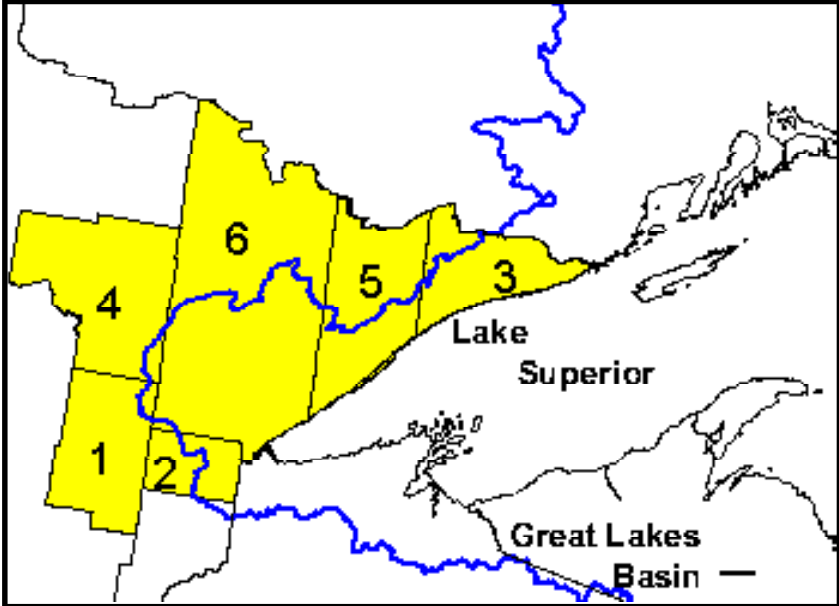
Total number of districts responding to survey: 52

SURVEY CATEGORY	STATE AMOUNT	NUMBER OF DISTRICTS RESPONDING TO SURVEY CATEGORY
TOTAL BUDGET:	\$7,132,604	
AVERAGE BUDGET	\$155,056	46
EMERGING PRIORITIES AND FUTURE NEEDS (AVERAGES)		
ADMINISTRATION:	\$24,494	44
PERSONNEL:	\$51,055	45
TECHNICAL SUPPORT	\$34,395	41
COST-SHARE PRACTICES:	\$75,300	40
OFFICE EQUIPMENT:	\$13,500	41
FIELD EQUIPMENT:	\$15,500	37
RESEARCH/INFORMATION:	\$12,483	30
OTHER:	\$277,738	8

Anticipated Changes in Government Funding (Total Number of Responses per Category)		
	Increase	Decrease
Federal	4	32
State	42	6
Local	32	13

Assistance Desired by Michigan Districts from Different Sources (Total Number of Responses per Category)						
	State Water Quality Agency	State Conservation Agency	USDA-NRCS	NACD	USEPA	Other
Funding	33	40	11	7	14	4
Technical Training	34	36	40	9	8	0
Engineering Support	12	12	46	2	3	1

MINNESOTA



Minnesota Districts Responding	88%
District Name	Label
Aitkin	1
Carlton	2
Cook	3
Itasca	4
Lake	5
St. Louis	6

MINNESOTA

Total number of districts in Great Lakes basin: 8

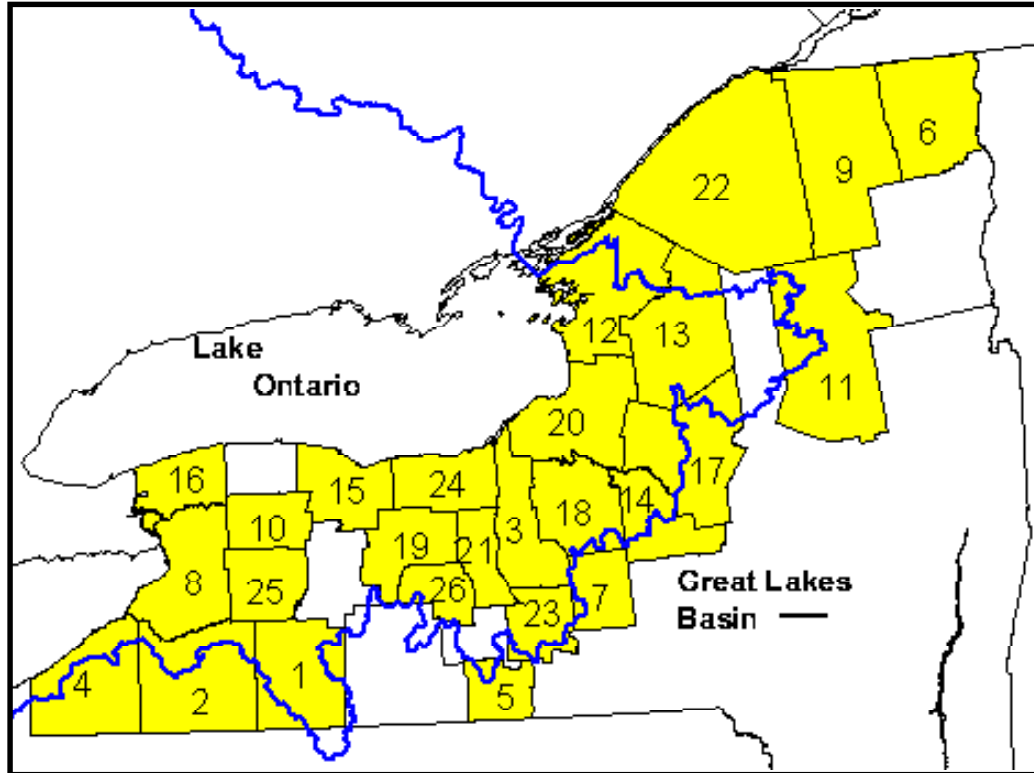
Total number of districts responding to Survey: 7

SURVEY CATEGORY	STATE AMOUNT	NUMBER OF DISTRICTS RESPONDING TO SURVEY CATEGORY
TOTAL BUDGET:	\$1,325,707	
AVERAGE BUDGET	\$189,386	7
EMERGING PRIORITIES AND FUTURE NEEDS (AVERAGES)		
ADMINISTRATION:	\$17,400	5
PERSONNEL:	\$70,000	6
TECHNICAL SUPPORT	\$20,000	4
COST-SHARE PRACTICES:	\$44,167	6
OFFICE EQUIPMENT:	\$7,333	6
FIELD EQUIPMENT:	\$27,200	5
RESEARCH/INFORMATION:	\$16,000	2
OTHER:	\$15,000	1

Anticipated Changes in Government Funding (Total Number of Responses per Category)		
	Increase	Decrease
Federal	1	4
State	7	0
Local	6	1

Assistance Desired by Minnesota Districts from Different Sources (Total Number of Responses per Category)						
	State Water Quality Agency	State Conservation Agency	USDA-NRCS	NACD	USEPA	Other
Funding	7	6	2	1	3	1
Technical Training	6	6	6	2	1	0
Engineering Support	4	3	6	0	0	0

NEW YORK



New York Districts Responding				84%
District Name	Label	District Name	Label	
Allegany	1	Madison	14	
Cattaraugus	2	Monroe	15	
Cayuga	3	Niagara	16	
Chautauqua	4	Oneida	17	
Chemung	5	Onondaga	18	
Clinton	6	Ontario	19	
Cortland	7	Oswego	20	
Erie	8	Seneca	21	
Franklin	9	St. Lawrence	22	
Genesee	10	Tompkins	23	
Hamilton	11	Wayne	24	
Jefferson	12	Wyoming	25	
Lewis	13	Yates	26	

NEW YORK

Total number of districts in Great Lakes basin: 32

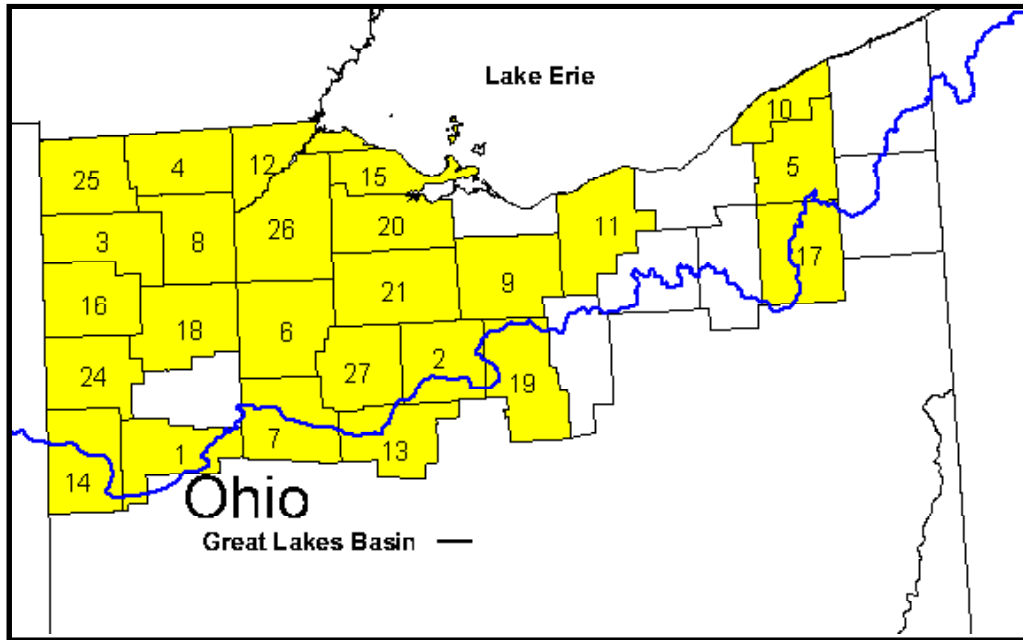
Total number of districts responding to survey: 27

SURVEY CATEGORY	STATE AMOUNT	NUMBER OF DISTRICTS RESPONDING TO SURVEY CATEGORY
TOTAL BUDGET:	\$9789385	
AVERAGE BUDGET	\$362569	27
EMERGING PRIORITIES AND FUTURE NEEDS (AVERAGES)		
ADMINISTRATION:	\$38,316	19
PERSONNEL:	\$98,846	26
TECHNICAL SUPPORT	\$44,250	20
COST-SHARE PRACTICES:	\$311,300	20
OFFICE EQUIPMENT:	\$24,475	20
FIELD EQUIPMENT:	\$38,857	21
RESEARCH/INFORMATION:	\$50,167	12
OTHER:	\$16,000	2

Anticipated Changes in Government Funding (Total Number of Responses per Category)		
	Increase	Decrease
Federal	10	14
State	23	4
Local	18	7

Assistance Desired by New York Districts from Different Sources (Total Number of Responses per Category)						
	State Water Quality Agency	State Conservation Agency	USDA-NRCS	NACD	USEPA	Other
Funding	23	23	8	10	17	5
Technical Training	18	19	20	10	8	1
Engineering Support	6	10	25	1	3	0

OHIO



Ohio Districts Responding				79%
District Name	Label	District Name	Label	
Auglaize	1	Ottawa	15	
Crawford	2	Paulding	16	
Defiance	3	Portage	17	
Fulton	4	Putnam	18	
Geauga	5	Richland	19	
Hancock	6	Sandusky	20	
Hardin	7	Seneca	21	
Henry	8	Summit	22	
Huron	9	Trumbull	23	
Lake	10	Van Wert	24	
Lorain	11	Williams	25	
Lucas	12	Wood	26	
Marion	13	Wyandot	27	
Mercer	14			

OHIO

Total number of districts in Great Lakes basin: 33

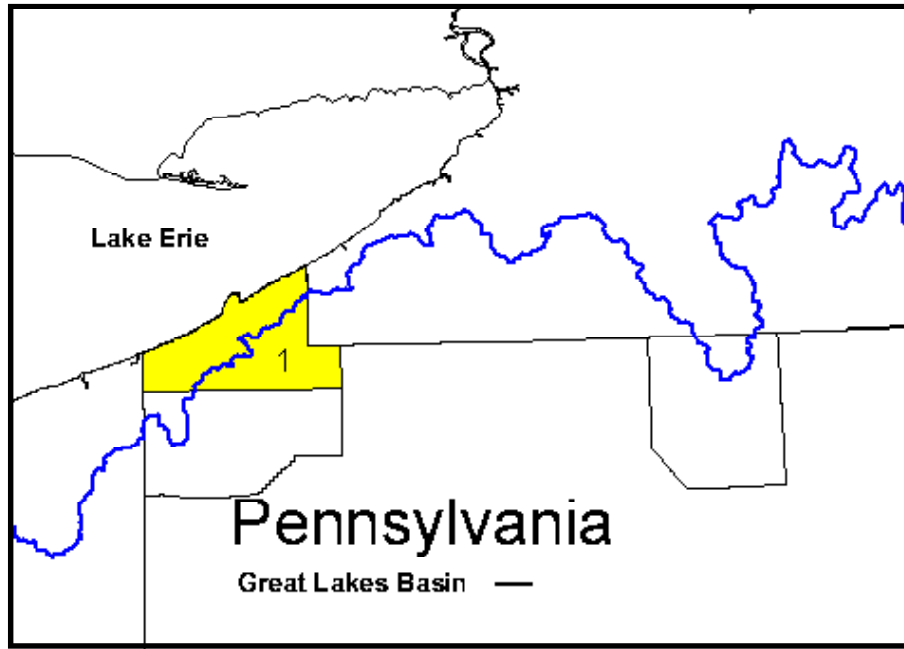
Total number of districts responding to survey: 27

SURVEY CATEGORY	STATE AMOUNT	NUMBER OF DISTRICTS RESPONDING TO SURVEY CATEGORY
TOTAL BUDGET:	\$5849940	
AVERAGE BUDGET	\$243747.5	24
EMERGING PRIORITIES AND FUTURE NEEDS (AVERAGES)		
ADMINISTRATION:	\$22,750	18
PERSONNEL:	\$43,583	14
TECHNICAL SUPPORT	\$26,429	19
COST-SHARE PRACTICES:	\$186,250	18
OFFICE EQUIPMENT:	\$14,000	14
FIELD EQUIPMENT:	\$18,818	15
RESEARCH/INFORMATION:	\$17,333	20
OTHER:	\$150,750	22

Anticipated Changes in Government Funding (Total Number of Responses per Category)		
	Increase	Decrease
Federal	2	18
State	18	8
Local	24	2

Assistance Desired by Ohio Districts from Different Sources (Total Number of Responses per Category)						
	State Water Quality Agency	State Conservation Agency	USDA-NRCS	NACD	USEPA	Other
Funding	8	19	5	4	8	2
Technical Training	13	18	22	12	10	1
Engineering Support	4	18	23	2	2	2

PENNSYLVANIA



Pennsylvania Districts Responding	33%
District Name	Label
Erie	1

PENNSYLVANIA

Total number of districts in Great Lakes basin: 3

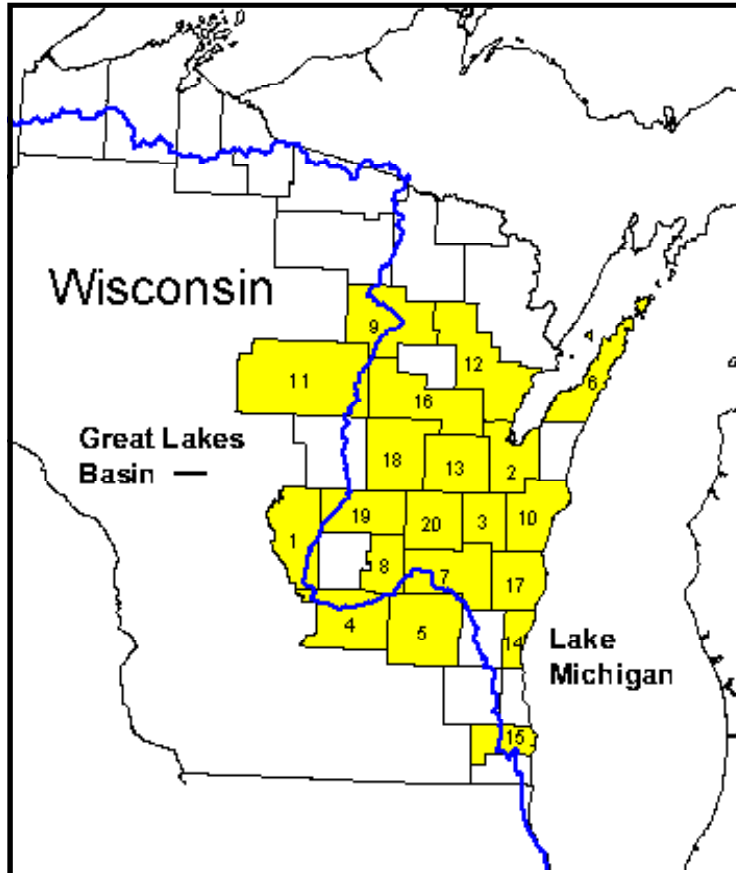
Total number of districts responding to survey: 1

SURVEY CATEGORY	STATE AMOUNT	NUMBER OF DISTRICTS RESPONDING TO SURVEY CATEGORY
TOTAL BUDGET:	\$172,862	
AVERAGE BUDGET	\$172,862	1
EMERGING PRIORITIES AND FUTURE NEEDS (AVERAGES)		
ADMINISTRATION:	\$20,000	1
PERSONNEL:	\$150,000	1
TECHNICAL SUPPORT	0	0
COST-SHARE PRACTICES:	\$200,000	1
OFFICE EQUIPMENT:	\$15,000	1
FIELD EQUIPMENT:	\$15,000	1
RESEARCH/INFORMATION:	\$50,000	1
OTHER:	0	0

Anticipated Changes in Government Funding (Total Number of Responses per Category)		
	Increase	Decrease
Federal	0	0
State	1	
Local	0	1

Assistance Desired by Pennsylvania Districts from Different Sources (Total Number of Responses per Category)						
	State Water Quality Agency	State Conservation Agency	USDA-NRCS	NACD	USEPA	Other
Funding	1	1	0	0	0	0
Technical Training	1	1	0	1	0	0
Engineering Support	0	1	1	0	0	0

WISCONSIN



Wisconsin Districts Responding				57%
District Name	Label	District Name	Label	
Adams	1	Waushara	19	
Manitowoc	10	Brown	2	
Marathon	11	Winnebago	20	
Oconto	12	Calumet	3	
Outagamie	13	Columbia	4	
Ozaukee	14	Dodge	5	
Racine	15	Door	6	
Shawano	16	Fond Du Lac	7	
Sheboygan	17	Green Lake	8	
Waupaca	18	Langlade	9	

WISCONSIN

Total number of districts in Great Lakes basin: 35

Total number of districts responding to survey: 20

SURVEY CATEGORY	STATE AMOUNT	NUMBER OF DISTRICTS RESPONDING TO SURVEY CATEGORY
TOTAL BUDGET:	\$13692321	
AVERAGE BUDGET	\$684616	20
EMERGING PRIORITIES AND FUTURE NEEDS (AVERAGES)		
ADMINISTRATION:	\$43,571	7
PERSONNEL:	\$113,182	11
TECHNICAL SUPPORT	\$102,500	8
COST-SHARE PRACTICES:	\$170,000	13
OFFICE EQUIPMENT:	\$10,714	7
FIELD EQUIPMENT:	\$13,429	7
RESEARCH/INFORMATION:	\$33,833	6
OTHER:	0	0

Anticipated Changes in Government Funding (Total Number of Responses per Category)		
	Increase	Decrease
Federal	3	13
State	1	17
Local	13	5

Assistance Desired by Wisconsin Districts from Different Sources (Total Number of Responses per Category)						
	State Water Quality Agency	State Conservation Agency	USDA-NRCS	NACD	USEPA	Other
Funding	20	16	4	2	9	1
Technical Training	9	14	15	2	0	0
Engineering Support	10	14	13	0	0	0