

## UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER BASIN ASSOCIATION MULTI-BENEFIT CONSERVATION PRACTICE <sup>1</sup> WORKSHOP DRAFT AGENDA



### Objectives

- Improve understanding and ability to communicate about conservation practices that provide multiple, stacked water quality and quantity, ecological, financial, and sustainability benefits on agricultural and urban landscapes
- Strengthen regional collaboration and coordination among individuals and organizations involved in conservation practice implementation and nutrient reduction strategies
- Increase awareness of successful implementation efforts for multiple benefit conservation practices; highlight leadership and other reasons for achieving success
- Determine strategies to trigger increases in conservation practice adoption on agricultural lands that provide additional multiple benefits beyond nutrient reduction
- Identify priorities and actionable items for states, federal agencies, and partners to pursue collaboratively

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<sup>1</sup> Multi-benefit conservation practices are a term to describe a singular conservation practice that provides more than one beneficial outcome. The beneficial outcomes may be any combination of agronomic, ecological, social, and financial. For example, a wetland has the potential to provide water quality improvement, flood mitigation, carbon sequestration, wildlife habitat, and more. Utilizing practices with multiple benefits may incentivize individuals, based on their goals for their land, to improve natural resources both locally and in the Upper Mississippi River Basin. Note the term is synonymous with ancillary and co-benefits and other terms.

## Implementing Multi-Benefit Conservation Practices: The Key Leverage Points

Leverage points are places within a complex system where a small change in one thing can produce big changes in everything.

**Tuesday, October 3**

Time	Topic	Presenter
9:00 am	<b>Welcome and Introductions</b>	<b>Katrina Kessler,</b> <i>Commissioner Minnesota PCA</i>
9:10	<b>Workshop People, Products, Process</b> <i>Table Top Intros</i> <i>Individuals answer the following question in a Workshop Workbook</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. <i>What 3-5 things do you hope to accomplish, learn, or gain through this workshop?</i></li></ol> <i>Individuals then briefly introduce themselves to each other at their table</i>	<b>Brian Stenquist, UMRBA</b>
9:30	<b>Review of Pre-Workshop Webinars</b>	<b>Lauren Salvato, UMRBA</b>
9:40	<b>Systems Perspective on Multi-Benefit Conservation Practices and Leverage Points to Enhance Implementation</b>	<b>Brian Stenquist, UMRBA</b>
10:00	<b>Table Top Exercise</b> <i>Appreciative Inquiry about the Draft Systems Map</i> <i>Individuals answer the following questions in their Workshop Workbook</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. <i>What do you like about the current draft systems map?</i></li><li>2. <i>What's missing?</i></li><li>3. <i>How would you improve it?</i></li></ol> <i>After everyone is done answering the questions in the workbook, individuals share one of their answers with others at the table</i>	<b>All</b>
10:20	<b>Break</b>	
10:30	<b>Important Leverage Points: A Deep Dive</b>	
	<b>Financial Leverage Points</b> County Farm Bureau Grant Program	<b>Raelynn Parmely, Illinois Farm Bureau</b>
	<b>Policy Leverage Points</b> Identifying Policy Incentives and Disincentives to Water Retention Strategies in Agricultural Settings in the Upper Mississippi River Basin	<b>Kim Lutz, America's Watershed Initiative</b>
	<b>Participation and Leadership Leverage Points</b> Primer for Increasing New Collaborations around Clean Water	<b>Annie Felix-Gerth, Minnesota BSWR</b>

Producer Led Watershed Groups

**Coreen Fallat**, Wisconsin  
DATCAP

**11:30**

**Table Top Exercise**

*Looking for Leverage Points*

*Individuals answer the following questions in their Workshop Workbook*

- 1. What are 3 important improvements we, as a community of practice, should make in the “financial support space” for multi-benefit conservation practices? Mark with an asterisk the ones you think might be leverage points.*
- 2. What are 3 important improvements we, as a community of practice, should make in the “technical coordination support space” for multi-benefit conservation practices? Mark with an asterisk the ones you think might be leverage points.*
- 3. What are 3 important improvements we, as a community of practice, should make in the “policy support space” for multi-benefit conservation practices? Mark with an asterisk the ones you think might be leverage points.*
- 4. What are 3 important improvements we, as a community of practice, should make in the “participation and leadership support space” for multi-benefit conservation practices? Mark with an asterisk the ones you think might be leverage points.*

*When individuals are done answering the questions in their workbook, they can break for lunch.*

**12:00**

**Lunch**

**noon**

**1:00**

**Table Top Exercise**

*When individuals return from lunch, they should transcribe their answers to the 4 “Looking for Leverage Points” questions on to post it notes (each question and its set of answers on a separate post it).*

*When everyone is done transcribing their answers, they should share one answer each to each question with others at the table.*

*At 1:40, we will stop the table top conversation and ask one person at each table to share one very interesting or surprising idea that came up at their table.*

*At 1:55, we will take a 5 minute stretch break.*

**2:00**

**Panel: Tribal and BIPOC Perspectives on Multi-Benefit Conservation Practices**

Sara George, Renewing the Countryside, Conservation Connections  
Program Coordinator  
Helen Waquiu, Director of Tribal Affairs & Diverse Communities, Minnesota  
PCA  
Melissa King, Water Programs Coordinator, Minnesota BWSR

**3:00**      **Break**

**3:20**      **Table Top Exercise**

**All**

*When individuals return from the break, they should answer the following questions in their Workshop Workbook*

- 1. What are 3-5 important ideas you heard from the panel?*
- 2. How might one or more of those ideas influence your organization's support for tribal and BIPOC implementation of multi-benefit conservation practices?*
- 3. What questions or additional perspectives did the panel presentations stimulate for you?*

*After everyone is done answering the questions in the workbook, individuals share their answers with others at the table*

*Panel members are encouraged to join a table top discussion or wander around listening in on multiple conversations*

*At 4:10, we will stop the table top conversations and ask the panelists to reassemble as a group*

*Table top participants or panelists may ask follow up questions or make observations about the conversation*

**4:30**      **Wrap Up – a brief “summary up” of the day**

**Lauren Salvato, UMRBA**

*Before they leave for the day, individuals will be asked to post their “Looking for Leverage Points” post its on flipcharts around the room*

**6:00 p.m.**      **Optional Evening Activity**

Get to know your fellow workshop attendees at a networking event. Drinks and dinner will be available with individual checks, at cost to the attendee.

Bar at Hyatt Place Downtown St. Paul  
180 Kellogg Blvd. East  
St. Paul, MN 55101

**Wednesday, October 4**

Time	Topic	Presenter
8:00 am	<b>Welcome to Day 2</b>	<b>Kirsten Wallace, UMRBA &amp; Matt Lechtenberg, Iowa DALs</b>
8:05	<b>Recap of Day One</b>	<b>Brian Stenquist, UMRBA</b>
8:15	<b>Deepening the Leverage Point Framework – Strategies for Action</b> Finding a “Match Maker” for Conservation Actions	<b>Dr. Adam Reimer, National Wildlife Federation</b>
8:35	<b>Table Top Exercise</b> <i>Making a Difference - Making a Change</i> <i>Individuals answer the following questions in their Workshop Workbook</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. <i>What 3-5 key ideas that arose during the workshop will you share with your supervisor and colleagues when you return to work?</i></li><li>2. <i>What small changes in your organization’s approach to multi-benefit conservation practices might you begin to advocate for based on the ideas and perspectives shared during the workshop?</i></li><li>3. <i>What deeper questions do you walk away with from this workshop?</i></li><li>4. <i>What brings you optimism and hope as you walk away with from the workshop?</i></li></ol> <p><i>After everyone is done answering the questions in the workbook, individuals share their answers with others at the table</i></p> <p><i>At 9:45, we will stop the table top conversations and ask individuals to transcribe onto post it notes their answers to questions 1 and 4</i></p> <p><i>(Participants can leave the post its on the table – we will collect them at the end of the workshop)</i></p>	<b>All</b>
10:00	<b>Break</b>	
10:20	<b>Summary and Closing Thoughts</b>  <b>Final thoughts from Participants</b> <i>When individuals return from the break, we will pass the microphone around to everyone and ask them to share their one of their answers to each of the questions in the session “Making a Difference – Making a Change”</i>  <b>Final thoughts from Workshop Hosts</b>	<b>All</b>      <b>Kirsten Wallace, UMRBA</b>
12:00	<b>Adjourn</b>	

**Thank you to the planning committee!**

Dave Wall	Minnesota PCA
Annie Felix-Gerth	Minnesota BWSR
Suzanne Rhees	Minnesota BSWR
Victoria Bushan	Missouri DNR
Adam Schnieders	Iowa DNR
Matt Lechtenberg	Iowa DALs
Trevor Sample	Illinois EPA
Michael Woods	Illinois DoA
Rachel Curry	University of Illinois, Extension
Karl Gesch	Wisconsin DNR
Coreen Fallat	Wisconsin DATCAP
Steve Schaff	USEPA Region 7
Janette Marsh	USEPA Region 5
Whitney King	USEPA OWOW
John Bullough	USDA NRCS

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