

Northern Moraine Water Reclamation District Advancing Nutrient Trading within the Circular Water Economy



National Environmental
Achievement
AWARDS

NEAA26 WATERSHED COLLABORATION



Phosphorus Reduction Needs



P Effluent Limit
Currently 1.0 mg/L
2030 0.5 mg/L

1,902.56 lbs/year



McHenry County
CONSERVATION DISTRICT



PAY FOR SUCCESS

This performance-based approach allows contracting for nutrient reduction outcomes that meet state standards and that result from farmer-selected conservation practices.

Payments are made to farmers after outcomes are certified as **credits**. This differs from the standard NRCS payment scheme which pays for a practice.

REGULATOR-PERMITTEE AGREEMENTS

Formal agreements between state agencies and local government are critical to define what, when, and how outcomes will be counted, leaving local government with the freedom to decide how much watershed-based work to include in their compliance plan.

Within the water quality trading agreement, NMWRD agrees to annually compensate the District ten dollars per pound (\$10/lb.) for phosphorous reductions as calculated by the US EPA Pollutant Load Estimation Tool (PLET).



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Member Spotlight

Northern Moraine Water Reclamation District: Pioneering Watershed Solutions in Illinois

The Northern Moraine Water Reclamation District (NMWRD) is leading the way in protecting Illinois' water resources through innovation and collaboration. As the first utility in the state to launch a water quality trading program, NMWRD is tackling nutrient pollution in the Upper Fox River watershed by working hand-in-hand with local farmers and landowners.

Instead of relying solely on expensive upgrades to wastewater treatment plants, NMWRD's program rewards farmers for implementing conservation practices that reduce phosphorus runoff. These practices—like planting cover crops and restoring wetlands—not only improve water quality but also boost soil health and wildlife habitat.



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