# WETLAND MITIGATION AND WETLAND BANKING

### Michael Pennington, MDEQ

# **PRESENTATION OUTLINE**

Update on MDEQ's Banking Program
Update on Wetland Mitigation Bank Funding (WMBF) Program

• New Tools in MDEQ's Wetland Mitigation Toolbox



# WHAT IS WETLAND BANKING?

- Establishment of new wetlands in advance of losses
- Service watersheds and ecoregions
- Preferred method of compensatory mitigation
- Provides benefits to state and applicants



# **BENEFITS OF WETLAND BANKING**

#### Benefits to State of Michigan

- Increase in state's wetland resources
- Larger better functioning wetlands
- Facilitates watershed planning approach

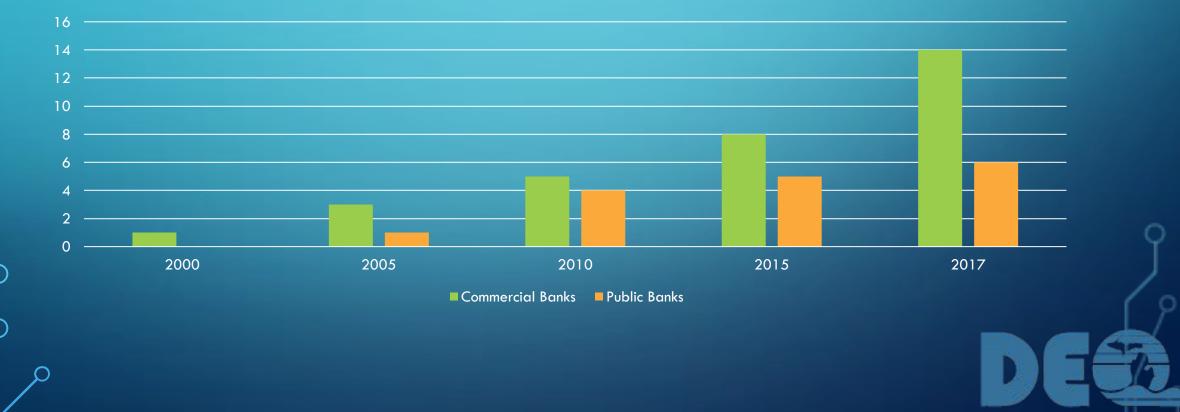
#### **Applicant Benefits**

- Reduces permit processing times
- Ensures success and availability of mitigation



### HISTORY OF WETLAND BANKING IN MICHIGAN

Total Number of Bank Sites



# **2018 WETLAND BANKING PROJECTION**

8 New Commercial Bank Sites
6 New Public Bank Sites
4 Municipal Bank Sites
400 acres of potential credit

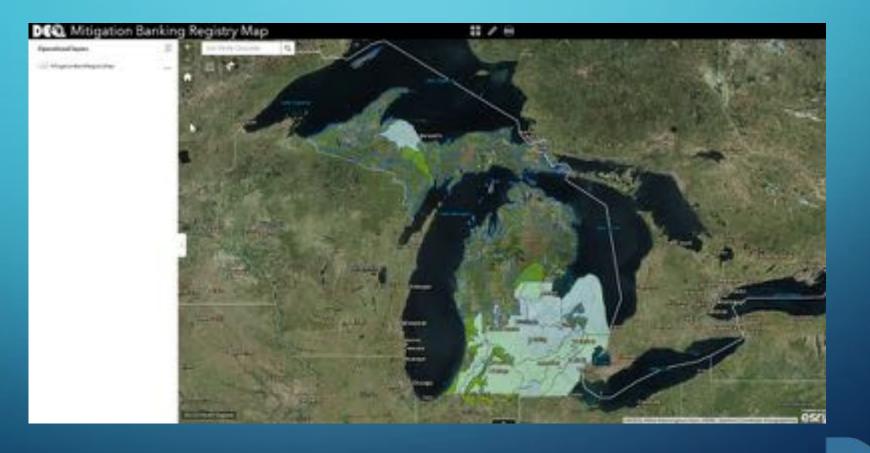


# **2018 WETLAND BANK SERVICE AREA**





# WETLAND BANKING REGISTRY MAP

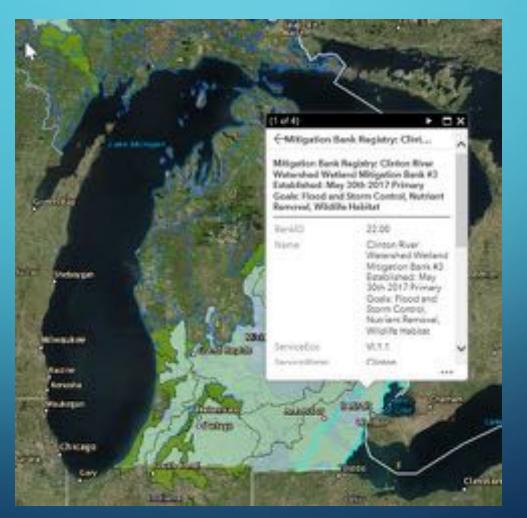


# WETLAND BANKING REGISTRY MAP





### WETLAND BANKING REGISTRY MAP



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# WETLAND MITIGATION BANK FUNDING (WMBF) PROGRAM

- Provides grants and low interest loans to municipalities to establish wetland banks
- Grants are used to design wetlands and establish banking agreements
- Loans are used to construct, manage and monitor wetland banks

# **CURRENT STATUS OF WMBF PROGRAM**

- 4 grants in 2017 totaling approximately \$400,000
- Private/Public partnership between Michigan Municipal Wetland Alliance and MDNR
- Bank sites located in MDNR property

- Saginaw/Gratiot State Game Area, Grand River State Game Area, Allegan State Game Area, Petersburg State Game Area

- Primary purpose is to service municipal needs
- Construction in 2018



# **MDEQ TOOLBOX**

Example Templates
Recommended Methodologies
Promote Consistency and Streamline Permit Processing Times



# **NEW TOOLS**

Updated Wetland Monitoring Report Example
Vegetation Sampling Worksheet
Watershed Approach for Siting Wetland Mitigation and Restoration Projects



### UPDATED WETLAND MONITORING REPORT EXAMPLE

- USACE May 2016 Guidance/RGL 08-03
- Consolidated Format
- Less fluff
- Electronic Data Submittal

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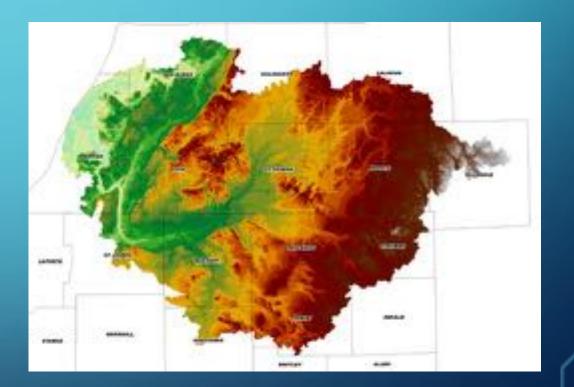
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## SITING MITIGATION AND RESTORATION IN A WATERSHED CONTEXT

- Incorporates MDEQ's Landscape
   Level Wetland Functional Assessment (LLWFA)
- Incorporates Wetlands Map Viewer and Status and Trends
- Incorporates Watershed Plans (if applicable)



# MDEQ APPROACH COMPONENTS

#### Initial Site Evaluation Sheet

- Walks users through existing data
- Identifies data gaps
- Wetland Functional Assessment Checklist
- Wetland Functional Assessment Flowcharts

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# INITIAL SITE EVALUATION SHEET

 What type of wetland is being assessed?

• Has LLWFA been completed?

• Is there a Watershed Plan?

• Complete Checklist or Flowcharts

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# WETLAND FUNCTIONAL ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST

Based on LLWFA descriptions
Can be used for existing wetlands or proposed sites

- Need to have conceptual plan
  - Will there be an outlet?, What type of vegetation?, ponding frequency, depth?

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## WETLAND FUNCTIONAL ASSESSMENT FLOWCHARTS

- Based on LLWFA descriptions
  Can be used for existing wetlands or proposed sites
  Need to have conceptual plan

  Will there be an outlet?, What type of
  - vegetation?, ponding frequency/depth?

