



# What is a Watershed Reconnaissance Study and What Does it Mean to the Western Lake Huron Basin (WLHB)?

Community Meetings  
August 2011



US Army Corps of Engineers  
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# What We'll Cover

- Overview of the WLHB watershed reconnaissance study
  - ▶ Team
  - ▶ Geographic scope
  - ▶ Purpose
  - ▶ Study tasks and report contents
- How the process works
- Example projects and outcomes





# Western Lake Huron Basin Project Team



US Army Corps of Engineers –  
Detroit District

Tetra Tech  
(Public Outreach and  
Technical Support)

Western Lake Huron Basin Stakeholders



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# WLHB Project Area



- 13 coastal counties
- 2 inland counties
- Saginaw River/Bay AOC
- St. Marys River AOC
- Heavily forested
- Sparsely populated



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# WLHB Watershed Reconnaissance Study Purpose

- Create a “wish list” of projects that fall into organizing framework
- Determine interest in proceeding to Feasibility Studies with eligible non-federal cost-share partners



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# WLHB Watershed Reconnaissance Study Outcomes

- Determine water resource problem(s)
- Define the Federal Interest (FI)
- Assess the level of interest and support from non-Federal entities – identify willing partners
- Prepare Project Management Plan (PMP) and Feasibility Cost Sharing Agreement (FCSA) if above is established





# WLHB Watershed Reconnaissance Study Contents

- General identification of watershed problems, potential partners, proposed projects
- Identify opportunities for multiple benefits
- Outline tasks for feasibility study
- Estimated schedule of feasibility study





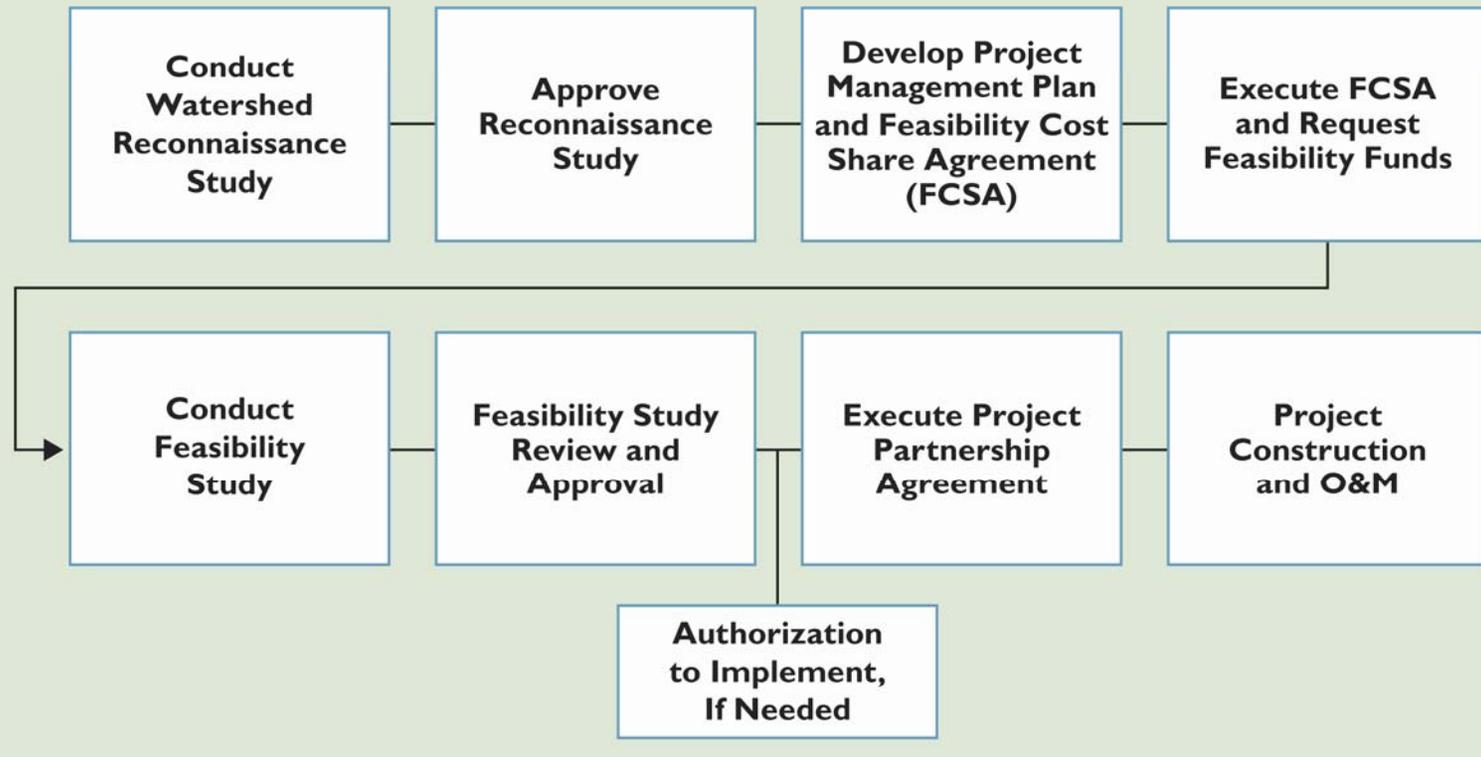
# What the Corps Needs to Conduct the WLHB Study Follow-On Projects

- Authorization
- Appropriation
- Local participation that will lead to non-federal cost share partners for future feasibility studies





# Corps Planning Process





# Authorization

- Legislation that enables an agency to perform a specific task (i.e. provides permission)
- Continuing Authority Program that provides blanket authorization for certain types of projects





# Authorization for WLHB Study

- Section 102 - 1966 River and Harbor Act

“Sec. 102 – The Secretary of the Army is hereby authorized and directed to cause (develop) surveys (studies) to be made at the following localities, and subject to all applicable provisions of Section 110 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1950:

Great Lakes, particularly Lake Ontario and Lake Erie, in connection with water supply, pollution abatement, navigation, flood control, hydroelectric power, and related water resources development and control.”





# Appropriation

- Legislation that directs the levels of funds available to an agency for a fiscal year





# Appropriation for WLHB Study

- Great Lakes Restoration Initiative
  - ▶ through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
  - ▶ appropriations for fiscal year 2010 and 2011



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# Potential Non-Federal Cost Share Partners

- States



- Local governments



- Indian tribes



- Non-profit organizations  
(Sections 1135, 206, 204)





# Non-Federal Sponsors Must Be Able To:

- Generate Revenue
- Acquire Real Estate
- Save and Hold the Government Harmless
- Maintain project with 100% local funds





# Cost-Sharing Considerations

- Project percentage break-outs can vary
  - ▶ 65 /35
  - ▶ 75/25
- Match can be both cash and in-kind services, but requires a 5 percent cash minimum



# Potential Projects

- Navigation
- Flood Damage Reduction
- Ecosystem Restoration
- Shoreline or Streambank Protection
- Water Quality Enhancement
- Local Action Plans (i.e. Rain Barrels, Rain Gardens, Ordinance Changes, etc.)



# Example Watershed Study Outcomes

The example projects listed below have been initiated because of Great Lakes Basin watershed studies:

- Blanchard River (Ohio) Watershed study for Flood Risk Management and Ecosystem Restoration.
- Lower Maumee Watershed study – Ecosystem and Flood Reduction.
- Low-head dam removals on Swan Creek in Toledo.
- Ottawa River Environmental Dredging Project.
- Removal of the Ballville Dam on the Sandusky River
- Modeling sources of non-point source pollution in Blanchard and Upper Auglaize watersheds.



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# Information

If you want to provide additional input regarding this study, please contact the USACE Project Manager at:

email: [WesternLakeHuronBasin-PM@usace.army.mil](mailto:WesternLakeHuronBasin-PM@usace.army.mil)

Additional Information and Community Meeting presentations can be found at the following web pages:

- USACE Detroit District Home Page:

<http://www.lre.usace.army.mil/>

- Western Lake Huron Basin Study Web Page:

[http://www.lre.usace.army.mil/kd/go.cfm?destination=Page&Pge\\_ID=2417](http://www.lre.usace.army.mil/kd/go.cfm?destination=Page&Pge_ID=2417)



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**Questions ?**

