

# Meeting Goals and Objectives

## The Bigger Picture...

- Coordination
- Communication
- Collaboration?



## The "DWQ-Centric" Picture...

We need to develop a strategy for development and implementation of our wetland assessment framework.

# Protecting Wetland Water Quality

The Role of the Clean Water Act and DWQ

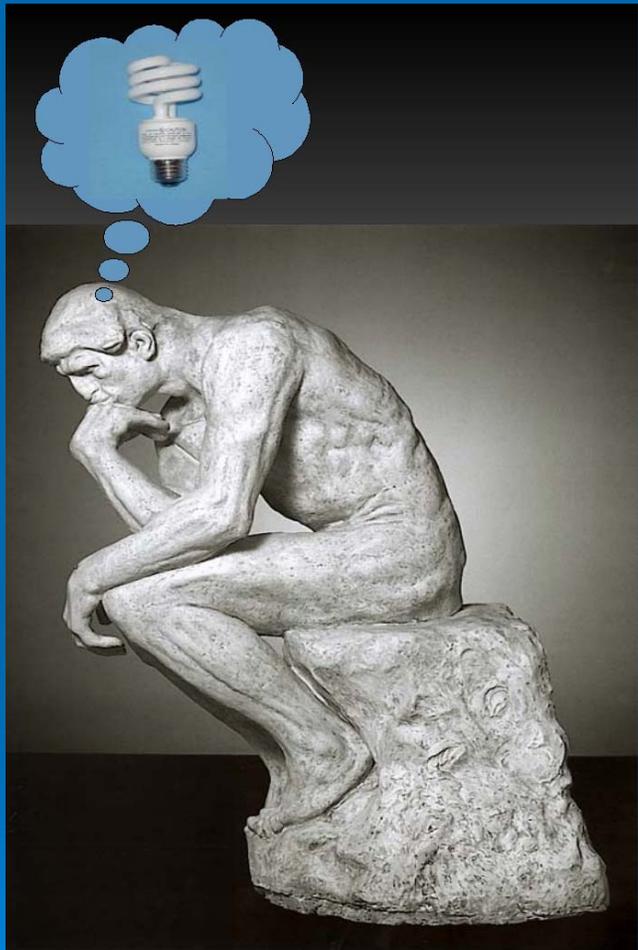
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The background of the slide is a solid blue color. In the lower right quadrant, there are several faint, concentric white circles that resemble ripples on water, creating a subtle decorative effect.

# Presentation Outline

- Take Home Thoughts
- A Brief Introduction to the CWA (wetland focus)
  - Overarching Objectives
  - Aquatic Life and Recreation Uses
  - Standards and Assessments
- An Assessment Framework for GSL Wetlands

# A Few Take Home Thoughts



- There are many stakeholders concerned with GSL's wetlands
- Specific management objectives differ, but most are aimed at protecting aquatic life or recreation use
- Addressing water quality concerns will require cooperation among all interests

# Clean Water Act (CWA) Goals and Objectives



The central goal of the CWA is to protect, maintain and restore the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the nation's waters.

CWA programs extend beyond water chemistry, the intent has always been to protect the ecosystem.

# Wetlands and the CWA

- Much of federal historic focus has been centered on §404 (dredge and fill) CWA provisions.
- The focus among States has been §401, which prohibits actions that violate water quality standards.
- Recent shift to incorporating wetlands into other CWA programs, particularly monitoring and assessment.

# Designated Uses



## Aquatic Life (3d)

Protected for waterfowl, shore birds and other water-oriented wildlife, including the necessary aquatic organisms in their food chain.



## Recreation (2b)

Protected for infrequent primary contact recreation. Also protected for secondary contact recreation (e.g., wading, hunting, and fishing)



A bridge among management objectives?

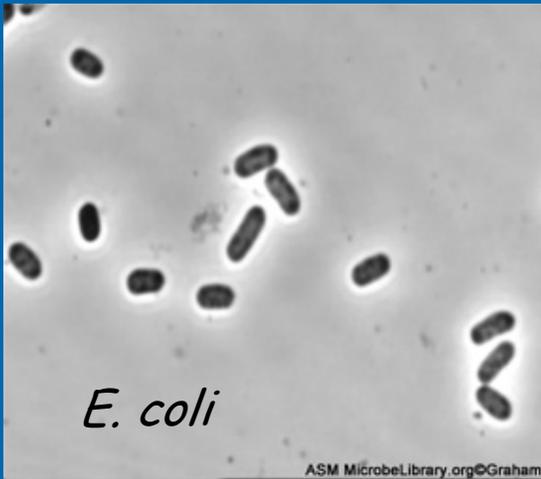
# Designated Uses: Wetland Challenges



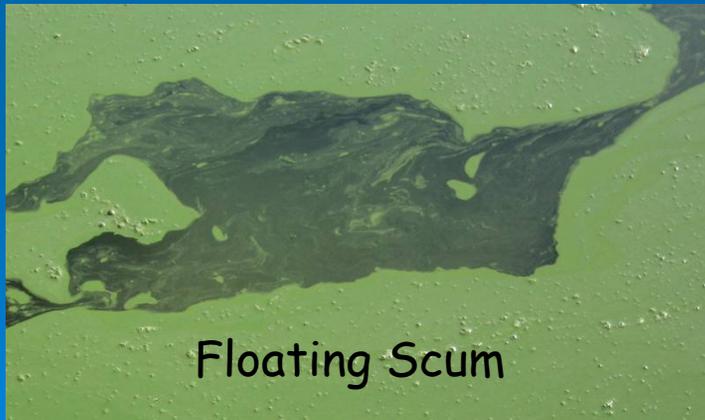
- There are many different “types” of wetlands, with different organisms.
- There are also many classification schemes.
- We need to move beyond the “broad brush” of 3(d) designations.

DNR is currently mapping different wetlands, which will help guide future revisions.

# Water Quality Standards

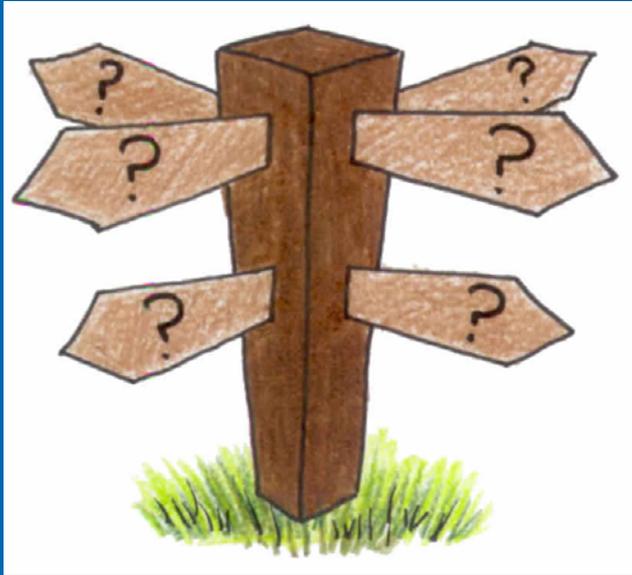


- All uses have associated numeric criteria for WQ parameters.
- Narrative Standard:



It shall be unlawful, and a violation of these regulations, for any person to discharge or place any waste or other substance in such a way as will be or may become offensive such as unnatural deposits, floating debris, oil, scum or other nuisances such as color, odor or taste; or cause conditions which produce undesirable aquatic life...

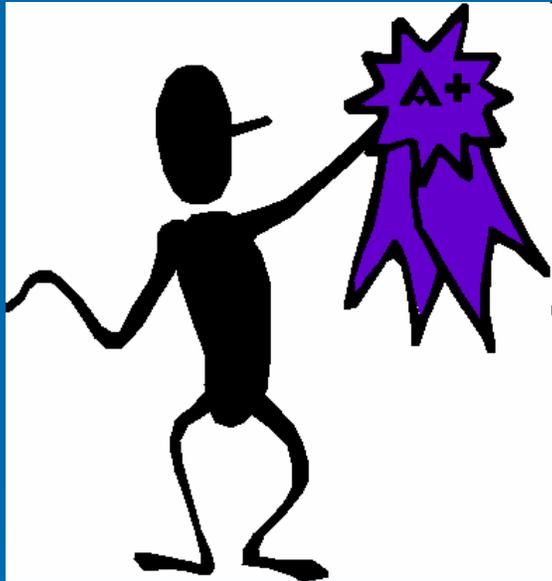
# Standards: Wetland Challenges



- Recent rule changes removed pH and Dissolved Oxygen numeric criteria.
- Other parameters may require modification, which may differ among wetland classes.

Which parameters are inappropriate? In what context? Priorities?

# Water Quality Assessments



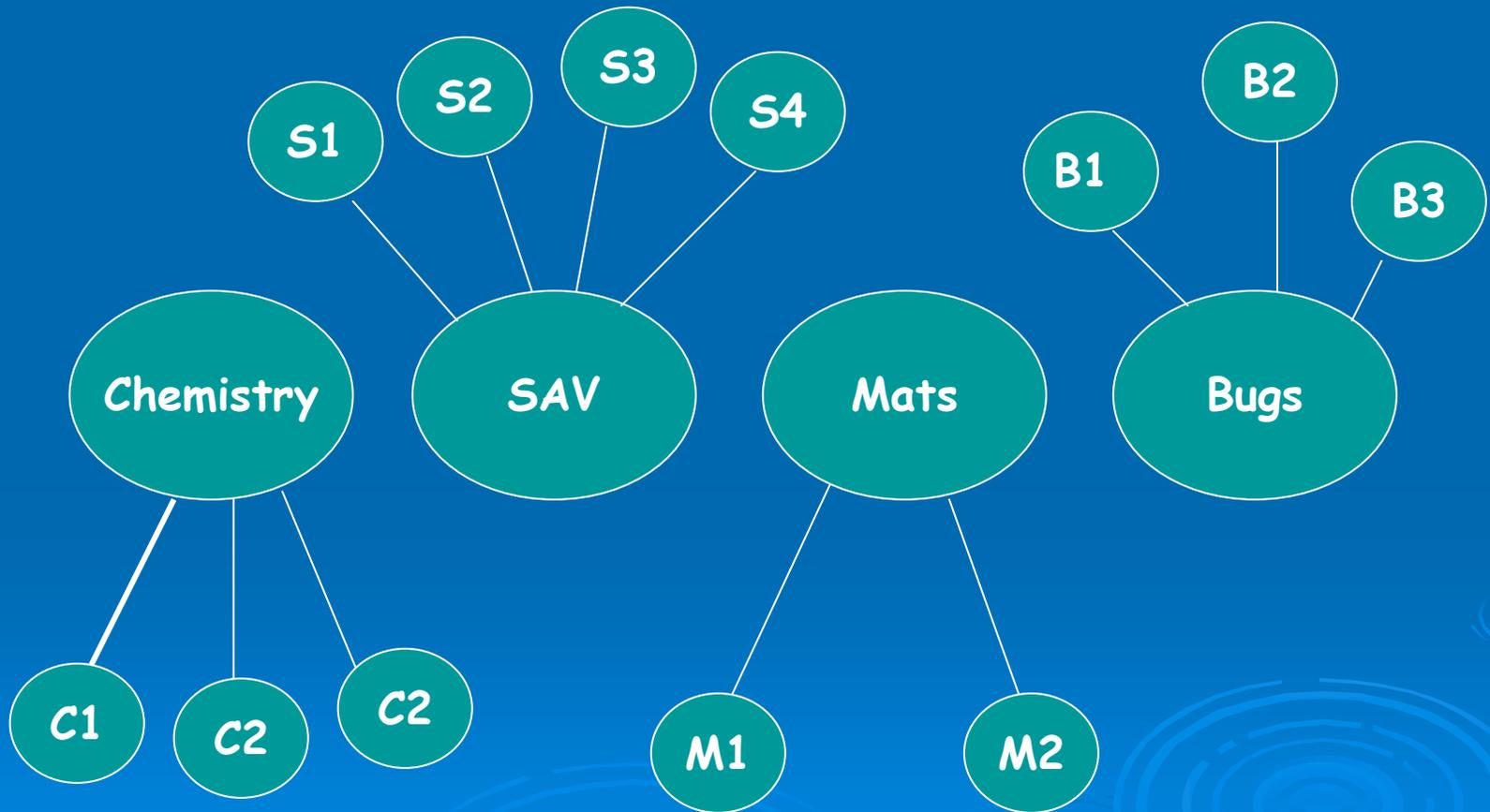
- Every other year DWQ assesses waters of the state to identify impaired waters (those not meeting uses, 303(d) list) and report on overall conditions and water quality concerns (305(b) report).
- These assessments involve analyses of both chemical and biological data.
- Wetlands have historically not been included in these assessments.

# Assessments: Wetland Challenges

- What is an appropriate assessments unit?
- Is it appropriate to interpret chemistry data in the same way that we do for other waterbodies?
- There is generally, a need to develop new assessment tools, particularly with regard to biological data.

Without robust assessments of uses, it is impossible to identify appropriate changes to water quality standards.

# An Assessment Framework for GSL Impounded Wetlands: Multiple Lines of Evidence

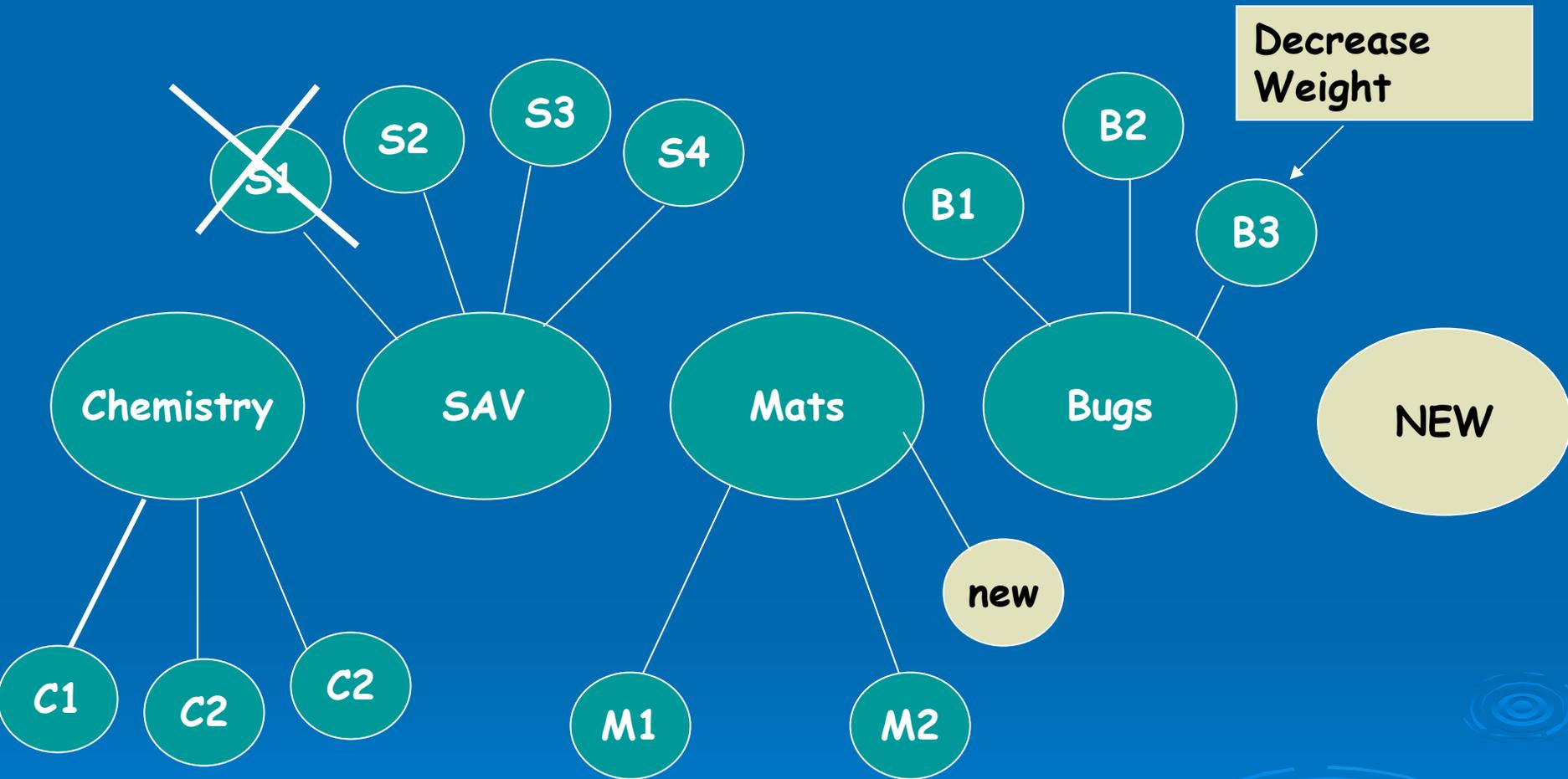


Site	Lines of Evidence				Average of All MMIs
	Water Chem. MMI	SAV MMI	Surface Mat MMI	Bug MMI	
Farmington Wetlands Ambassador W 1	58	47	40	82	57
Farmington Wetlands Ambassador 100	86	60	100	100	87
Farmington Wetlands West A Pond	61	33	100	.	65
IMPC Conservation Easement	68	100	100	.	89
Farmington Wetlands FBWMA Unit 2 Outfall	74	87	40	78	69
Farmington Wetlands FBWMA Unit 1 Outfall	98	33	80	87	74
GSL Wetlands Public Shooting Ground Pintail Lake Outfall	100	100	100	95	99

# Limitation of the Draft Assessment Framework

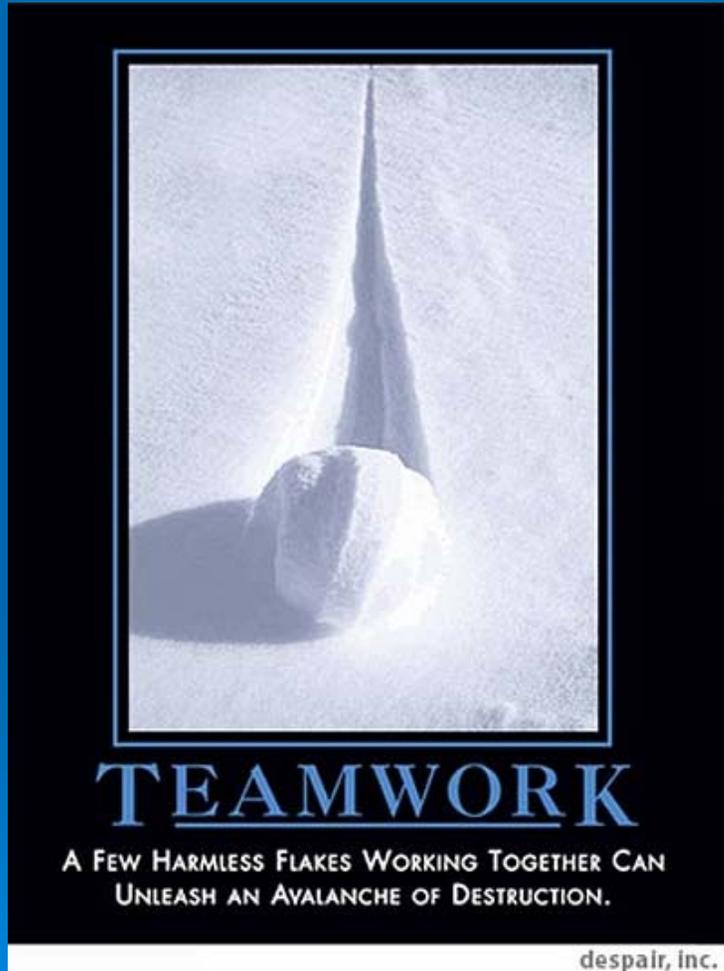
- The MMI was calibrated based on a single year of data. Year-to-year stability needs to be evaluated.
- Crucial lines of evidence are missing (e.g., birds) and we would be interested in adding these data as they become available.
- The framework was based on a limited number of sites. We need to expand the monitoring network, especially with sites at both ends of the spectrum.

# Future Improvements to the Framework



We are interested in incorporating as many lines of evidence as possible, which is partly why we were interested in meeting today.

# The Search for Common Ground, Without Becoming Flakes



- Cooperative monitoring?
- Other areas to share resources?
- Identification of potential problems (parameters or waterbodies)?
- Programmatic areas with similar interests or concerns?
- Working together to implement solutions!