

Community DECISIONS: Community Decision Support for Integrated, On-the-ground Nutrient Strategies

Jim Pease, Mary Leigh Wolfe, Darrell Bosch,
Chris Zobel, Jactone Ogejo, Katherine Knowlton,
Greg Evanylo, Heather Boyd

Virginia Tech

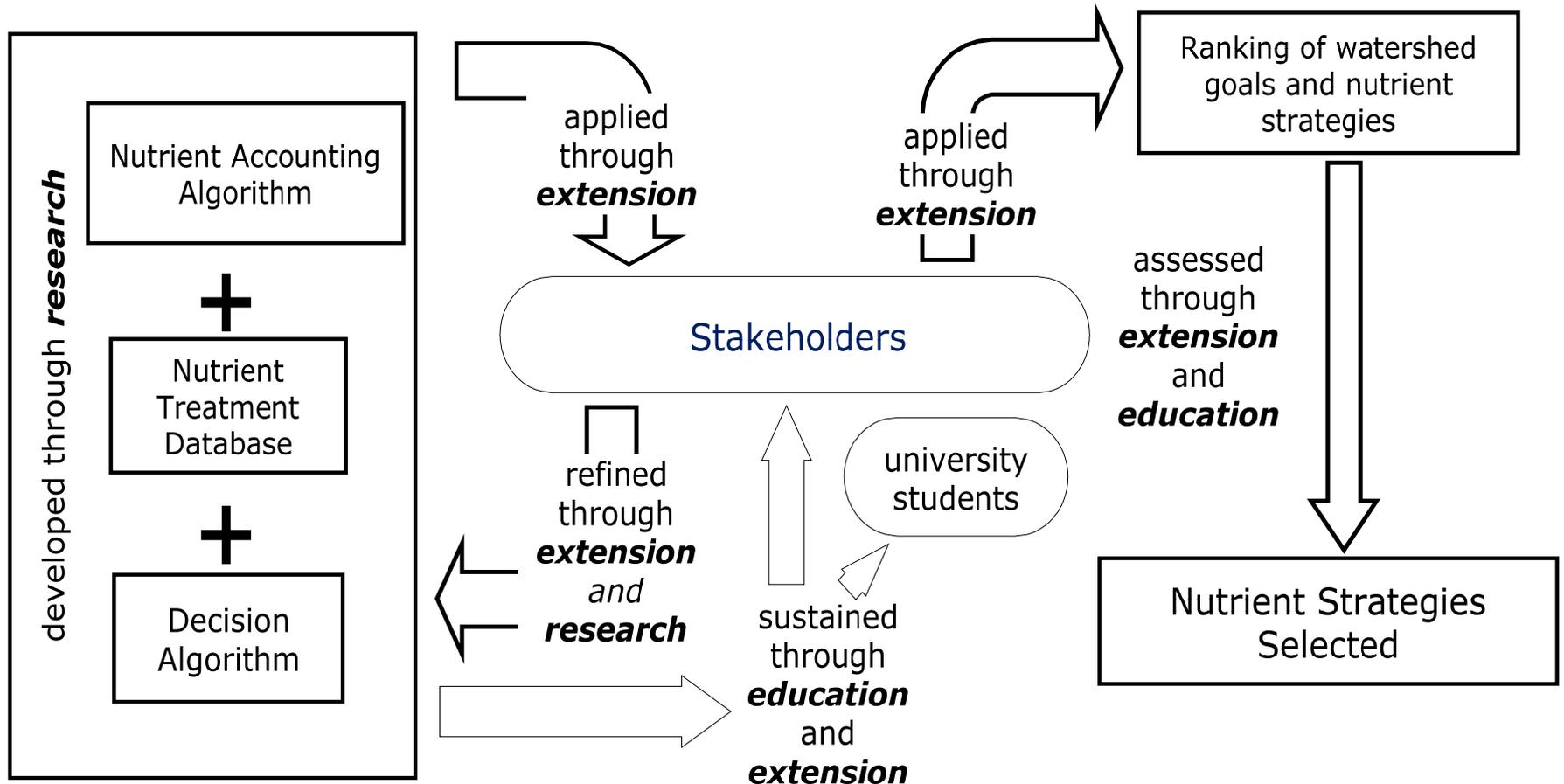
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Integrated Project Objectives

- **Research:** Develop and assess the Community DECISIONS group decision aid and collaborative stakeholder decision process
- **Education :** Re-focus an existing watershed management class on computer- aided collaborative watershed planning and involve students in assessment
- **Extension:** Education for citizens on watershed planning alternatives presented by the Community Decisions process, outreach to other watershed planning efforts throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed and other humid zone watersheds

Community DECISIONS

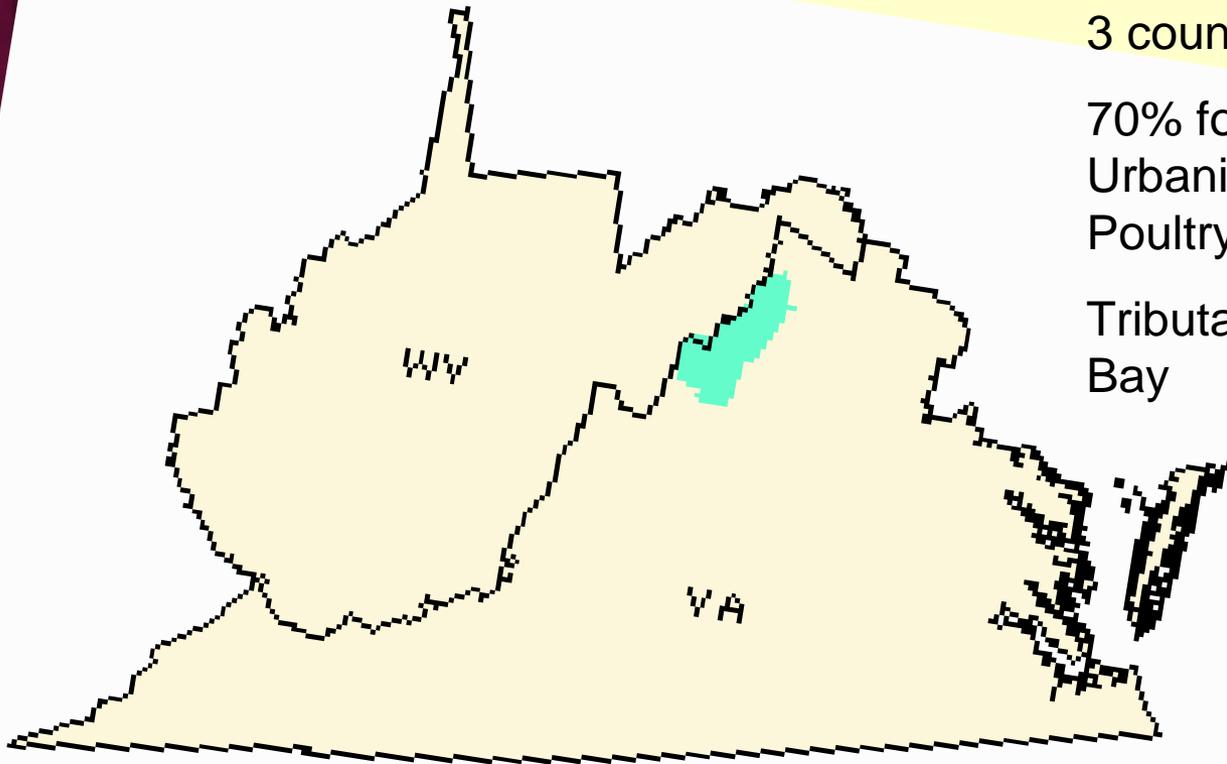
Community DECISIONS



North Fork Shenandoah 02070006

6 counties Virginia
3 counties West Virginia

70% forest
Urbanization pressures
Poultry production and processing
Tributary of impaired Chesapeake Bay



Key Premises

- For local groups undertaking watershed planning and management, having **all interests at the table** is necessary for development of a comprehensive watershed strategy
- **Quantitative real-time watershed modeling and scenario testing plus facilitated group processes** can enable a systems approach, reduce conflicts, and facilitate development of a consensus watershed plan
- Local watershed group with a detailed portfolio of watershed treatment strategies will be a potent force for accomplishing a **“local-centric” watershed plan**

Key Premises

- For such groups, planning to **“move towards nutrient balance”** is more intuitive than to **“reduce nutrient losses”**
- **Small watershed nutrient accounting models** can approximate the precision of large scale models, and can reflect **“what if?”** scenarios in real-time
- **“What If?” scenarios** can be constructed with the group composed of traditional agricultural and nonagricultural BMPs plus innovative **“treatments”** such as algae harvesting

Questions ?

Jim Pease

peasej@vt.edu

540/231-4178

Virginia Tech