

## SERA-46

### 2016 Accomplishments

- Face-to-face meeting in Ames, IA – January 25-26, 2016
- Face-to-face meeting concurrent to Hypoxia Task Force in St. Louis, MO – April 25-27, 2016
  - Reported to HTF progress made during working session
  - Provided updates on EPA-sponsored projects
- Face-to-face meeting concurrent to Hypoxia Task Force in New Orleans, LA – Dec 5-7, 2016
  - Joint executive session with HTF
  - Reported SERA-46 progress during HTF public meeting
  - Reported to HTF progress made during working session/updates to Shared Priorities
- Negotiated and secured \$350,000 project with Walton Family Foundation to develop a framework for tracking progress toward nutrient reduction goals via reductions in nonpoint sources of pollution; two pilot states to be identified for participation and database construction/BMP inventory/source tracking.
- Secured EPA funds to work on the following projects/progress made:
  - Building Capacity for Watershed Leadership and Management in Twelve Mississippi River Basin States
    - Preliminary needs assessment for watershed training programs underway
    - Two pilot watersheds identified
    - Plans underway for watershed leadership summit in February 2018
  - Social Indicators (see attached summary)
    - Questionnaire developed and distributed to all SERA-46 and HTF members to identify studies, projects, and related information on social responses that address water management projects in the MARB.
  - Transforming Drainage
    - *Ten Ways to Reduce Nitrogen Loads from Drained Cropland in the Midwest* publication published by University of Illinois;  
[http://draindrop.cropsci.illinois.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/Ten-Ways-to-Reduce-Nitrate-Loads\\_IL-Extension-2016.pdf](http://draindrop.cropsci.illinois.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/Ten-Ways-to-Reduce-Nitrate-Loads_IL-Extension-2016.pdf).
- State nutrient reduction strategies examined to identify common attributes and gaps.
  - Preliminary analysis presented to HTF at New Orleans meeting; white paper under development.
- Reviewed and updated Hypoxia Task Force and LGU SERA-46 Shared Priorities document.

# **Phase 1: Using Social Indicators to Guide, Evaluate, and Accelerate Implementation of State-Level Nutrient Reduction Strategies Project Progress Report**

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The goal of this project is to refine social indicators for agricultural and water management with an emphasis on nutrient reduction and establish a foundation for an active social indicators users' community among policy researchers and regulatory agencies throughout the Mississippi/Atchafalaya River Basin (MARB) and the Gulf of Mexico. We identified available studies and information on social responses that address water management projects in MARB and the Gulf of Mexico, including those with an emphasis on nutrient reduction. We engaged members of the Hypoxia Task Force, SERA-46, and the Gulf of Mexico Alliance (GOMA) through online questionnaires and call meetings where we asked for published and unpublished information, including: reports, surveys, gray (non-published reports) and white (peer-reviewed) literature, and conference presentations. Simultaneously, we set out first workgroup Social Indicators/Community Engagement webinar where we discussed phase 1 overview, the scientist/agencies engagement during the last months, and provided an initial report outline for discussion. During the webinar, we had 29 participants from multiple disciplines and states. The second workgroup webinar will be held on April 3, and we will discuss case studies where Social Indicators were successfully implemented. Currently, we are analyzing the gray and white literature collected and writing the synthesis report based on the data collected and the suggestions provided in the first webinar.