

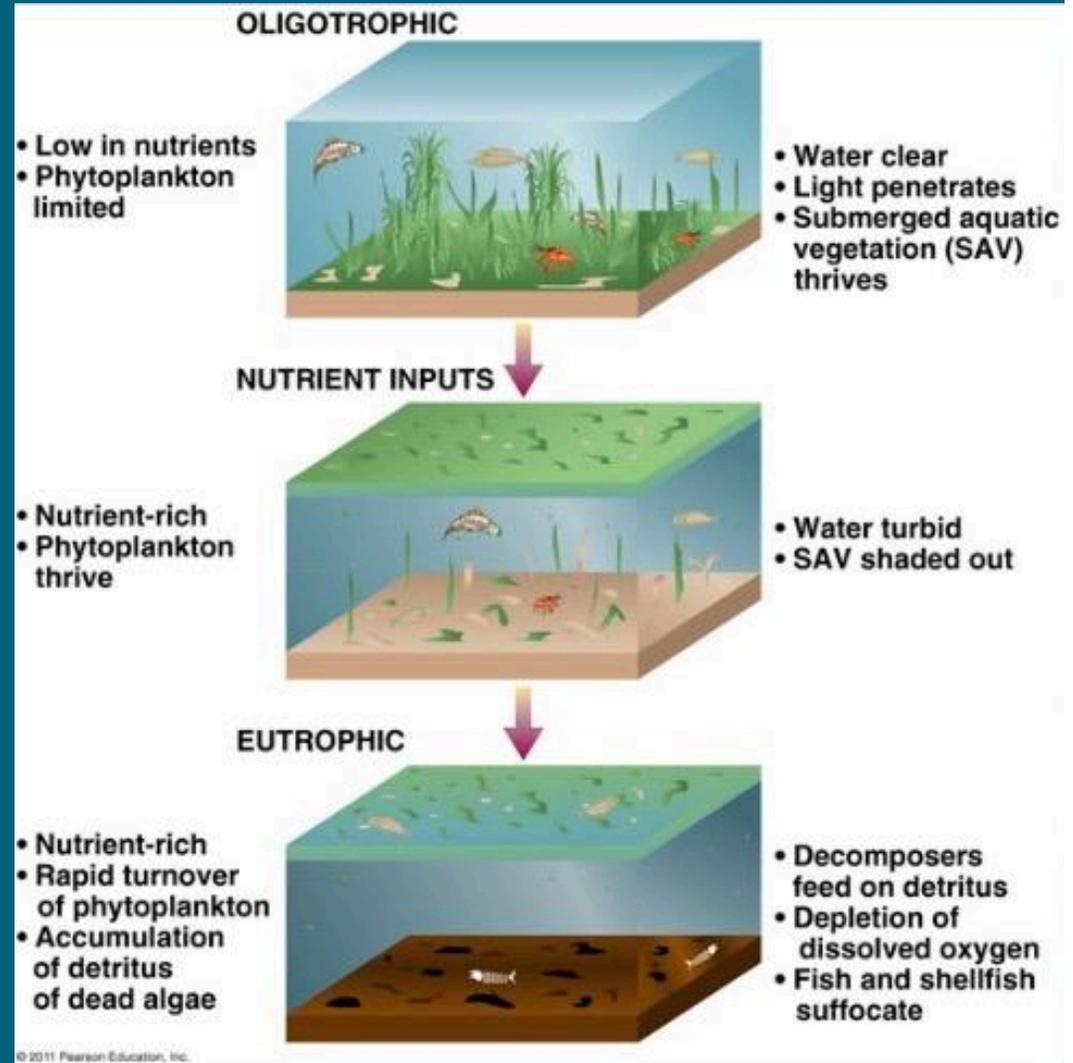
# Drafting a Strategic Plan for SLPWA's Future

Mr. Richard Weakland – SLPWA President Elect



# Current Situation

- Long-term studies show that the lake has again moved from a pristine, weed-free, algae-free water body (oligotrophic) in the past decade to one that produces weeds and algae as a result of increasing nutrient levels in the lake water (mesotrophic)
- The Lake was in this position back in the 60's and 70's before municipal wastewater treatment came to key communities



# Current Situation

- Over the past 3+ years, SLPWA has studied the water quality of the streams that feed Seneca Lake. This work shows that these streams carry nutrients at a much higher level of concentration into the lake
- Work by the Finger Lakes Institute confirms the degraded state of Seneca Lake and ranks it as one of the lowest of the Finger Lakes in water quality
- Left unchecked, the nutrient levels in the Lake will continue to rise and the production of weeds and algae in the Lake will continue to rise, including harmful algae blooms
- Fortunately, there are multiple opportunities to restore Lake water quality in a sustainable manner, but requires collaboration with regulators, local governments, property owners, farmers and others to be successful

# SLPWA is considering refocusing its priorities

- Current mission:  
“**To enhance and preserve the quality of Seneca Lake:**” we lead efforts to monitor and protect the quality of Seneca Lake as a source for drinking water and resource for tourism and recreation.

# SLPWA is considering refocusing its priorities

- Potential new mission:

“Seneca Lake Pure Waters Association: working together to restore and improve Seneca Lake for future generations through education and best practices.”

We advise and educate people about how they can help keep Seneca Lake water clean for the future, and perform critical projects that prevent degradation of Seneca Lake’s water quality.”

# Why is a change in priorities necessary?

- SLPWA's focus in recent years has been on protecting the Lake from LPG storage and other industrial development – for LPG SLPWA has focused upon the integrity of the caverns to be utilized for storage
- While laudable and intended to be continued, this effort has done nothing to deal with current water quality issues
- The decline in water quality over the past decade requires a multi-faceted remediation effort
- And it requires a collaborative approach involving partnerships with various stakeholders concerned about or affected by the water quality of the Lake

# SLPWA Values:

- Engaging our Residents, Institutions, Businesses, Visitors and Public Officials – we demonstrate this through **Integrity and Respect**
- Recognizing Seneca Lake as a critical source for drinking water and resource for recreation and tourism  
– we demonstrate this through **Monitoring and Inclusiveness**
- Advancing key partnerships to restore the Lake's health  
– we demonstrate this through **Collaborations** with regulators and the scientific community

# SLPWA Values:

- Enabling hands on participation by people who love the lake  
– we demonstrate this through projects that allow widespread **Community Involvement**
- We make resources available to support projects that can make a difference  
– we demonstrate this by cultivating a strong **Membership Base** and by **Leveraging** other financial resources
- We are connected to the community and its future economic health – we demonstrate this through careful **Advocacy** efforts based upon solid science

# SLWPA Vision

- The Seneca Lake Pure Waters Association will be recognized as the steward of Seneca Lake through its recognized ability to be an innovative and collaborative partner committed to the health of Seneca Lake and surrounding communities, as characterized by:
  - An unwavering focus on understanding the health of the Lake, while educating and empowering individuals, businesses and communities to participate in projects that make a difference
  - Continued monitoring efforts and related analyses through partnerships with scientific organizations and regulators
  - Development and sponsorship of educational forums that enable residents, visitors and community officials to understand the status of the Lake, problems, causes and solutions
  - A substantial and growing membership base and the accompanying capacity to leverage member resources to support monitoring, restoration and other projects intended to substantially improve Lake water quality

# Strategic Framework to get there

## Improved Water Quality

What are the metrics for understanding how the Lake is doing?

What additional monitoring should we be doing and how do we pay for it?

What projects/initiatives should we focus upon that will serve to restore the Lake?

## Stronger Communities

How do we collaborate with regulators, local governments, businesses and property owners?

How do we replicate successes throughout the Lake watershed?

How can we partner to implement key projects?

What should be our role in community economic development?

## Improved Quality of Life

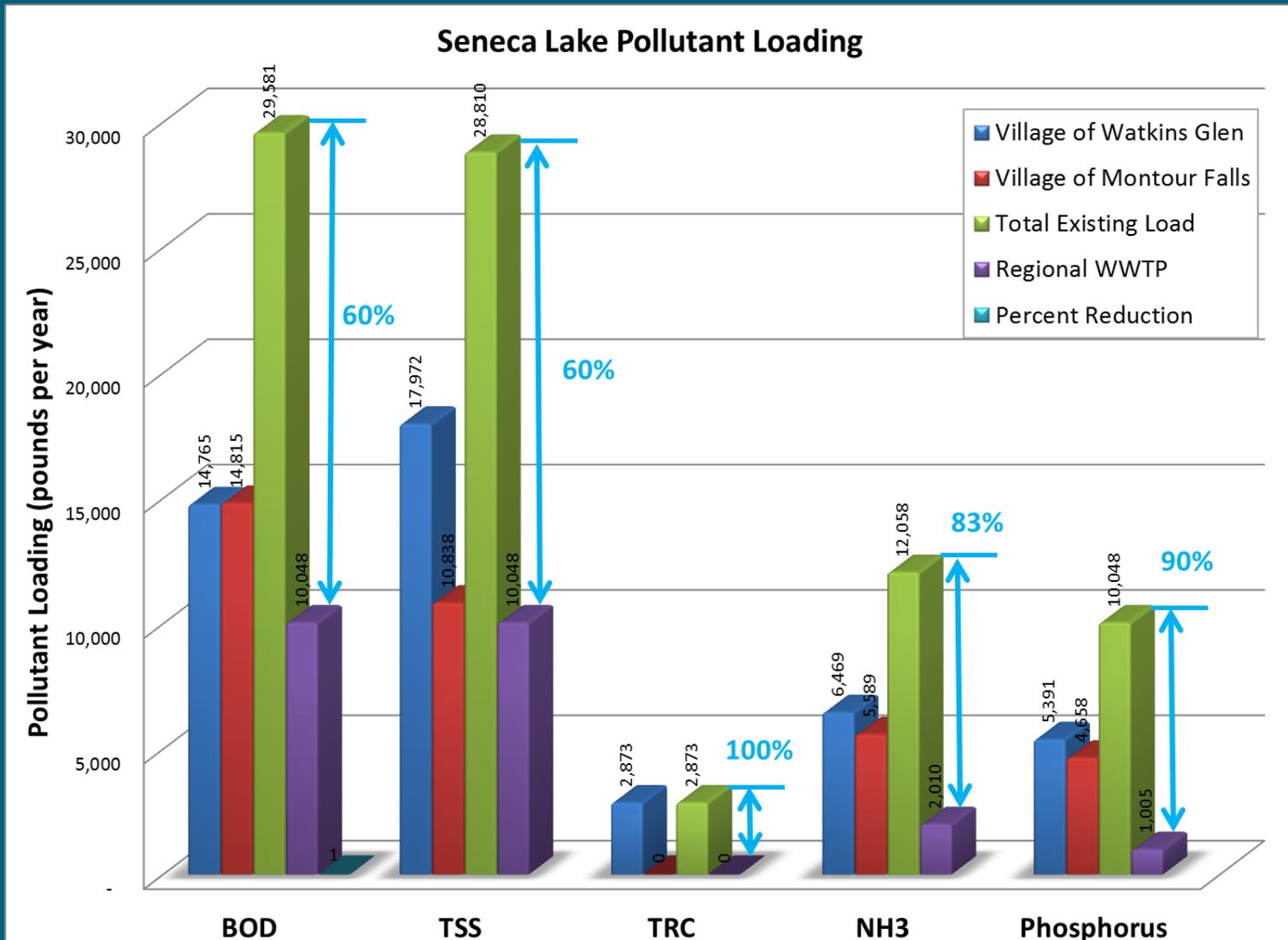
What priorities should we focus upon to improve property values, recreational use of the Lake, address existing water quality problems?

How can individuals and communities participate?

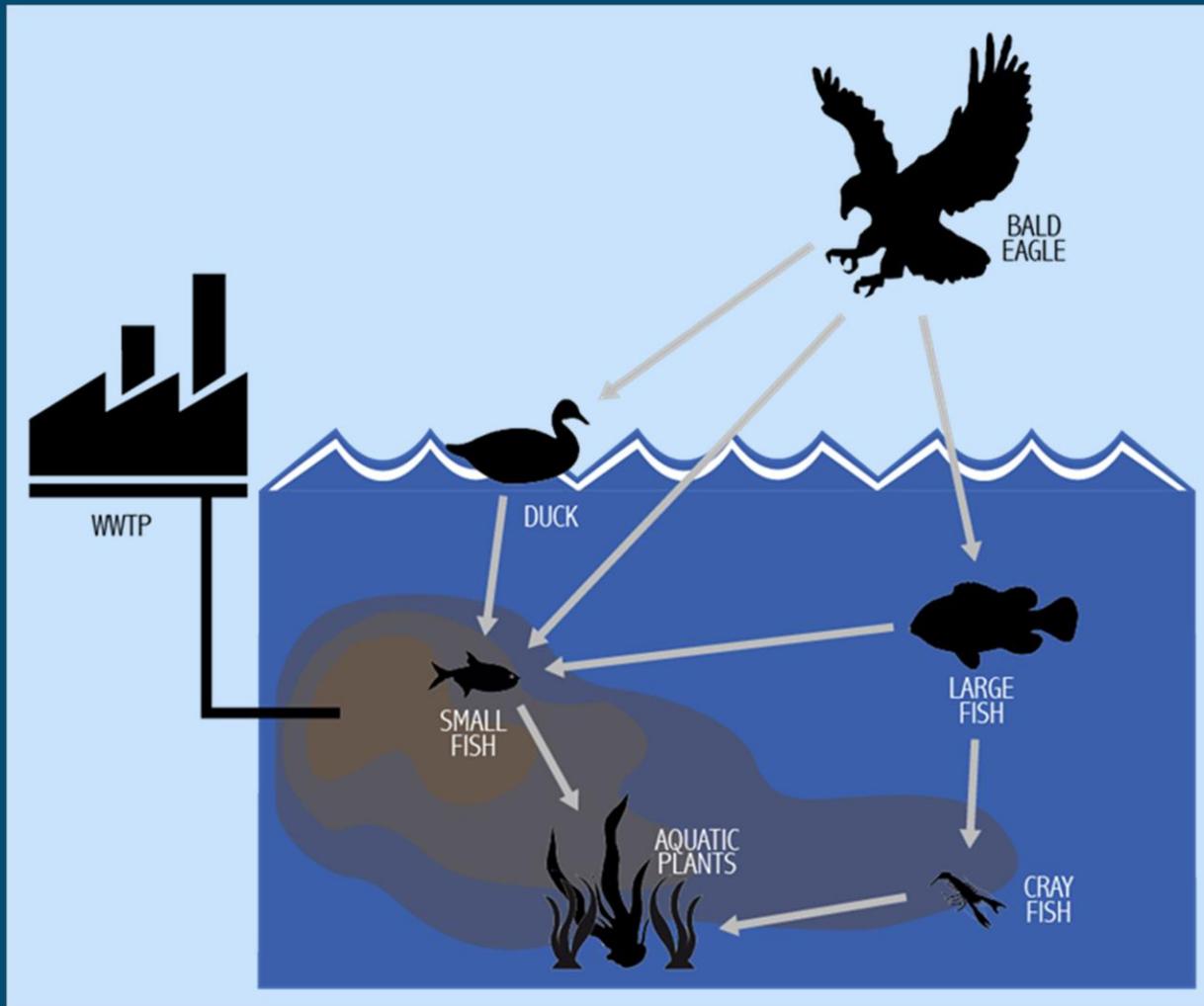
What should we do to educate everyone with respect to these priorities?

# An Example of Impacts We Can Have

# WG and MF WWTP Loading to Seneca Lake



# Water Quality Impacts to Animals



## Water Quality impacts:

- Increased BOD
- Increased Suspended Solids
- Increased Nutrient Loading
- Excessive Chlorine

## Results in:

- Excessive plant growth
- Plant decay increases BOD and lowers oxygen level
- Increased temperatures
- Fish kills