

Tennessee Nutrient Summit

Results & Next Steps



**Tennessee Nutrient
Reduction Task Force**

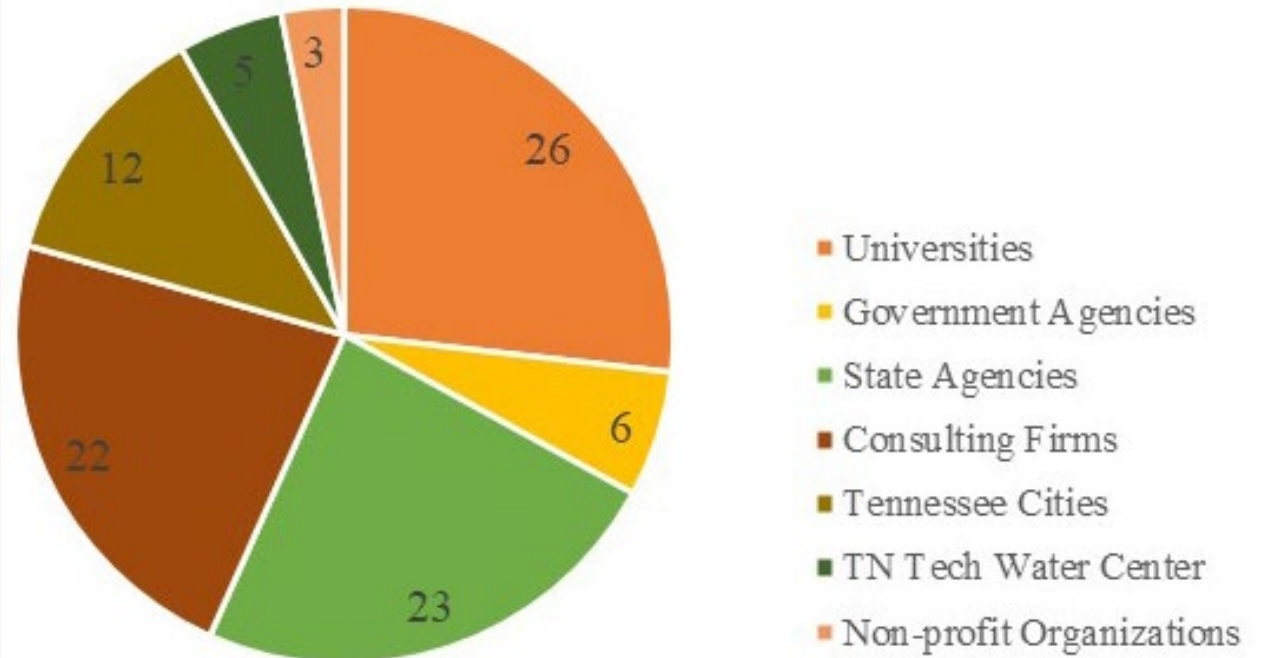
Improving Water Quality Together

THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING!

Attendance for the inaugural event was expected to be modest, but the Summit attracted 97 participants for the one-day program!

The interaction, networking and conversations were invaluable to chart out the steps for the next decade of nutrient reduction in Tennessee.

Tennessee Nutrient Summit Participant Affiliation



Tennessee
TECH



SUMMARY: What Did We Learn?

- Attendee responses highlight the importance of building on approaches that are already working and scaling proven strategies to accelerate outcomes. We double down on what works: Optimization of Wastewater Plants, Protection of Riparian Buffers, and Incentives for Best Management Practices.
- Attendee responses consistently indicate that the primary barrier to collaboration is not technical capacity, but trust and alignment across sectors, pointing at the need for intentional convening, shared problem definition, transparent data, and locally grounded relationships to transform parallel efforts into coordinated action.
- A recurring theme is the absence of a coordinated, statewide citizen science monitoring network. Participants emphasized that citizen science has strong potential for public education and engagement and to expand monitoring frequency and geographic coverage.
- Respondents emphasized that reservoirs are critical – but under-integrated – components of Tennessee’s nutrient reduction framework, and there is a need for more explicit, reservoir-specific management strategies.

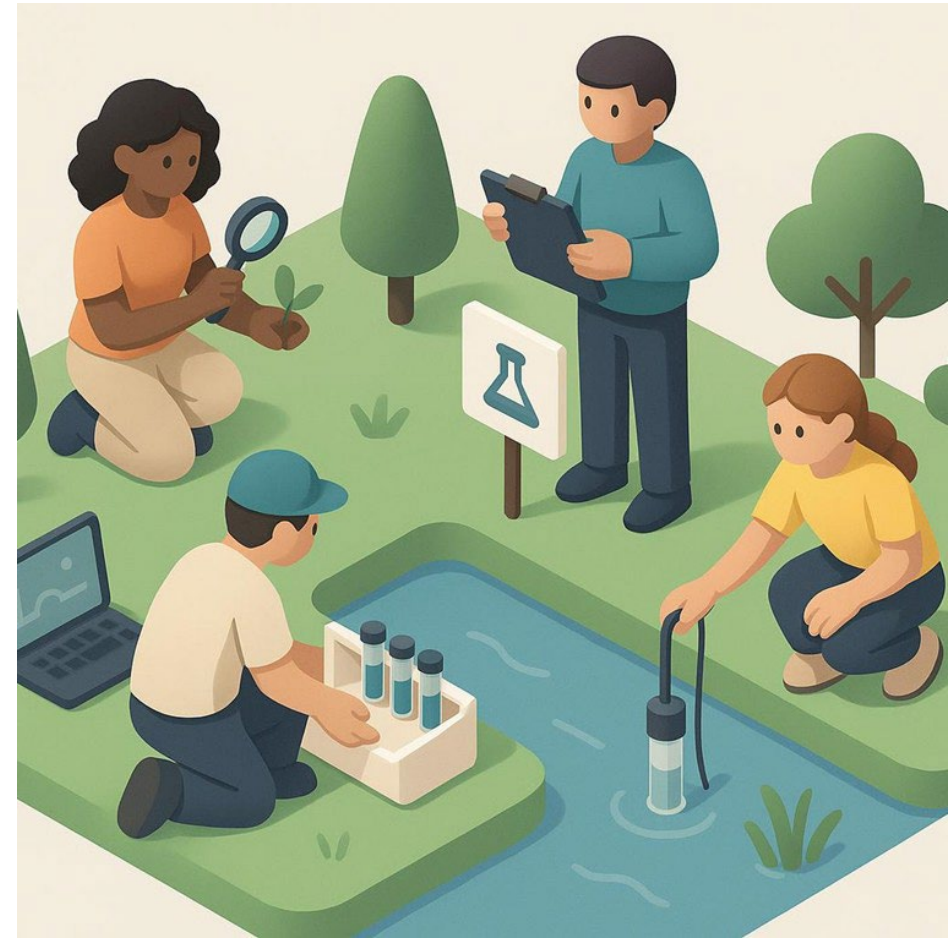
NEXT STEPS: Communication & Connection

- Tennessee Nutrient Reduction Task Force and its working groups will be hard at work again in 2026. Annual report coming out soon @ <https://www.tn.gov/environment/program-areas/wr-water-resources/nutrient-management-in-tennessee/partnerships/tennessee-nutrient-reduction-task-force.html>
- Tennessee River Basin Network will hold Annual Meeting on August 19-20, 2026, at Henry Horton State Park. Many of our partners will be attending and hope to see you there. Keep up to date @ <https://www.trbnetwork.org/2026-annual-conference>
- TDEC intends to hold regional meetings in 2026 to connect with local communities in their watersheds. Stay in touch @ <https://www.tn.gov/environment/program-areas/wr-water-resources/dwr-outreach.html>



NEXT STEPS: Citizen Science

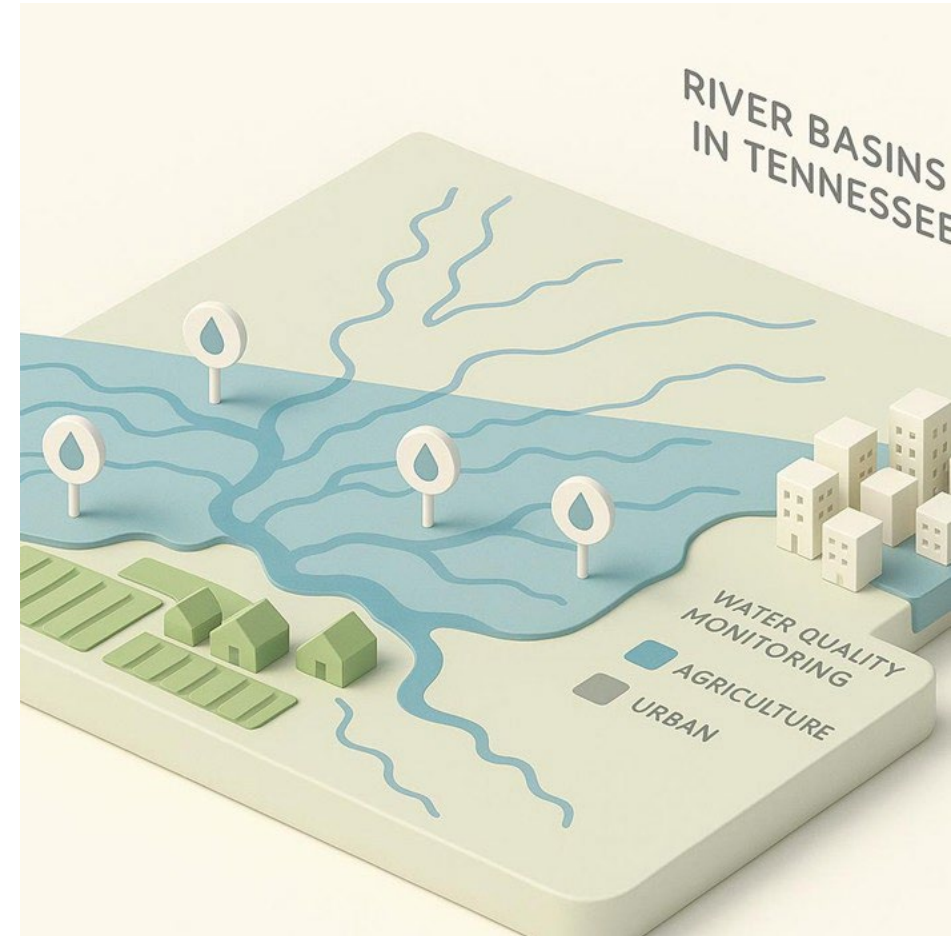
- The interest, the need, and the momentum were palpable on this topic at the summit – in your conversations throughout the day and in your responses to the survey. We do not want it to stop there.
- Contact Crystal Warren (crystal.warren@tn.gov) to add you to an email list to form this Nutrient Reduction Task Force affinity group. If you want to co-chair this effort, please send your interest as well.
- For nutrient data, dive in here: <https://tdec.tn.gov/nutrient/>



NEXT STEPS:

Reservoir Management Group

- Karina Bynum with TDEC is working on the Tennessee Nutrient Reduction Framework and would like to include nutrient management of reservoirs. The current Framework is available @ <https://www.tn.gov/environment/program-areas/wr-water-resources/nutrient-management-in-tennessee/background/tennessee-nutrient-reduction-framework0.html>
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integrated agriculture



Wastewater treatment



green infrastructure



nutrient management

**OVERALL
ACTION FOCUS:**
We Must Build Trust Faster
and More Broadly Across
All Sectors Involved in
Nutrient Reduction

THANK YOU FOR WEAVING A STRONGER NET



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