

Ideas to Share: UTRCA, Business Investments and Our Communities

Dave Courtnage

Rob Staffen

April 17, 2018



Agenda

- This presentation will be about Opportunities for our Community
- Sharing the data on the Operation by UTRCA of Wildwood Dam:
UTRCA may be putting our Community at Risk
- Power Shift from Private Sector to Public Sector
- UTRCA/St. Marys “**Circle of Importance**”
- IDEA “Smart and Caring Community Fund” for Parks, Cycling, Trails and Natural Forests – Next Generation
- **Plans moving forward**

It is About Community

- Our Families believes in 20 year plans, how would you leave these businesses to your Grandchildren and to your Community
- Understanding the Ideas behind the “13 Ways to Kill a Community” concept made our Families realize we need to get involved
- Power has shifted from the Private Sector (that pay the taxes) to the Public Sector and jobs (UTRCA authority),
- We want UTRCA and St. Marys (other Communities) to be Partners in providing clean water, safety to our Businesses and to our Families, and Parks and Recreation to the next generation
- *Community Partners:* We (a Business Owners) want to be a respected and admired as an important assets of the community at large; so that we attract tourists, we will attract industry, we will attract professionals and we will attract people to become part of the community.

Where are we Today?

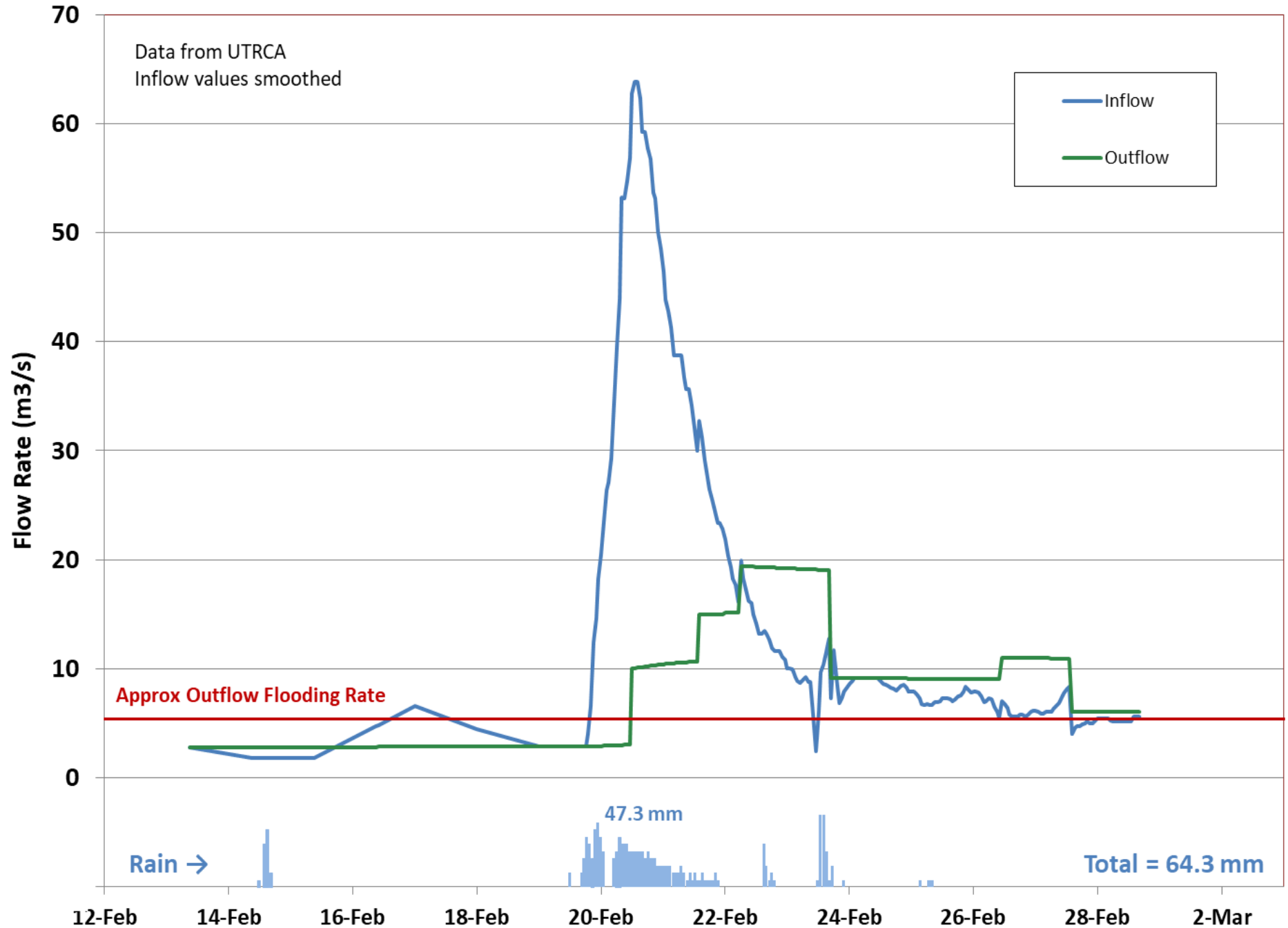
- Working with UTRCA is difficult; The 200 Year flood line is unrealistic in cases of existing Sites
- Increasing and **Unsustainable Costs** of UTRCA (Costs of the organization are up substantially, 8.7% in Labour alone whereby Business is struggling to survive and cutting labour, especially with the new Minimum wage policies and Communities are facing lost Tax Base(s) and other Government cut backs)
- UTRCA **Lack of Accountability**- in business we are rated on performance versus standards or forecast, UTRCA is perceived as Enabling its Staff: “Defending positions and individuals” versus “The Community and the team”
- Downtown Development Issues (European Examples)

Operation by UTRCA of Wildwood Dam

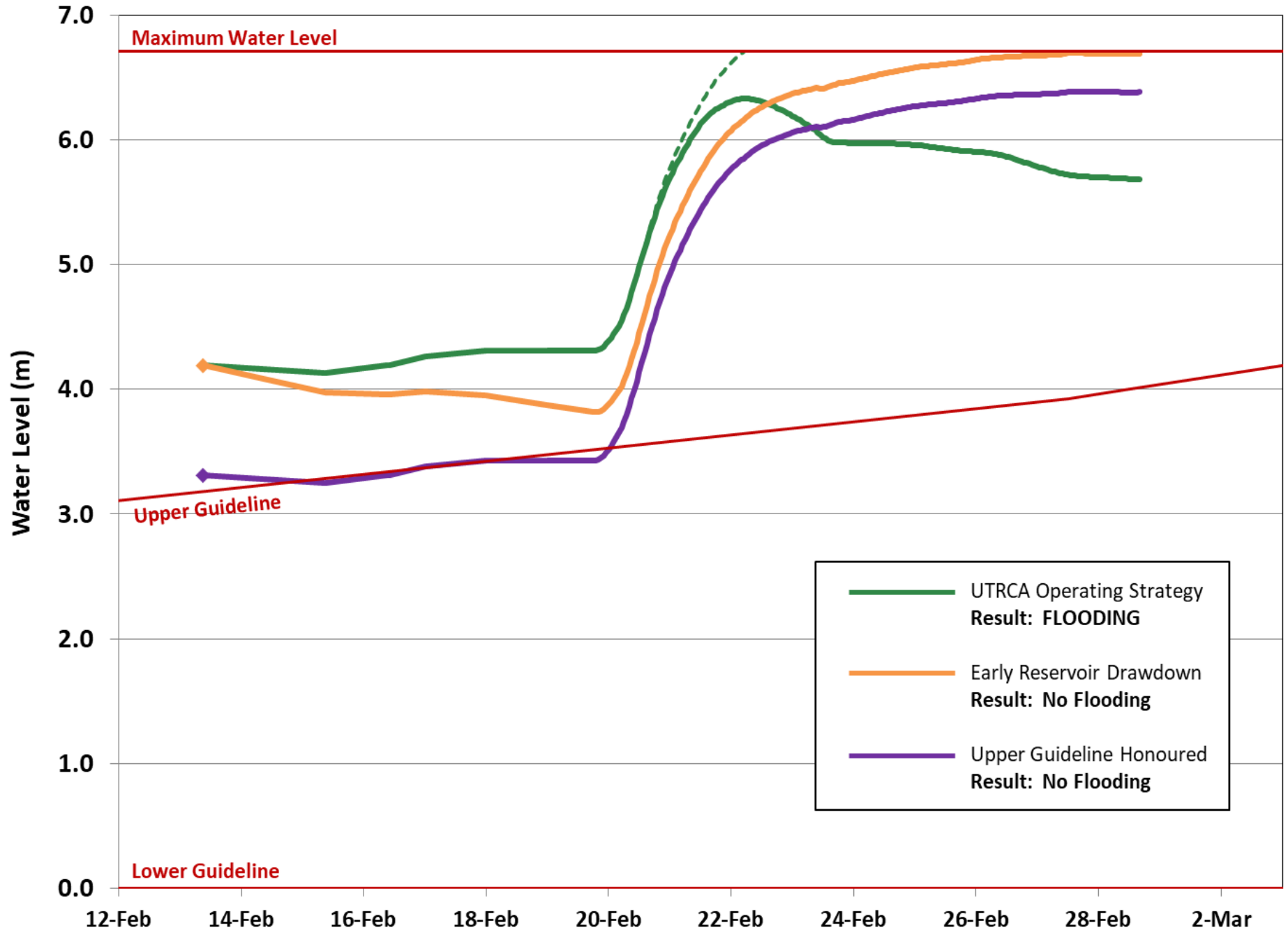
Flooding Summary

- All recent Trout Creek floods are due to operational errors, not weather events
 - UTRCA routinely operates outside the design basis operating parameters
 - UTRCA routinely operates outside its own operating guidelines
 - UTRCA consistently ignores data that would help prevent flooding

Wildwood Flow Rates - February 2018 Flooding



Wildwood Water Levels - Three Operating Strategies



Operation by UTRCA of Wildwood Dam

Flooding Summary

- Solutions that would prevent flooding and preserve all of flow augmentation capability presented to UTRCA, but rejected
 - Inconvenience to boaters, campers and cottage owners
 - Flow augmentation is the only priority, flood control is an incidental side benefit
 - Some flooding is acceptable as part of the flood control mandate
- Without changes to operating strategy, a flooding disaster for St. Marys is inevitable
- UTRCA's handling of the flooding problem is just a **symptom of the problem**

St. Marys, other Communities and UTRCA As Partners NOT Adversaries

- Communities, where we work, **where we pay our taxes**, where we run our Businesses or where we volunteer for our Town should be the **#1 priority** for UTRCA
(The existing relationship is backwards)
- UTRCA actually work for us (our Communities) and we should **work together as partners** in helping Businesses grow and flourish; yet UTRCA is feared by Business (and avoided if they can) for all the wrong reasons. **This is not a True Partnership**

UTRCA “CIRCLE OF IMPORTANCE” Current

#1:

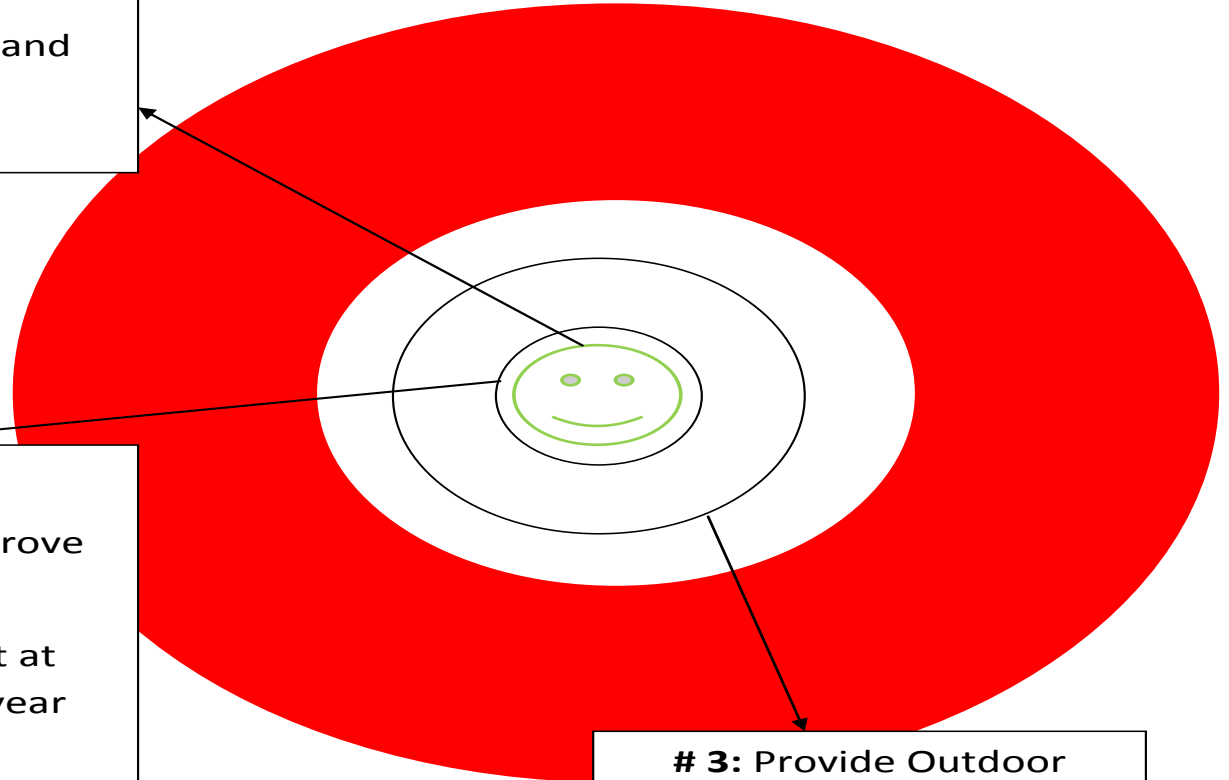
Manage & Expand
Natural Areas

2:

Protect and Improve
Water Quality

No Question but at
what cost: 200 year
Flood line?

3: Provide Outdoor
Recreation/Education



UTRCA “CIRCLE OF IMPORTANCE” Current

#4 Protect Life and Property from
Flooding/Erosion

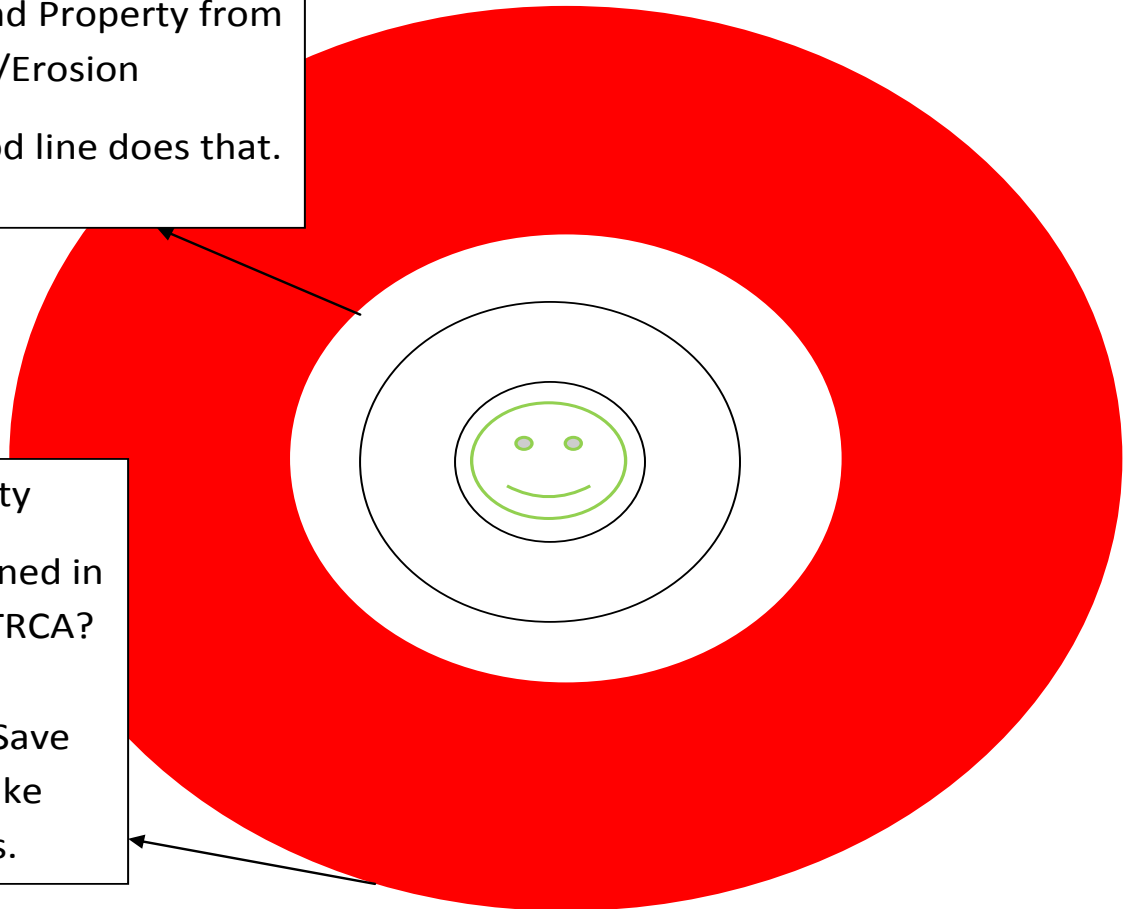
The 100 year flood line does that.

#5 Community

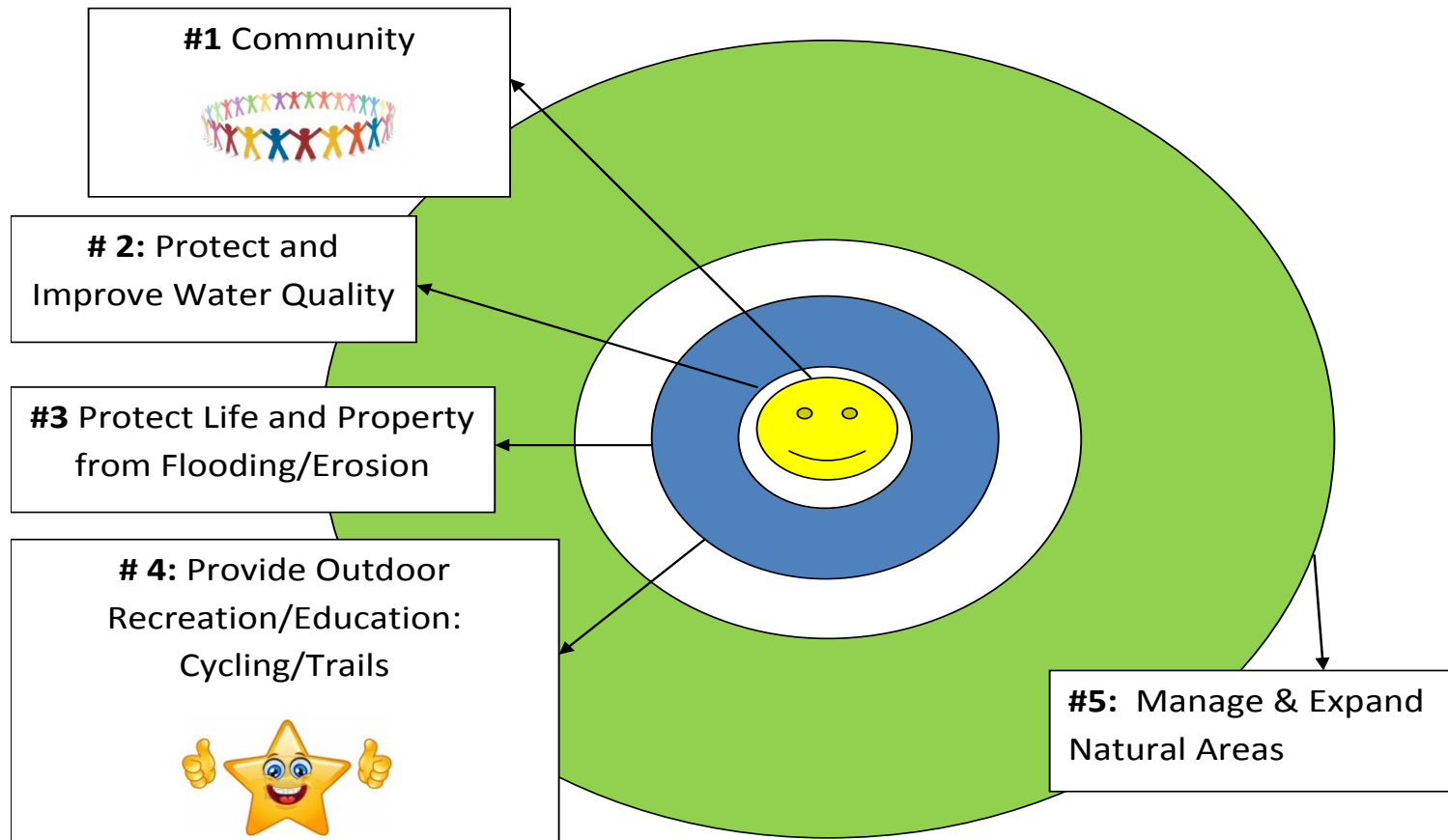
Not even mentioned in
the Vision for UTRCA?



Save
Downtowns like
Europe does.



UTRCA “CIRCLE OF IMPORTANCE” In Order of Priorities



Ontario's Cycling Strategy: 20 Year Plan- Where is UTRCA on Cycling?



Partnership: St. Marys/London/ Perth South/Stratford and UTRCA

- UTRCA to “Engage with our Communities”
 - ✓ Insist that UTRCA work with communities to align their priorities to be consistent with those of the communities they serve.
 - ✓ UTRCA has willing partners in the process. To ignore them is irresponsible.
 - ✓ Streamline the regulatory process. Work with the towns to establish criteria and allow the towns to work within them, rather than micromanaging every application.
 - ✓ Partners Work Together to Promote Downtown Development; especially Attainable Housing and unique Commercial venues. (Europe example) .

Partnership: St. Marys/London/ Perth South/Stratford and UTRCA

- UTRCA to be held “Accountable to our Communities”
 - ✓ Join with other like-thinking communities and **withhold funding increases** to UTRCA until the recommendations are met.
 - ✓ UTRCA to develop **Performance standards** that provide their staff with specific **performance** expectations for each major duty. Review them. Enforce them.
 - ✓ Review the operation of Wildwood Dam to **ensure the protection** of St. Marys residents and businesses.
 - ✓ Permit the use of **common sense**. Blind adherence to pre-conceived ideas rarely produces the correct result.

Partnership: St. Marys/London/ Perth South/Stratford and UTRCA

- UTRCA to “Co-Create a Vision of Community”
 - ✓ Ideas to enhance Revenue should be encouraged and rewarded
 - ✓ Cycling Paths and Hiking Trails
 - ✓ Recognize the funding limitations of small communities
 - ✓ Work with Communities to seek creative ways to fund programs (sell the farms):
 - “A Smart and Caring Community Foundation “
 - “Parks, Recreation, Trails and Cycling Paths”
 - Annual Fundraising Community Event
 - Sale of Farms Owned by UTRCA

QUESTIONS?

