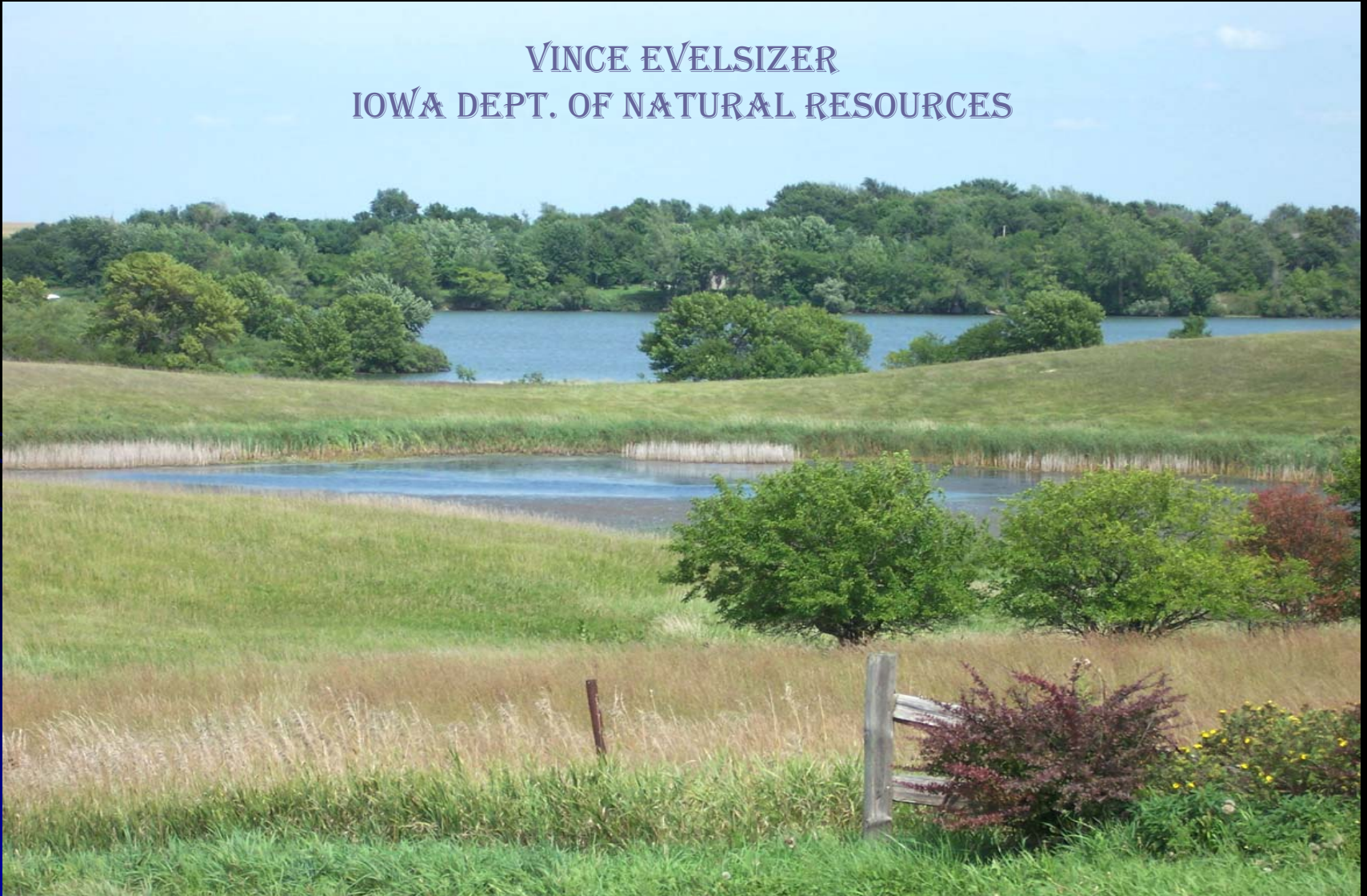


DEVELOPMENT OF IOWA'S WETLAND MONITORING STRATEGY

VINCE EVELSIZER
IOWA DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES



What Started the Wetland Monitoring Program in Iowa?

- Increased concern for Iowa's wetland resources
- The Iowa Wetlands and Riparian Areas Conservation Plan 1998
- Iowa's Strategic Ambient Water Monitoring Plan 2002
- First Grant secured with EPA in 2004
 - "Estimating the Condition of Iowa's Permanent and Semi-permanent Wetlands"
- First Wetland TAC meeting April 6, 2004



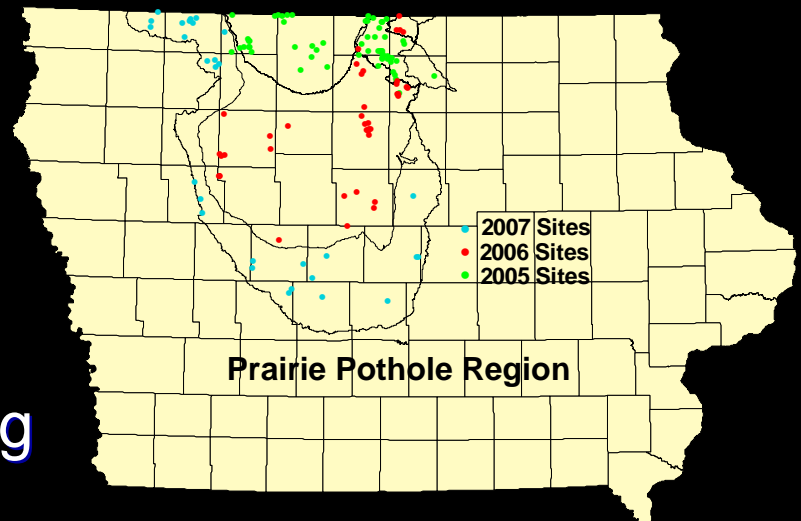
Iowa's Wetland Monitoring Program

- **Primary Objective:** Develop a statewide, comprehensive wetland monitoring program
 - We didn't start with a Monitoring Strategy
 - We know much more about it all now
 - A Strategic Plan is necessary at some point early on, even if it's not the first thing you do



Current Status of our Program

- Helped jump start funding for the Iowa NWI with EPA WPD Grant – completion scheduled for 2008
- Formation of Wetland TAC
- Personnel, equipment, field house
- Sampling goals completed 2005 – 07
- Two full-time wetland monitoring positions
- Working toward next 3 year grant award



What has worked and not worked so far?

Worked:

- Working with the EPA WPD Grants
- Doing the wetland monitoring ourselves
- Keeping the program small and simple

Not Worked:

- Tight timelines
- Small things – bureaucracy, sediment sampling, etc.

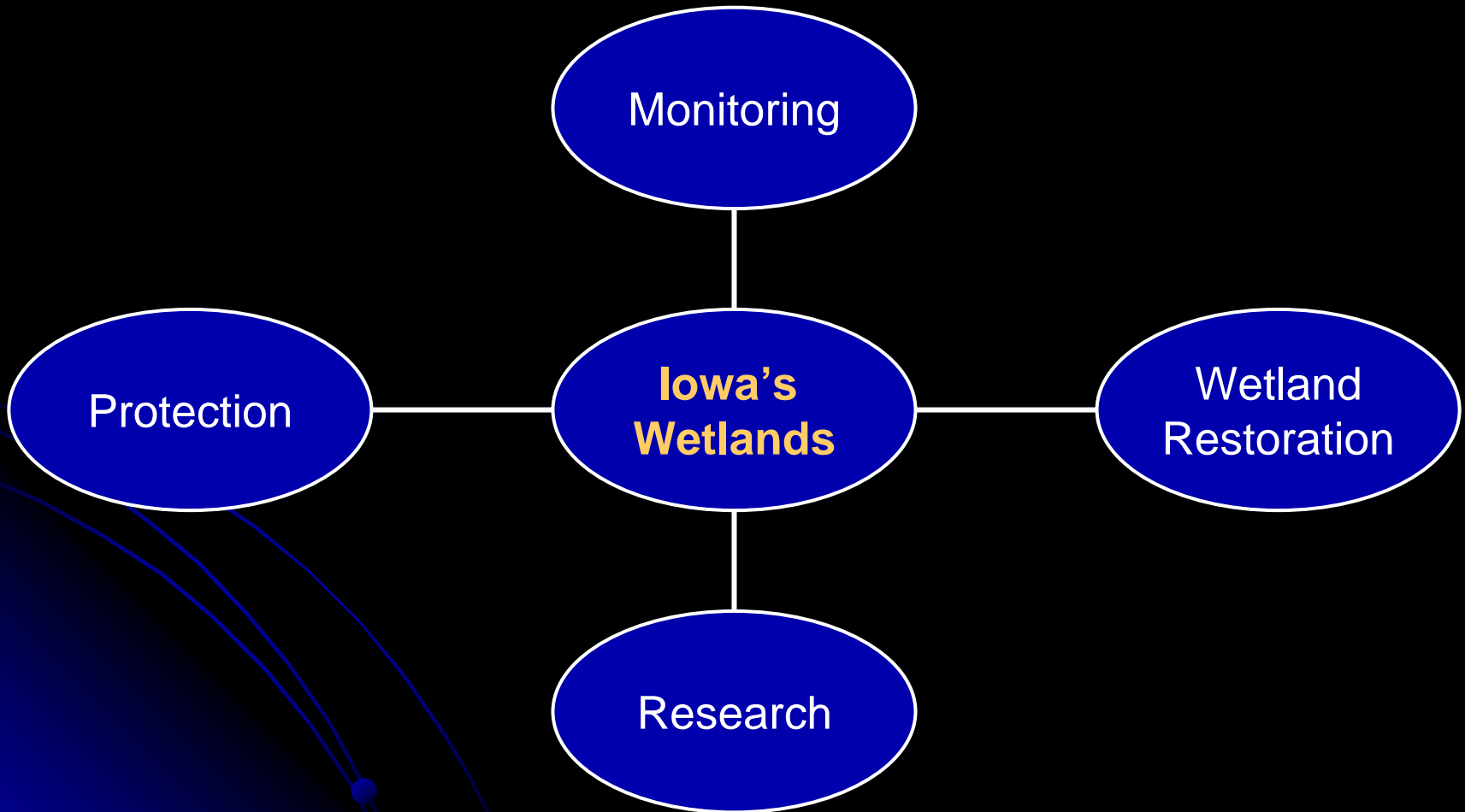


Why a Monitoring Strategy is Needed...

- *“If you're not sure where you're going, you'll probably end up somewhere else.”*
- *unknown*



Overview of Iowa's Strategy



Funding for our Program and Strategy

~ U.S. EPA WPD Grants & Iowa DNR ~

- Water Quality Initiative - Iowa Legislature
- **1st Grant** : “Estimating the Condition of Iowa’s Permanent and Semi-permanent Wetlands” (2004 – Nov. 1, 2007)
- **2nd Grant**: “Development of a Rapid Assessment Method for Iowa’s Fen Wetlands” (2005 – Dec. 1, 2007)
- **3rd Grant**: “Development of a Comprehensive Wetland Protection Plan for Iowa” (2006 – July 1, 2008)
- **4th Grant**: “Development of an Integrated Wetland Assessment Method for Restored Wetlands in Iowa” (May 1, 2008 – May 1, 2011)



Advice

- Good wetland maps – digital format
- Communicate EPA and within your agency – you have a “business product” to offer
- Get into the field/wetlands – you do the fieldwork
- Keep up with the Output...
- Don't make it harder than it has to be, but keep the science in it.
- Look ahead – sense of urgency
- Have fun – wetlands are so cool!



QUESTIONS ?

