



Indiana's Nonpoint Source Program

Caleb Rennaker

Chief, Watershed Planning and Restoration Section

Watershed Assessment and Planning Branch

Office of Water Quality

Indiana Department of Environmental Management



Branch goal: Find impaired waters and clean them up



Indiana

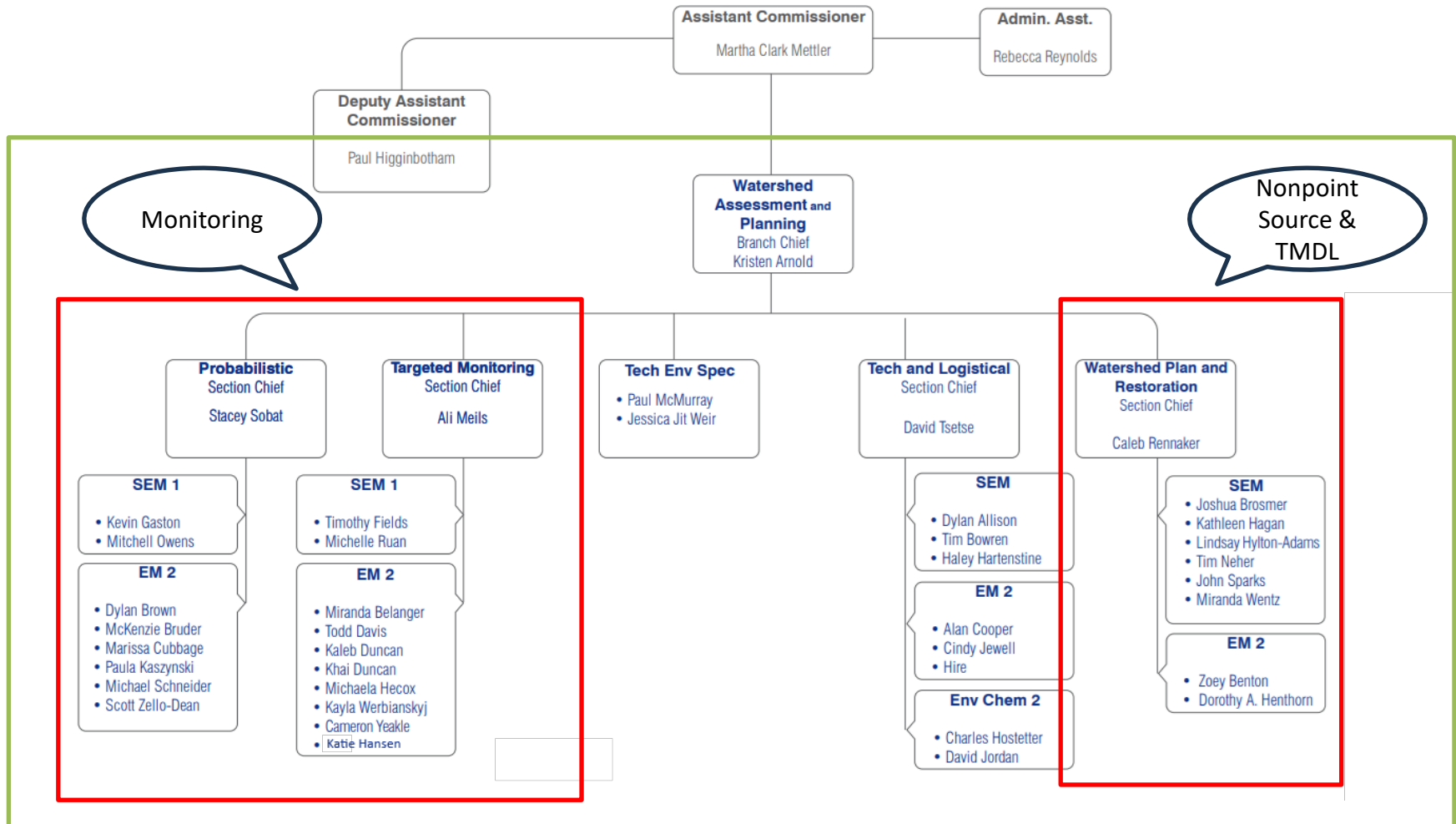
Department of Environmental Management

Office of Water Quality

Watershed Assessment and Planning Branch

May 2025

— Shadeland Office —



1. Assessment: Does the water meet water quality standards?

IDEM
conducts
monitoring

Monitoring



Water Quality
Standards

and compares
data to
standards



Human Health



Aquatic Life

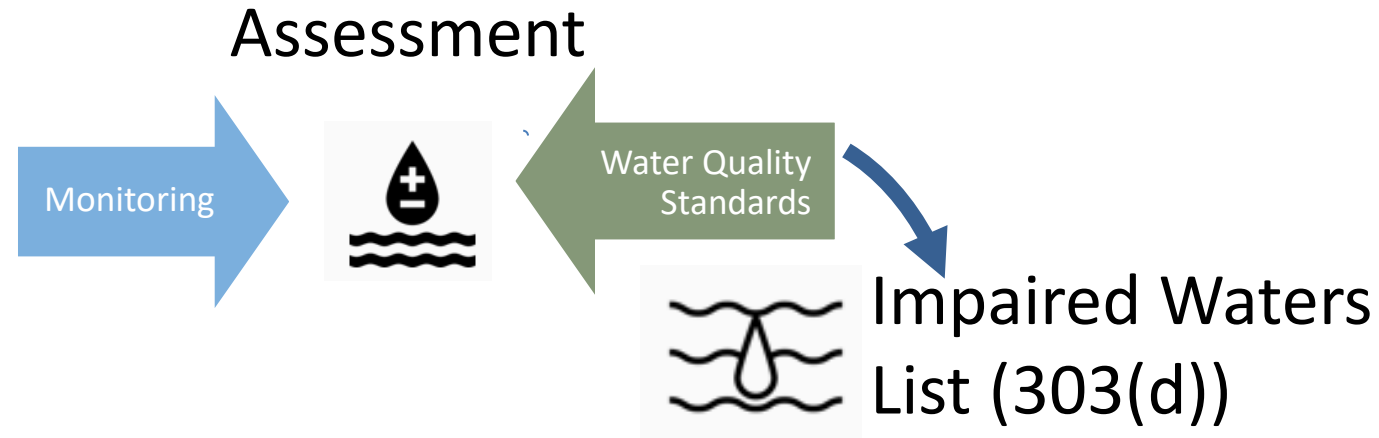


What IDEM monitors

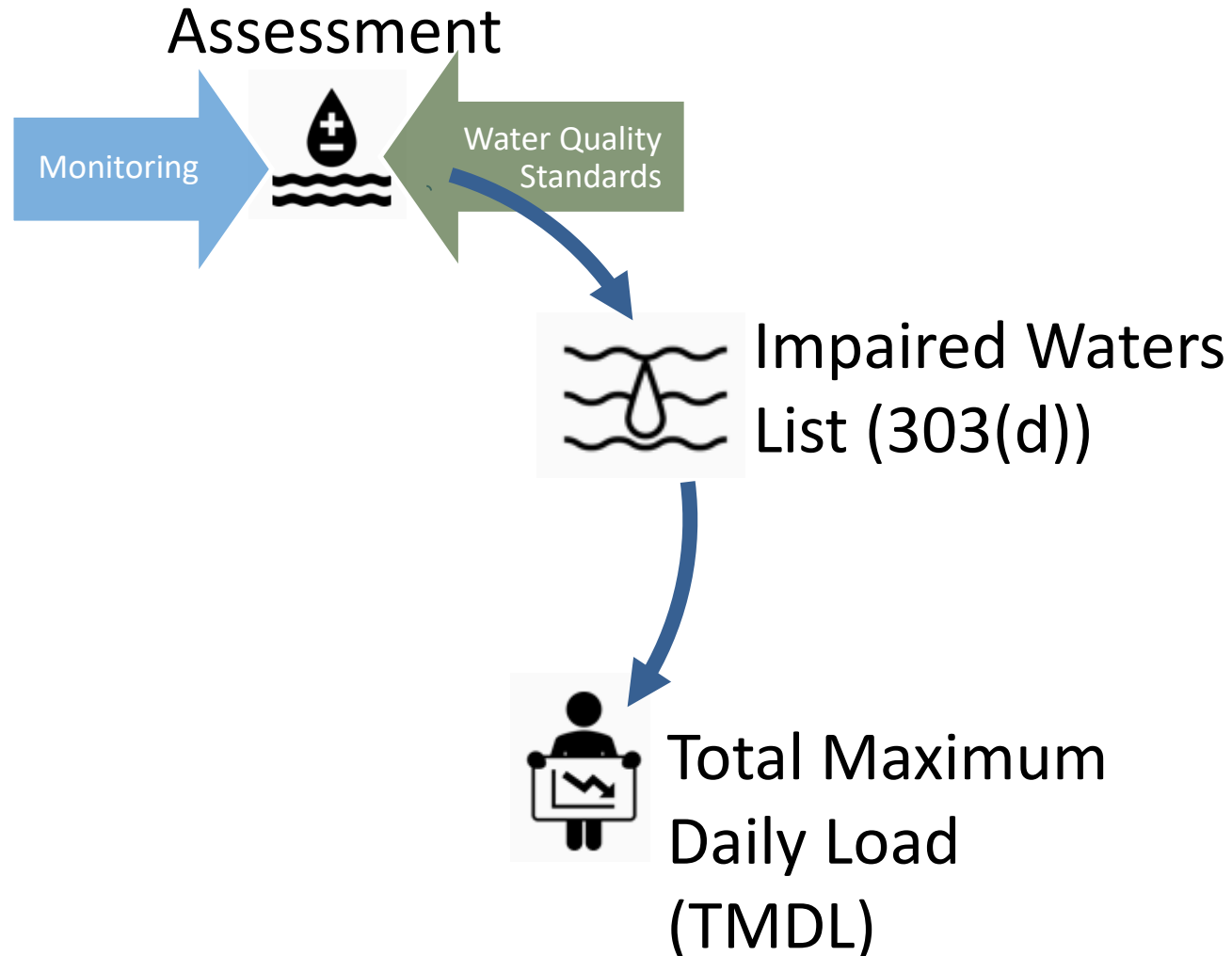
- General chemistry
- Metals
- Nutrients (includes nitrogen & phosphorus)
- *E. coli*
- Ambient conditions
- Organics/pesticides
- Habitat and aquatic communities



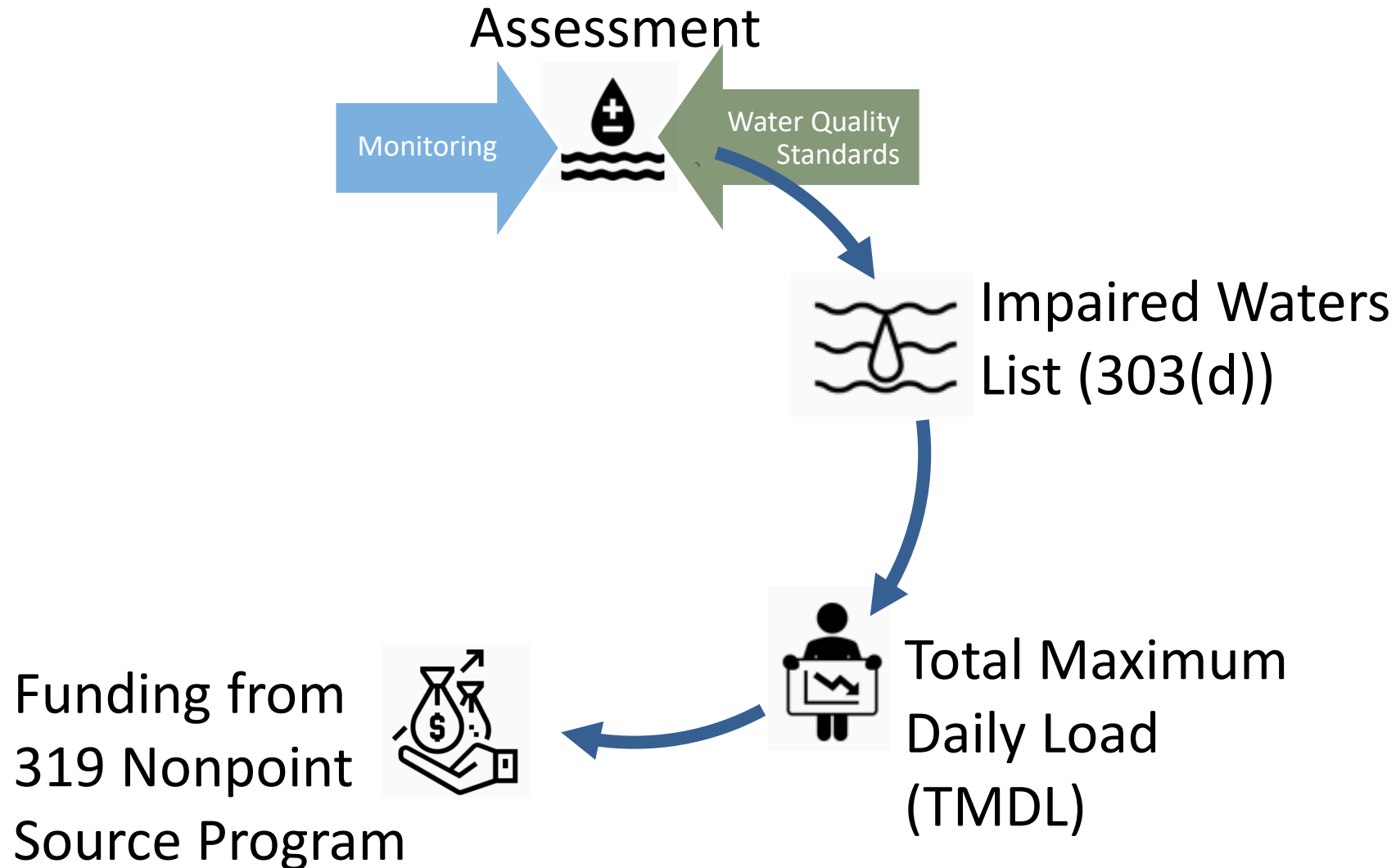
2. Impaired Waters List (303(d) List)



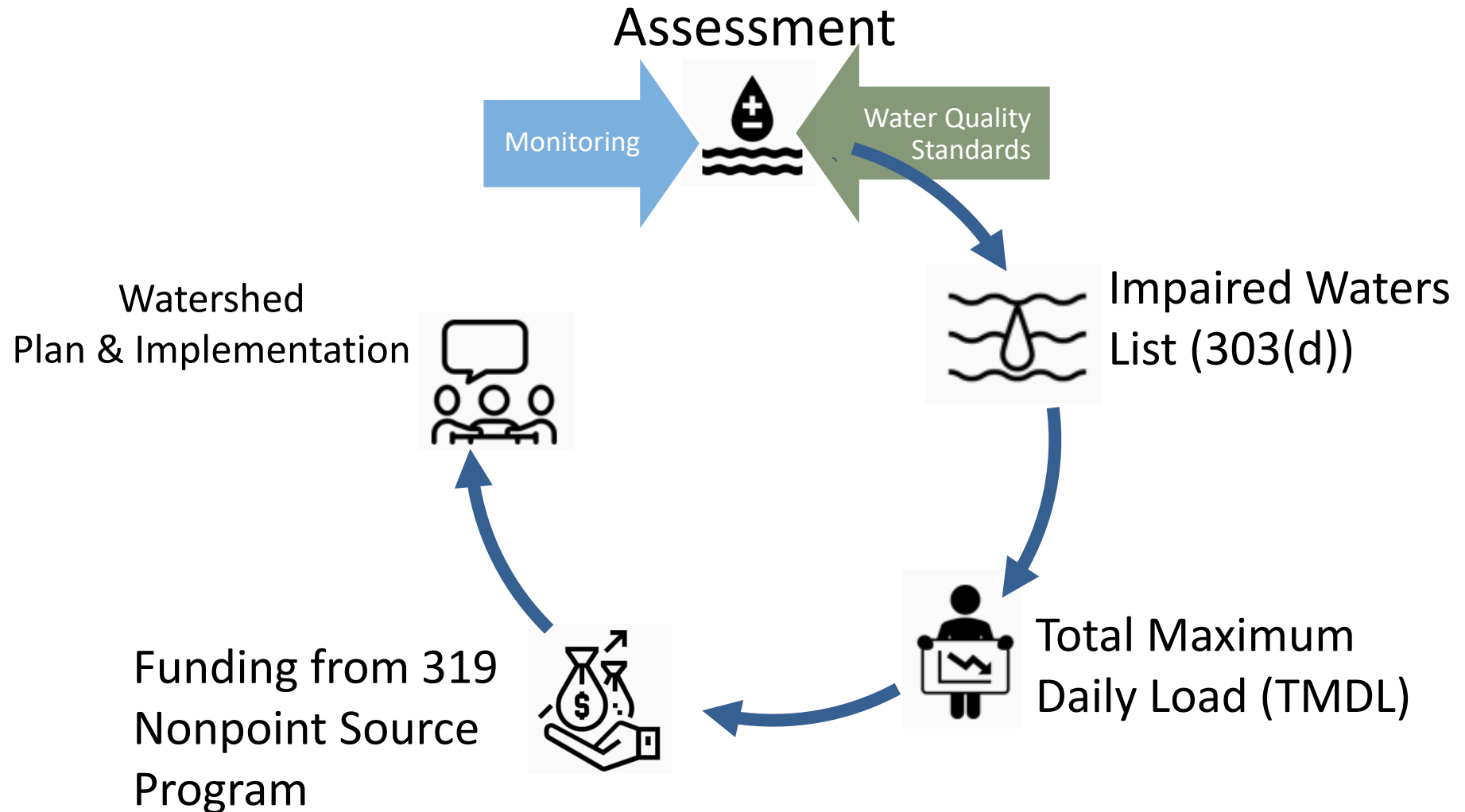
3. Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL)



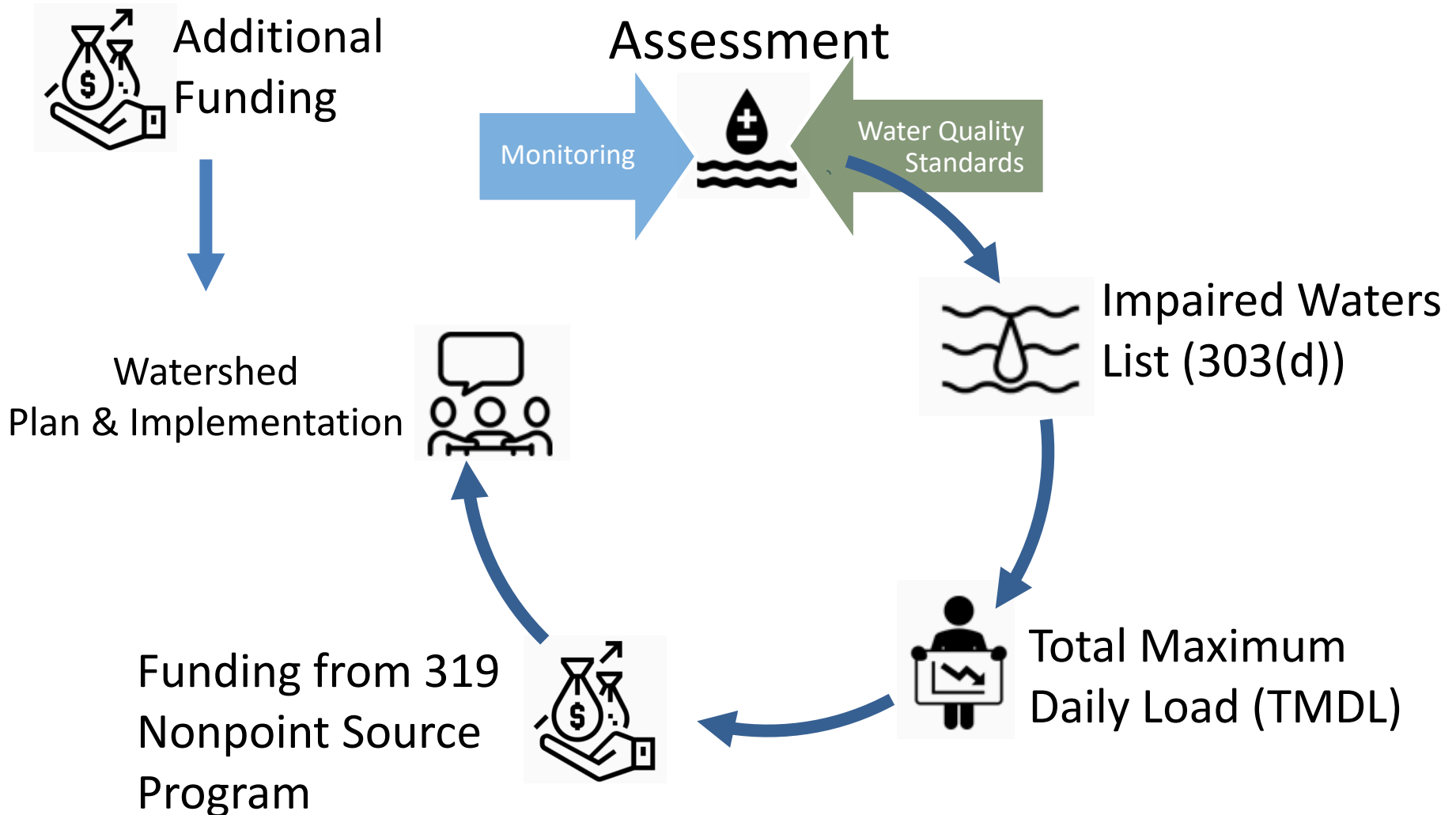
4. Funding from 319 Program



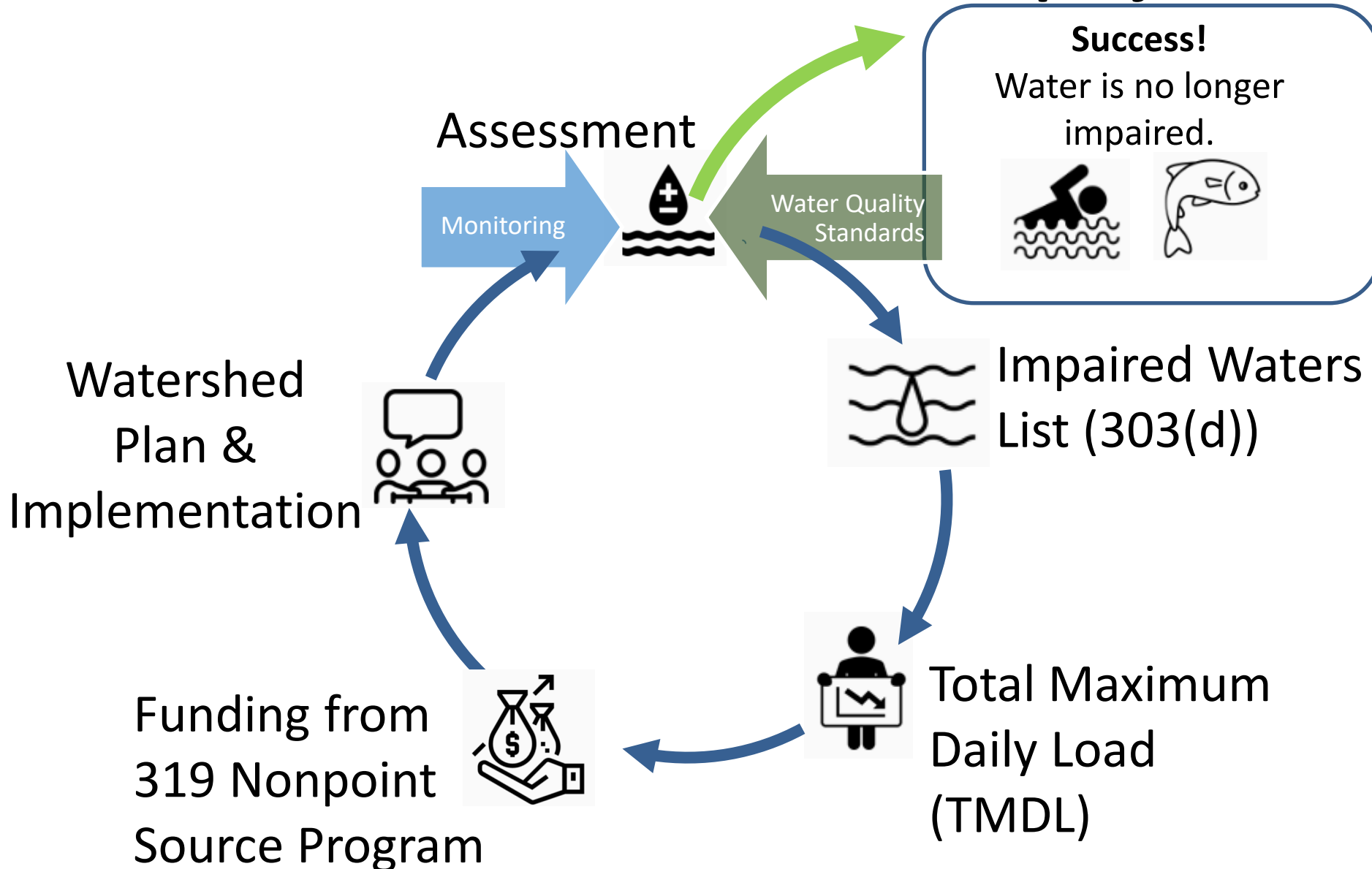
5. Watershed Plan & Implementation



6. Identifying additional funding



7. Assessment at the end of the project





Nonpoint Source Program (CWA 319)

- **Watershed-Based Projects & Grant Program Administration:**
Administers a \$4.5 million annual grant program currently supporting 50+ watershed-based projects that fund planning, implementation, and outreach to reduce pollutant loads and improve water quality.
- **Restoration & BMP Implementation:**
Supports the installation of best management practices (BMPs), such as cover crops, buffer strips, and exclusion fencing, to reduce sediment, nutrients, and bacteria in targeted waterbodies.
- **Collaboration & Partnerships:**
Aligns efforts and leverages resources through partnerships with the Indiana Conservation Partnership, Western Lake Erie Basin Domestic Action Plan, State Nutrient Reduction Strategy, Coastal Nonpoint Source Program, and others to better align and support water quality improvements statewide.
- **Nonpoint Source Success Stories:**
Leads EPA Region 5 states in documented nonpoint source success stories, demonstrating measurable water quality improvements through targeted projects and removal from the impaired waters list.



Goals

1. Expand resources through strengthened **partnerships**.
2. Assess Indiana waters to **identify pollution sources** and track improvements.
3. **Foster a citizenry** that values and actively supports water quality protection.
4. Implement projects that **address pollution sources** and restore natural water systems.
5. Ensure Indiana's water resources continue to **meet their intended uses**.
6. **Offer technical assistance**, networking, and capacity-building directly to grantees.



2025 Accomplishments

- First alternative watershed plan approved
- Exceeded statewide match requirement by partners
- Public recognition
 - Hoosier Riverwatch & Success Stories
- National leader in water quality improvements
 - IWLA & WLEB successes
- Administrative
 - Website, form updates, new guidance, [interactive annual report](#)

Priorities for 2026

- Improve national standing on success stories
- Address pathogen pollution statewide
- Goal 6 – Expand support to grantees
- Co-benefits & win-wins





Contact

Caleb Rennaker

Chief, Watershed Planning & Restoration Section

Indianapolis, IN

crennake@idem.IN.gov

317-308-3119