CONSERVATION AT A CROSSROAD
Putting Solutions in to Action
Secure Future Building on Enduring Strengths

- Community-based conservation
- Volunteer science
- Policy advocacy
- Connecting people to the outdoors
Executing on the Vision

Vision not only aspirational, action plan

National organization executing

Volunteer science  Policy advocacy  Defending bedrock conservation protections

Need your help to

Amplify vision  Take action
League Leading on Volunteer Science
Salt Watch

Growth of Salt Watch

- 2019-20
- 2020-21
- 2021-22
- 2022-23

Kits
Results
Data to Action in Practice

- Public education
- Grassroots advocacy campaigns
- Industry training and engagement
- Data to water utilities and govts
- State legislation
- Expanding networks, participation
Nitrate Watch

- Nitrogen pollution widespread
- Damages the environment
  - Algae blooms
- Harms human health
  - Drinking water
  - Birth defects, blue baby syndrome
  - Colon cancer
  - Thyroid disease
- Costs everyone
  - $210 billion annually
Nitrate Watch - 0 to 60 in 6 months

Launched February 2023
- 500 test kits distributed
- 32 states and DC
- Nearly 800 test results
  - Corn belt high levels
  - Mid-Atlantic drought
  - New England - Salt Watch volunteers

Going forward
- Expand participation
- Public education
- Use results locally
  - Conservation on the ground
- Support advocacy
  - Farm Bill
  - Safe drinking water standards

Nitratewatch.org
Policy Advocacy

- Farm Bill is a:
  - clean water
  - public health
  - climate-resiliency bill
- Aggressive Hill outreach
- 30+ visits June
- Reinforce member, chapter & division advocacy
- Added capacity Jessica Gordon
Defend Bedrock Conservation

- Early Ikes rallied against “drainage crime of the century”
- Supreme Court Sackett decision drainage crime this century
- Justice Brett Kavanaugh dissenting opinion
- Millions acres wetlands will be drained and filled
Renewed RESOLVE, NOT Resignation

- Need renewed resolve
- Act now
  - Defend wetland conservation in Farm Bill
  - Press USDA enforce limits on drainage
  - Eyes on the ground
  - Build grassroots pressure on Congress
Gateway to the Outdoors

- Chapters gateway
- Panel this week future participation
- Opportunities abound
- Improved collaboration = amplified impact
  - Common goals
  - Information sharing
  - Use tools
Leadership Development

- Shared priority
- Challenging
- NOT only organization facing it
- Walk before we run . . .
Small Steps Lead to Success . . . and

Start small at chapter level
- Coordinate one activity
- Lead a committee
- Manage social media or website
- Empower to engage peer group: R3 and young adults

Start small at national level
- Join a resource committee
- Virtual meetings
- Shape League policies/positions
- Get involved in volunteer science
Success Hinges on Changing Mindset and . . .

Leadership begins with “LEAD” NOT “WORK”

League’s biggest challenge may be doing things differently

Helping new people achieve shared goals using different tactics

Let’s over-simplify goals and tactics . . .
Starts From the Bottom Up!

- Ikes fiercely proud bottom-up
- This is as bottom up as it gets
- This starts with each of us individually
- Walk before we run
- Take a simple first step
Building on Momentum from the 100th Anniversary

- Centennial inspiring
- Anniversary springboard
- Securing future hard work
- Focus on strengths, positives
  - Public shares our goals
  - Growing grassroots networks
  - Volunteer science informs policy, changes behavior
  - Community-based
Thank you for all you do!