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Building Partners for a Sustainable Kankakee River Basin Future: **Five Truths About Rivers**

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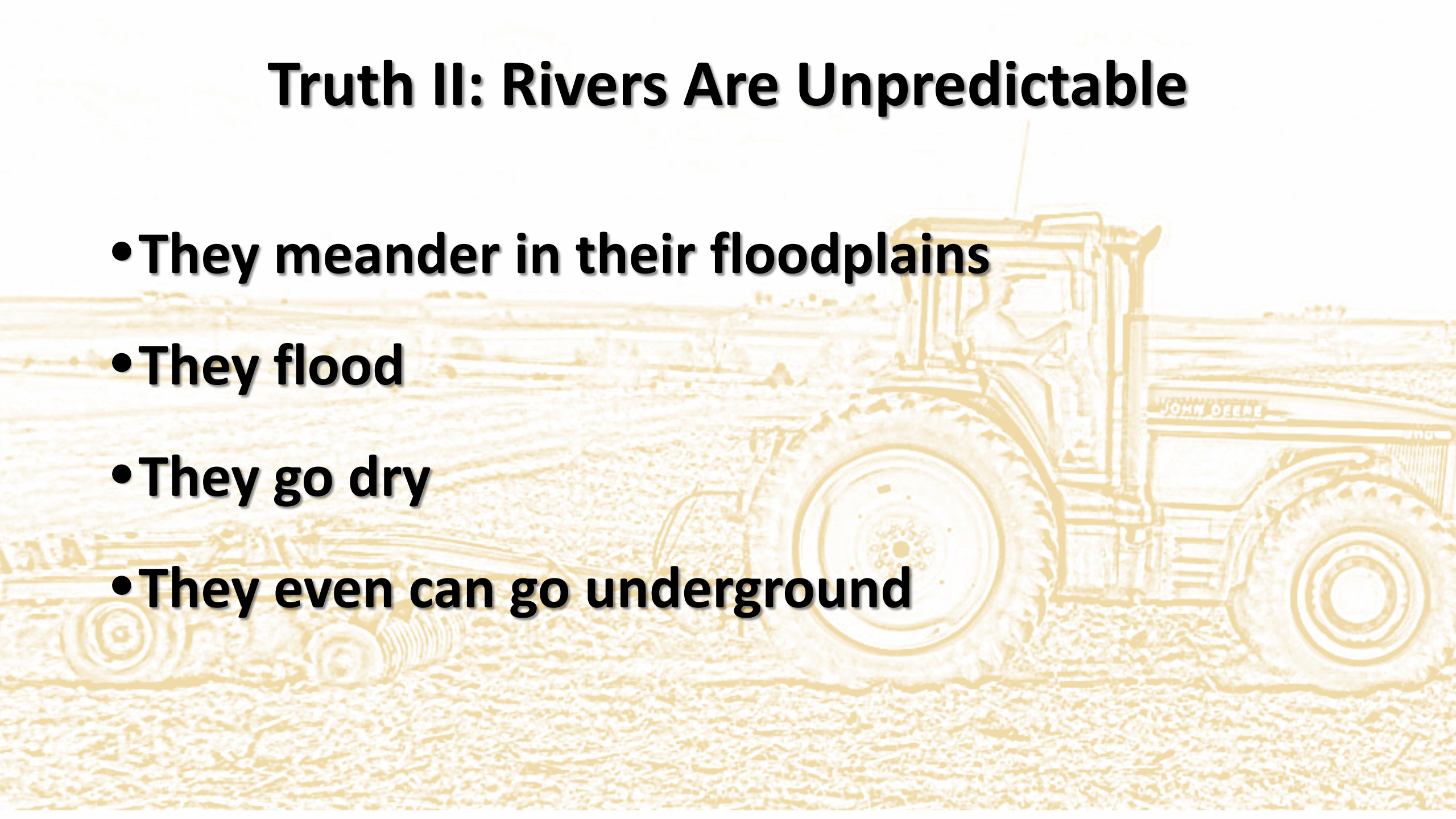
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Truth I: People Have Deep Emotional Attachments to Rivers

- **90% of human beings live within 10 km of a freshwater lake or river**
- **When archeologists prioritize lands for surveys proximity to freshwater is a primary criterion**
- **Almost all economic activity is to some degree water-dependent, there is a strong positive correlation between a country's freshwater availability and their GDP**
- **Most of us have a river that has run through our lives**

Truth II: Rivers Are Unpredictable

- **They meander in their floodplains**
- **They flood**
- **They go dry**
- **They even can go underground**

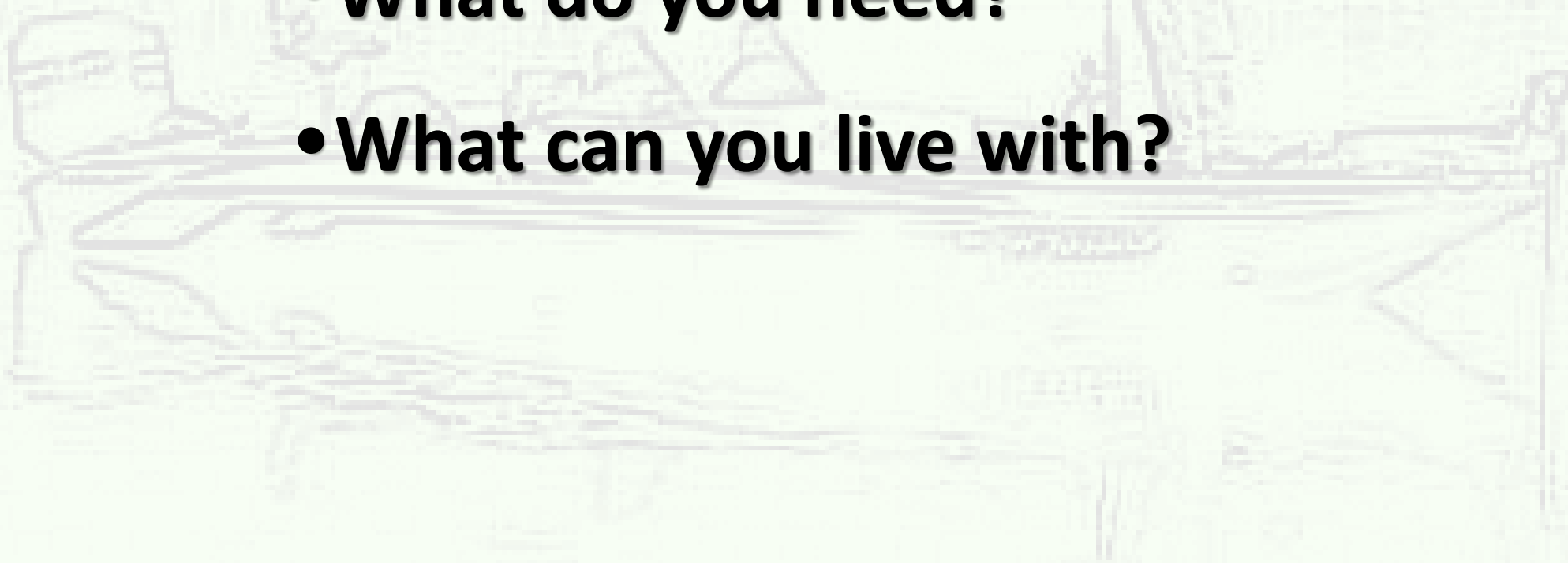


Truth III: Nobody Can Really Own a River

- **Because of number 1 everybody wants to own or control rivers, but because of number 2, you really can't, consequently:**
 - **Water law is complex and variable**
 - **Maybe you can “own” the bottom, but rivers meander**
 - **Maybe you can have “rights” to the water in the river, until it flows off your land**
 - **Waters of the United States, until they flow into Mexico, or Canada, or the Great Lakes, or an ocean.**

Truth IV: We All Want the Most We Can Get From “Our” River

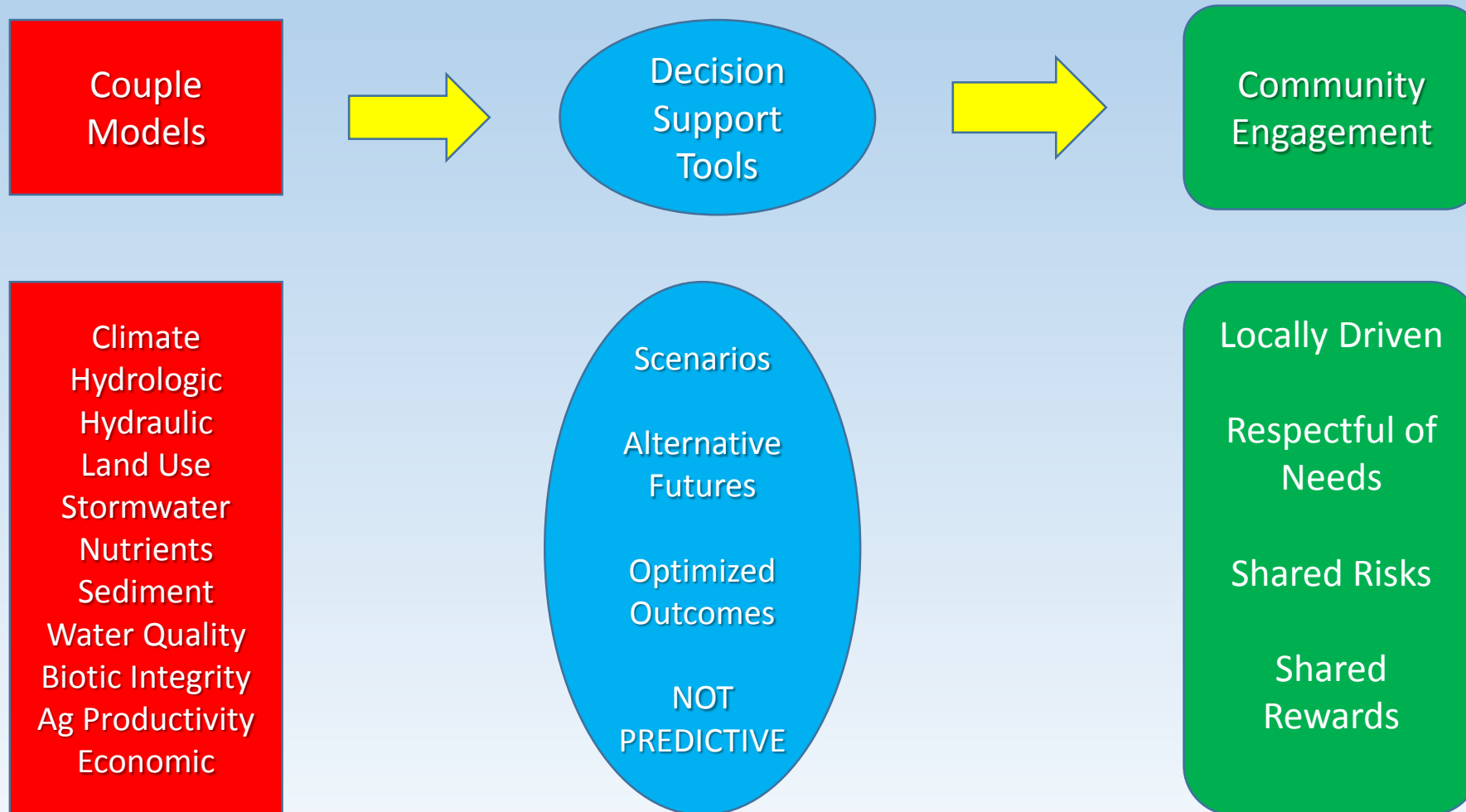
- What do you want?**
- What do you need?**
- What can you live with?**



Truth V: We Will Use Whatever Tools Are Out There to Get What We Need (or Want!)

- **Conflict Oriented Tools (Creates Winner and Losers, and **Bad Feelings**):**
 - Legislators
 - Laws
- **Cooperation Oriented Tools (Everybody Wins):**
 - Partnerships, Coalitions, Associations
 - Decision Support Tools
 - Optimization Models

The Resilient Watersheds Initiative: Coupled Models for Decision Support



The Ultimate Truth: One Size Does NOT fit all!

- **Laws, Rules, Regs, at best only work out for most people, most of the time!**
- **Many Laws, Rules, Regs work out for only a few people, some of the time, so they get changed a lot!**
- **To optimize outcomes for everybody, you need data driven models that predict past events well, so you have confidence future predictions are in the ballpark – run the model a zillion times adjusting the variables and you can look at the range of possible outcomes – hedging your bets to avoid hurting anybody's interests severely!**