



**Title:** Effectively Working with Volunteer Monitors

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**Organization:** Rhode Island & Wisconsin Extension

**State:** National **Region:** National

**Year of Funding:** 2000

**Theme:** Pollution Assessment and Prevention

**Situation:** Extension volunteer monitoring programs actively engage the public in watershed protection and enhancement. They increase local involvement in activities that create measurable improvements in local water quality. They strengthen our capacity to deliver timely programs at many levels. They provide a valuable contribution to CSREES water quality goals, yet there had been no comprehensive support system to encourage and enhance volunteer monitoring efforts within CSREES.

**Objectives:** 1) Develop a means to enhance communication among existing CSREES volunteer monitoring programs nationwide, 2) develop a template for local data sharing and internet learning, 3) expand volunteer opportunities by strengthening local and state capacity for CSREES volunteer monitoring programs, and 4) collaborate with and strengthening strategic partnerships within CSREES and between CSREES and other agencies.

**Methods:** Outputs - Volunteer Monitoring list serve, a modular "Guide to Growing CSREES Volunteer Monitoring Programs" in hardcopy and on the Web, a volunteer monitoring data management database template, a CSREES volunteer monitoring Internet website, training modules designed in conjunction with the guidebook, trained CSREES program coordinators.

**Partnerships:** New partnerships: Univ. of RI & Wisconsin Extension (co-PI's), other Extension Volunteer Monitoring programs, with regional Extension WQ projects, other facilitation projects; strengthened partnership with EPA, with National WQ Monitoring Council.

**Research:** Volunteer WQ monitoring programs translate scientific research methodology into educational & outreach programs that reach all segments of our communities and provide trained citizen scientists with the means to provide further WQ information and data that feed back into research and lead to actions and policies to improve water quality.

**Resources:** Project funding enabled staff to conduct &/or participate in workshops and trainings held by regional programs throughout the country

**Results:** Outcomes of National Facilitation of CSREES Volunteer Monitoring Efforts will include increased viability of CSREES volunteer monitoring programs, enhanced citizen participating and education, increased capacity of CSREES volunteer-based monitoring programs, enhanced work within CSREES regional themes and priorities, increased in interstate and regional coordination and information sharing related to volunteer monitoring.



*The mission of CSREES is to advance knowledge for agriculture, the Environment, human health and well being, and communities.*

