

Enhancing the Capacity of Extension Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Efforts

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CSREES Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring National Facilitation Project

Linda Green¹ (Lgreen@uri.edu, 401-874-2905)
Elizabeth Herron¹, Kristine Stepenuck²,
Art Gold¹ and Robin Shepard²

¹ University of Rhode Island

² University of Wisconsin



2006 USDA-CSREES National Water Quality Conference



Goals

- In 2000...We envisioned this national facilitation grant as a means of **building a comprehensive support system for CSREES volunteer water quality monitoring efforts.**
 - Expand & strengthen the capacity of existing Extension volunteer monitoring programs
 - Support development of new groups
- In 2004...The goal of this project was to continue contributing to the improvement of our Nation's surface water and groundwater quality through the **enhanced integration of volunteer monitoring into research, education, and extension activities**, especially in rural and agriculture watersheds.

Locate & ID current Extension Volunteer Monitoring Programs

Current Extension Programs

- Total of 45 programs to date
 - 40 CE-sponsored
 - 5 CE-affiliated
- Began as early as 1978 and as recently as 2004
- Monitor variety of habitats, including rivers, streams, lakes, ponds, wells, wetlands & estuaries
- Monitor a variety of parameters including plants, bugs, & broad range of WQ indicators

Objectives - 2004

- Enhance networking, communication and assessment
- Enhance knowledge-base by involving research community in factsheets, trainings
- Enhance stakeholder involvement
 - Vol mon workshop at several of these conferences
 - Coordinating national vol mon conference
- Strengthen regional programs capacity to incorporate vol mon to address their priorities

Connect Extension Volunteer Monitoring Programs to this Project and each other

- Widely used interactive web-site www.usawaterquality.org/volunteer/
(praised by EPA for contents, linked from them, nearly as many members as EPA's older Vol Mon listserv)
 - annotated sections of papers on topics such as:
 - Comparing vol mon to professional monitoring,
 - Research on, by, for, or incorporating volunteer monitoring
 - summary of listserv discussions (i.e. ammonia monitoring)
- electronic list serve - CSREESvolmon-list@uwex.edu
 - expanding to included workshop and conference participants, as well as others who request it

www.usawaterquality.org/volunteer

This Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring National Facilitation Project is designed to build a comprehensive support system for Extension volunteer water quality monitoring efforts across the country. The goal is to expand and strengthen the capacity of existing Extension volunteer monitoring programs and support development of new groups.

Volunteer Monitoring National Facilitation Project

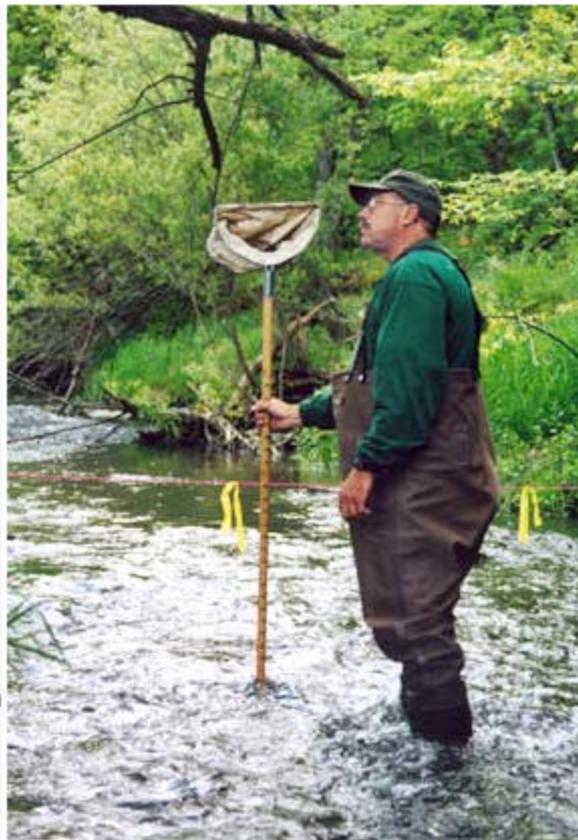
- Project Description (382 K pdf file)
- Outreach Materials and Activities
- Nationwide Inquiry
- Online Databases
- Training Sessions and Materials

Extension Volunteer Monitoring Programs

Related Research and Educational Efforts

Other National Facilitation Projects →

- NEMO
- Best Education Practices
- Pollution Assessment and Prevention
- Increasing Tribal Involvement in the Water Quality Network



Guide for Growing Programs

- Getting Started (814 K pdf file)
- Why Monitoring Makes Sense (582K pdf file)
- Designing Your Monitoring Strategy (1.6 M pdf file)
- Monitoring Matrix (80 K pdf file)
- Effective Training (986 K pdf)
- Monitoring Equipment Suppliers (437KB pdf file)
- Direct Links to Monitoring Programs' Manuals (online)
- Building Credibility (1.5 M pdf file) **NEW!**
- Volunteer Management
- Outreach Tools
- Locating Support and Funding

Special Topics

- Highlighted Program **NEW!**
- Highlighted Program Archives **NEW!**
- Job postings
- World Water Monitoring Day
- Volunteer *E. Coli* Monitoring Project

“Guide for Growing Programs”

-Expanded factsheet format

-Hardcopy and electronic formats

-Lots 'o links (active in on-line format, updated often) * www.usawaterquality.org/volunteer

- Getting Started- about *The Guide*
- Why Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Makes Sense
- Designing Your Monitoring Strategy-?'s & Resources to guide you
 - **Matrix of Monitoring Activities**
- Effective Training Techniques
 - **Additional Resources – equipment and supplies**
 - **Direct Links to On-line manuals**
- **Building Credibility: QA/QC for Volunteer Monitoring Programs**
- Volunteer management and support tools
- Outreach tools
- Finding support and funding for local efforts

Internet and Web-based Tools

- Developed online database that was tested by and being used the WI Water Action Volunteers
- On website:
 - Information on database development and ongoing management
 - **Direct links to 22 vol mon program on-line databases**
- Factsheet and training module under development



www.usawaterquality.org/volunteer

Training Workshops

thru CSREES regional/state and
other venues

- Based on "*The Guide for Growing*"
- Recently:
 - South Region (KY) - Oct. 2005
 - Michigan Extension / DEQ - Jan. '06
 - Tribal Colleges and Universities
National Facilitation Project - Feb '06
 - Multiple workshops scheduled for the 2006 NWQMC
National Monitoring Conference



Booking Now for 2006
Please contact us if you are interested!

Networking to Increase Collaboration and Cooperation

- Volunteer Monitoring workshops at the annual USDA-CSREES Water Quality conferences
 - 10:30 am – 12pm today! Jointly with the NEMO NFP
- Focus of joint workshop is
 - Incorporation of volunteer data into geospatial technologies,
 - Use of NEMO tools to enhance data interpretation and presentation,
 - Both programs will be strengthened through this dialogue.
- All are welcome to attend!

Networking to Increase Collaboration and Cooperation

- Hosting a national volunteer monitoring conference in conjunction with '06 NWQMC National Monitoring conference

MONITORING NETWORKS: CONNECTING FOR CLEAN WATER, May 7 – 11, 2006, San Jose' CA

- NFP Lead Workshops include:
 - Getting Started in Volunteer Monitoring
 - Building Credibility: Quality Assurance & Quality Control for Volunteer Monitoring Programs
 - Databases/Data Management
- Other workshops and sessions:
 - E. coli: Comparability of Methods & Rapid Detection
 - Data to Action: Empowering Citizens through the Acquisition and Understanding of Monitoring Data
 - Making it Work: Effectively Training Volunteer Monitors
- <http://www.tetrattech-ffx.com/nwqmc06/>

By linking with Extension, Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Programs:

- Educate the public on water quality or watershed issues, and how to protect and restore resources,
- Encourage citizens to adopt “watershed-friendly” behaviors and policies,
- Bring university science to the community and the community to the university,
- Gain valuable water quality data that is distributed to community decision makers in a usable format.