

# Enhancing the Capacity of Extension Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Efforts



## CSREES Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring National Facilitation Project

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# Goals

- In 2000...We envision 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 proposal is 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.**

# Objectives - 2000

- Identify current Extension volunteer monitoring programs
- Develop multi-media training materials
- Offer training programs
- Develop & establish internet and web-based tools
- Increase collaboration & cooperation

# 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

# Locate & ID current Extension Volunteer Monitoring Programs

## Current Extension Programs

- Total of 44 programs to date
  - 40 CE-sponsored
  - 4 CE-affiliated
- Began as early as 1978 and as recently as 2002
- Monitor variety of habitats, including rivers, streams, lakes, ponds, wells, wetlands, & estuaries

# Connect Extension Volunteer Monitoring Programs to this Project and each other

- Widely used interactive web-site  
**[www.usawaterquality.org/volunteer/](http://www.usawaterquality.org/volunteer/)**  
(praised by EPA for contents, linked from them)
  - annotated section of papers comparing vol mon to professional monitoring
  - summary of list serv discussions (ie pinpointing monitoring location)
- electronic list serve-  
**[CSREESvolmon-list@uwex.edu](mailto:CSREESvolmon-list@uwex.edu)**
  - Expanded to included workshop and conference participants

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 (914 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

- 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 is being tested with the WI Water Action Volunteers
- On website:
  - Information on database development and ongoing management
  - Direct links to 22 volunteer program on-line databases



# Training Workshops

thru CSREES regional/state and other venues

- Based on "*The Guide for Growing*"
- Recently:
  - FL (WQ Mon Council) - July '04
  - Pacific Northwest - July, 2004
  - New Jersey (DEP) - Oct. 2004
  - CEM in Appalachia - Nov. 2004
  - Arizona Extension Dec., 2004



***Booking Now for 2005***

# Networking to Increase Collaboration and Cooperation

- volunteer monitoring workshops at the annual USDA-CSREES Water Quality conferences
  - 10 am - 2pm today!
- Host a national volunteer monitoring conference within the next four years
  - To be held in conjunction with '06 NWQMC National Monitoring conference

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

# By linking with Extension, Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Programs:

- Educate the public on water quality or watershed issues
- Encourage citizens to adopt "watershed-friendly" behaviors
- Bring university science to the community and the community to the university
- Gain valuable water quality data