

BUILDING AND SUSTAINING A COLLABORATIVE MONITORING COUNCIL

Facilitators

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Biographical Sketches

Abby Markowitz manages the Communication and Outreach group in Tetra Tech's Center for Ecological Sciences. She is an experienced facilitator and trainer on developing collaboration, stakeholder involvement, capacity building, community-based environmental protection, strategic planning, leadership development, and volunteer environmental monitoring. She is a member of the editorial board of the Volunteer Monitor newsletter. She is also a member of the Maryland Water Monitoring Council's Board of Directors.

Linda Green is Program Director of URI Watershed Watch, a University of Rhode Island Cooperative Extension Water Quality Program. She represents the volunteer monitoring community on the NWQMC and co-chairs its Collaboration and Outreach workgroup. She is also a member of the editorial board of The Volunteer Monitor newsletter.

Jim Laine is an Environmental Resource Specialist Supervisor for the WV DEP Division of Water and Waste Management where he supervises personnel for 303d database management, TMDL source assessment, and public outreach. Jim represents EPA Region 3 (mid-Atlantic states) on NWQMC and co-chairs its Collaboration and Outreach workgroup.

Charlie Peters is the District Chief in the Wisconsin District Office of USGS and has served as co-chair of the Methods and Data Comparability Board. He has been involved in a variety of water quality monitoring studies during the past 25 years and has authored over 40 reports describing the results of those studies.

Chuck Spooner is with USEPA's Office of Wetlands, Oceans, and Watersheds in the Assessment and Watershed Protection Division where he is a member of the team dealing with water quality monitoring issues. He is the EPA Co-Chair of the National Water Quality Monitoring Council.

Abstract

State, regional, and watershed based monitoring councils have become valuable forums for communication, coordination, and collaboration. These councils can provide a formal arena--including an actual table around which people can gather-to explore ways to improve water monitoring and water information among monitoring communities and stakeholders. During this interactive workshop, we will

- ✓ Diagram the monitoring networks, communities, and connections that currently exist in our own watersheds states and/or regions
- ✓ Explore the language and communication strategies needed to address the barriers and challenges to collaboration-including articulating the "what's in it for me?" of collaboration and identifying common ground various monitoring entities

- ✓ Identify the individual and organizational assets that can contribute to a council as well as the gaps that need to be filled to sustain and reinvigorate a council
- ✓ Learn how to integrate short and long-term goals with actual activities and collaborative products

To prepare for the workshop, we are asking all participants to do a little homework and bring to the session a list of entities within your watershed, state, or region that are engaged in monitoring. At the end of the workshop, you will have the initial tools and skills needed to build, sustain, and enhance the capacity of a collaborative monitoring council.