

Sustainable Water Resources Roundtable

*An Update for the
Advisory Committee on Water
Information*

Rick Swanson, SWRR Co-Chair

July 14, 2010

Sustainable Water Resources Roundtable



A national collaboration of federal, state, local, corporate, non-profit and academic interests

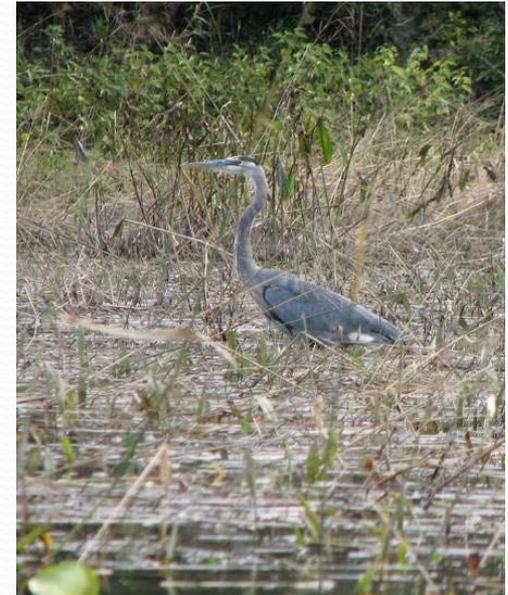
Our Mission

To promote sustainability of our nation's resources through ...

- Evaluation of information
- Development & use of indicators
- Targeting of research
- Engagement of people & partners

Our Vision

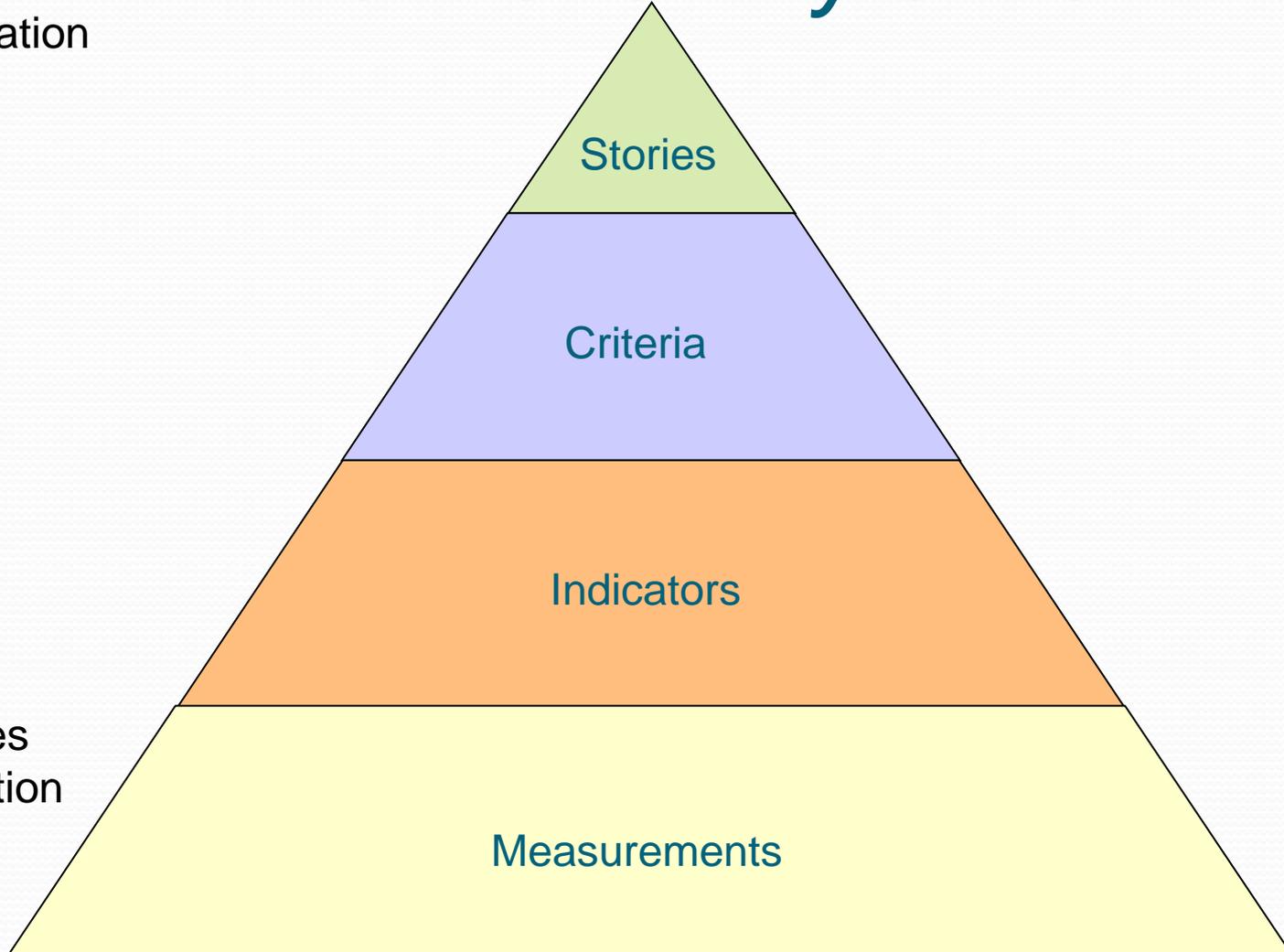
A future in which our nation's water resources support the integrity of economic, social and ecological systems and enhance the capacity of these systems to benefit people and nature



Outreach

- More than 400 active participants from federal, state and local governments; corporations; nonprofits and academia
- Meetings in California; Colorado; Maryland; Michigan; Minnesota; Virginia; Washington, D.C.
- Publications and conference presentations
- 2005 Preliminary Report
http://acwi.gov/swrr/Rpt_Pubs/prelim_rpt/index.html
- 2010 SWRR Report
http://acwi.gov/swrr/Rpt_Pubs/SWRRReportMarch2010.pdf

Information Pyramid



Fewer Pieces
Of Information

Stories

Criteria

Indicators

Measurements

More Pieces
Of Information

Indicators

Measures that present trends information relevant to water sustainability in a readily understandable way

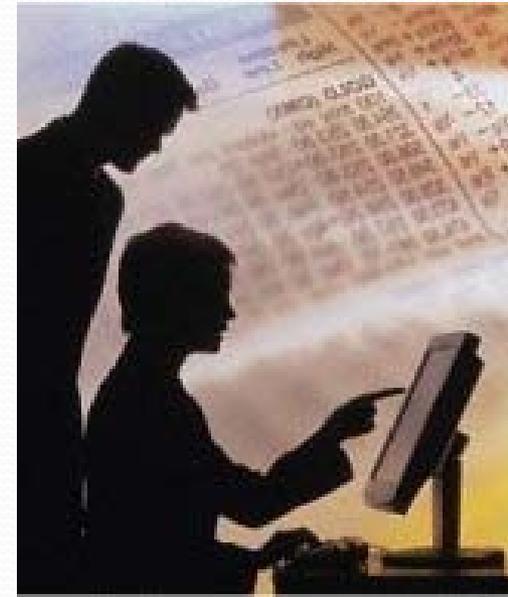


The SWRR Indicator Framework

Indicators represent a way to measure
progress

The SWRR Indicator Framework

- **Water availability**
- **Water quality**
- **Human uses and health**
- **Environmental health**
- **Infrastructure and institutions**



Water Availability

- **Renewable water**
 - Upper limit of water availability
- **Water in the environment**
 - Water remaining after human uses
- **Water use sustainability**
 - Degree to which water use meets current needs while protecting ecosystems and the interests of future generations



Water Quality

- **Quality of water for human uses**
 - Drinking, recreation, industry and agriculture, etc
- **Quality of water in the environment**
 - Flora and fauna and related ecosystem processes
- **Water quality sustainability**
 - degree to which water quality satisfies human and ecosystem needs



Human Uses and Health

- **Withdrawal and use of water**
 - amount of water withdrawn from the environment and the uses to which it is put
- **Human uses of water in the environment**
 - extent to which people use water resources for waste assimilation, transportation and recreation



Human Uses and Health

- **Water-dependant resource use**
 - extent to which people use resources like fish and shellfish that depend on water resources
- **Human health**
 - extent to which human health may be affected by the use of water and related resources



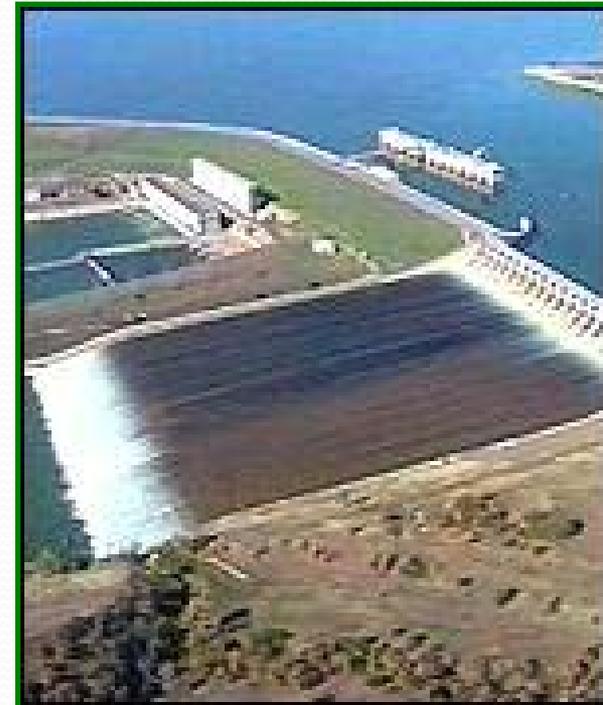
Environmental Health

- **Indices of biological condition**
 - health of ecosystems
- **Amounts and quality of living resources**
 - productivity of ecosystems



Infrastructure and Institutions

- **Capacity and reliability of infrastructure**
 - capacity and reliability of infrastructure to meet human and ecosystem needs
- **Efficacy of institutions**
 - efficacy of legal and institutional frameworks in managing water and related resources sustainably



Recent & Future SWRR Activities

- Working with other FS Sustainable Roundtables
- Two new Co-Chairs (John Wells & Bob Wilkinson)
- Renewed commitment to new partners (Palo Alt /SAP)
- Completed and posted March 2010 Report with wide range of issues (energy/water nexus, indicator applications across the country)
- Next mtg in Minneapolis Minnesota (10/21 & 22) emphasis on Upper Miss. River Basin & Great lakes
- Working with USGS National Water Census

Next Steps for the SWRR

- Continuing roundtable outreach
 - Building regional connections
 - Adding new private, nonprofit & public sector partners
- Refining the sample indicators
 - Addressing sustainability and scale
 - Linking to national and regional indicator sets
- Assisting agencies in describing the need for programs to collect indicators information



Contact Information

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