

# The Role of Service Providers in Enhancing Community Control in Volunteer Monitoring Programs

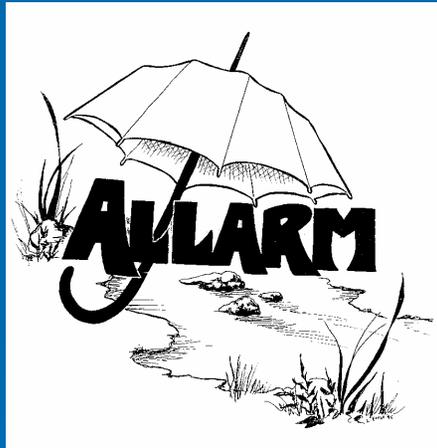


Julie Vastine, Assistant Director  
*The Alliance for Aquatic Resource Monitoring*  
Dickinson College, Carlisle, PA

# Mission Statement

- To enhance local action for the protection and restoration of Pennsylvania watersheds by empowering communities with scientific knowledge and tools to carry out watershed assessments
- To provide Dickinson College students with opportunities to participate in community-based participatory research thereby enhancing the quality of undergraduate science education, and
- To strive to be the leader in volunteer monitoring in Pennsylvania and a national model for college-community partnerships

# *The Alliance for Aquatic Resource Monitoring*



educate.  
empower.  
engage.



# What is a Service Provider?

- A Service Provider is an organization of experienced, trained, professional scientists, and policy experts who provide programmatic and scientific assistance to watershed organizations.
- A Service Provider, through intensive mentoring, helps groups organize and define their goals.
- Assistance is customized to each watershed group to help them to achieve watershed goals via workshops, presentations, and trainings.

# Role of Service Providers in the PA Volunteer Monitoring Movement



= \$650 Million 2000-2005

Formation of 125 watershed organizations 1999 -2002



Funded by PADEP Growing Greener Program

Team of 8 service providers has assisted 150 watershed organizations 2001-2004



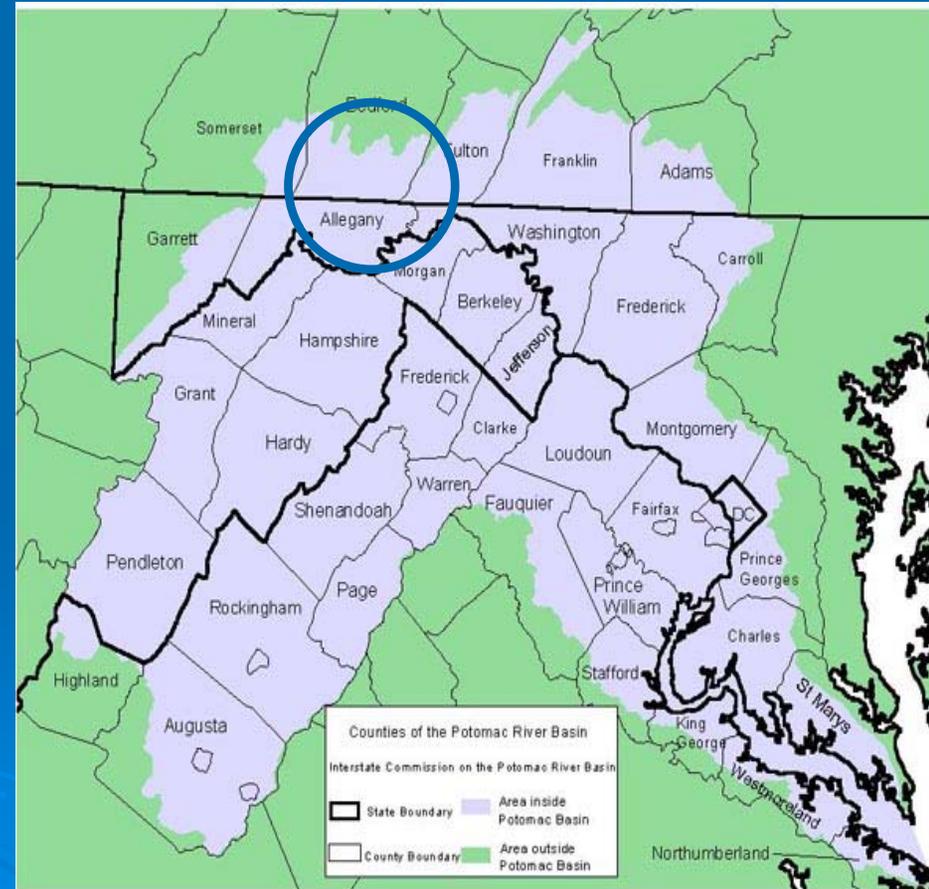
# Community-Based, Participatory Research Model

Who defines the problem?	Who designs the study?	Who collects the samples?	Who analyzes the samples?	Who interprets the data?
Community	Community	Community	Community	Community



# Ridge & Valley Streamkeepers

- **Founded 1999, non-profit**
- **Volunteer grassroots watershed organization**
- **Science-oriented, public outreach -- not an advocacy group**
- **Sideling Hill Creek, Town Creek, Bedford County, PA**



# Defining Their Monitoring Purpose: The Study Design Process

- Assess current watershed conditions, establish a benchmark for both streams
- Assess long term trends in watershed health
- Verify if PA & MD designated uses are being met



# The Community-Based, Participatory Research Model

Who defines the problem?	Who designs the study?	Who collects the samples?	Who analyzes the samples?	Who interprets the data?
RVS	RVS Service Provider	Community	Community	Community

# Developing The Tools To Implement Their Study



## Workshops

- Chemical
- Biological
- Physical



# The Community-Based, Participatory Research Model

Who defines the problem?	Who designs the study?	Who collects the samples?	Who analyzes the samples?	Who interprets the data?
RVS	RVS Service Provider	RVS Service Provider	RVS Service Provider	Community

# Two Years of Baseline Data: The Data - to - Information Process



# The Community-Based, Participatory Research Model

Who defines the problem?	Who designs the study?	Who collects the samples?	Who analyzes the samples?	Who interprets the data?
RVS	RVS Service Provider	RVS Service Provider	RVS Service Provider	RVS Service Provider

# Current Activities

## ➤ Outreach

- Publications, presentations
- Recruitment



## ➤ Continue and Improve Monitoring

- Recruit and train monitors
- Reevaluate Monitoring Plan



# Service Provider Philosophy

If you give a person a fish, (s)he will eat for a day.

If you teach a person to fish, (s)he will eat for a lifetime.

