



Water: One Resource – Shared Effort – Common Future
Eighth National Monitoring Conference

Elizabeth Jester Fellows Award

Elizabeth Jester Fellows headed the Assessment and Watershed Protection Division in EPA's Office of Water until November 2000. She dedicated her career to natural resources management, environmental protection, and public service. She envisioned the creation of the National Water Quality Monitoring Council (Council) and advocated for the development of a national framework for collecting, assessing, and communicating water quality monitoring information. In her memory, the Council has established the Elizabeth Jester Fellows Award to recognize individuals for outstanding achievement, exemplary service, and distinguished leadership in water quality monitoring and environmental protection.



In recognition of his contributions to water quality monitoring, the National Water Quality Monitoring Council is pleased to present the 2012 Elizabeth Jester Fellows Award to

Charlie A. Peters

Director, Wisconsin Water Science Center
U.S. Geological Survey
Middleton, Wisconsin

Charlie has held numerous water quality leadership positions in Wisconsin, starting as the study unit chief for the Western Lake Michigan NAWQA study in 1994. When the Interagency Task Force on Monitoring (ITFM) was created, Charlie saw the value of comparable data, leading to stints as the executive secretary and then the co-chair of the Methods Board. Working with Herb Brass of EPA, the Board's role included the creation of the National Environmental Methods Index; the Water Quality Data Elements; laboratory accreditation; and contributions in the areas of nutrients, organic carbon, biological assessments, laboratory accreditation, and performance-based methods.

During this same period, Charlie and others in the Lake Michigan region recognized the need for more effective use of monitoring resources, and the Lake Michigan Monitoring Coordinating Council (LMMCC) was born. The goal was to provide a regional forum based on a large watershed that would coordinate and support scientifically defensible monitoring methods and strategies. This was the first ecosystem based monitoring council in the country and was open to agencies and interested parties at the federal, state, tribal and local level. Charlie is still co-chair of this Council, which has played a large role in coordinating the activities of the President's Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI). As part of the GLRI, the first and so far only implementation of the National Monitoring Network is a reality on 30 tributary of the Great Lakes. This is a landmark effort and its effects on water quality protection in the Great Lakes are far reaching. He has advanced the practice of data management and the public's access to water quality data in developing an on line, GIS "mapper" for many of the projects of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. Charlie provided the leadership and technical expertise to help the LMMCC design a near shore strategy plan for the 2010 Intensive Year of Monitoring for Lake Michigan.

Charlie's efforts in the Great Lakes area not only personify the values of the Monitoring Council, but he has been a tireless leader in adapting those principles to on-the-ground results. For this, he is an extremely deserving recipient of this award.

Congratulations, Charlie!