

# **EXPANDING THE NETWORK: A REGIONAL MODEL OF COOPERATIVE SURFACE WATER QUALITY MONITORING**

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## **Biographical Sketch of Authors**

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## **Abstract**

Since 1988 the Metropolitan Council Environmental Services (MCES), the regional planning agency for the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area (TCMA), has been developing and expanding its regional stream monitoring program for assessment of non-point source pollution. MCES currently operates a network of 32 monitoring stations on streams and rivers throughout the TCMA and in several agricultural watersheds tributary to the Minnesota River in southwestern Minnesota. Each station continuously records stage, flow, temperature, conductivity, and rainfall. Flow-composite samples are collected automatically during runoff events and grab samples are collected monthly to characterize baseflow water quality. Macroinvertebrates are sampled annually.

Many of the monitoring stations are operated cooperatively with local agencies, which use the water quality data for local watershed planning and management efforts and special projects. The remaining sites are operated and maintained by MCES staff.

This presentation will describe the development of the cooperative monitoring network and the use of technology to standardize monitoring efforts over a large geographic area among many agencies.