



NATIONAL WATER QUALITY MONITORING COUNCIL

Working Together for Clean Water

Volunteer Monitoring

Barriers and Challenges

- Perception of data quality from VM programs
- State agencies having data overload already so hesitant to accept VM data
- Agencies concerned that they will be overwhelmed by citizen demands on staff
- Poor marketing of VM programs
- Involving underserved audiences

Food for Thought (Proving Validity of Volunteer Data)

- Publish in peer-reviewed journals
- Head to head comparisons
- Involve critics in training/planning
- Get new procedures listed on NEMI

Next Conference (needs)

- Provide exhibitor area for volunteer monitoring equipment, data sheets, website demos, etc...
- Relevant field trips
 - Techniques
 - Trainings
 - Volunteer monitor demos
- More on other types of monitoring (invasives, forest health, watershed assessment)

Next Conference (Cont'd)

- More sessions involving wetlands
- Example training workshops and “train the trainer” workshops
- Specific training sessions VM coordinators (i.e. data management, statistics, marketing programs, etc)
- More presentations on quantifying non-data benefits of vol. monitoring

Next Conference (cont'd 2)

- Conference structure to include time where no vol. monitoring sessions

Future Training Needs

- Analysis/interpretation of own data
- Training the trainer
- Making monitoring equipment

Next Steps for Monitoring Groups

- Discuss formation of national service provider network
- Professional association for volunteer monitors
- Initiate the formation of a state/regional monitoring council.

For Council Discussion

- Advocate for portion of 319, Farm Bill, and NOAA \$ to go to VM
- Council success stories to include vol. monitoring examples (agency and other)
- Council website links to volunteer sites
- Ensuring representation of volunteers in regional/state monitoring council

Council Discussion (cont'd)

- Council to promote inclusion of VM on regional/state councils
- Provide better marketing assistance for monitoring program
- Advocate/support continued publication of The Volunteer Monitor

EPA's Volunteer Monitoring Website

- List professional journals that are open to vol. monitoring (i.e. Journal of Lake Reservoir Management)
- link to program pages of :
 - VM program w/ web-based materials
- Then announce above on list-serve