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