

New Partnerships for Regional Water Quality Coordination in the Great Lakes Region

Jim Anderson¹, Jon Bartholic², Joe Bonnel³, Mike Hirschi⁴, Jane Frankenberger⁵, Robin Shepard⁶, Ruth Kline-Robach², Lois Wolfson², Rebecca Power⁷, and Kristine Stepenuck⁷

¹University of Minnesota, Water Resources Center, 73 McNeal Hall, St. Paul, MN 55108

²Michigan State University, Institute of Water Resources, 115 Manly Miles Building, East Lansing, MI 48823

³Ohio State University, OSU Extension, 210 Kottman Hall C, Columbus, OH 43210

⁴University of Illinois, 332-P Ag Engineering Sciences, 1304 W. Pennsylvania Ave, Urbana, IL 61801

⁵Purdue University, Dept. of Ag and Biological Engineering, 1146 ABE Building, West Lafayette, IN 47907

⁶University of Wisconsin Madison, 625 Extension Building, 432 N. Lake Street, Madison, WI 53706

⁷University of Wisconsin-Extension, 210 Hiram Smith Hall, 1545 Observatory Drive, Madison, WI 53706

Biographical Sketch of Presenting Author

Kristine Stepenuck coordinates Wisconsin's Water Action Volunteers (WAV) Program. In addition to her role within Wisconsin, she works with partners at the University of Rhode Island Cooperative Extension towards enhancing the capacity of volunteer water quality monitoring within Extension programs across the nation. Regionally, Ms. Stepenuck coordinates with volunteer monitoring program coordinators in 6 other Midwestern states. For this poster presentation, she is representing the co-authors to share information about regional coordination within CSREES Water Quality Programs in the Great Lakes Region.

Abstract

Many water quality issues related to agriculture are regional in scope and require new collaborative approaches to meet these challenges. It is important that USDA Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service (CSREES) programs contribute to the process of identifying and implementing solutions to address these challenges. In 2000, the Great Lakes Regional Water Quality Leadership Team (RWQLT) formed to enhance partnership opportunities across the region and with EPA Region 5. Comprised of the six State Water Quality Extension Coordinators at the Land Grant Institutions in Region 5, the RWQLT Team's goals are to increase communication and collaboration, and leverage University Extension and Research resources across the region to address high priority water quality issues related to agriculture. This poster highlights regional coordination efforts and partnership successes achieved by the RWQLT and demonstrates the role of CSREES programs in addressing water quality issues facing agriculture.