

# Communication of National Monitoring Programs

*Using the Principles of  
Public Participation*

Creation of a  
*National Monitoring Network*

Toni M. Johnson and Tracy Connell Hancock

U.S. Geological Survey

# Dialog on Public Participation

- Use of the combined input of
  - science, technology, and policy experts from Federal, State and local government
  - with economic, social & practical issues from a cross-section of non-government representatives
- Results in more *Realistic Outcomes*

# Dialog on Public Participation

- Technical expertise alone may
  - result in an over-simplified solution
  - not address community resource needs
- Reflects a better *Balance of Powers*
  - among governments and the public and private sectors

# Benefits of an Open Participatory Process

- Produce Policy Decisions that *promote public interests*
  - meeting the needs of many customers
- Decentralize decision power closer to the user community
  - at the *watershed* level

# Benefits of an Open Participatory Process

- Recommend *collaborative* solutions to problems of access and comparability by multiple users
  - members of non-profit water associations who educate their membership
  - private industries that use or impact waters
  - volunteers who monitor local waters

# Federal Advisory Committee Act

- In 1972, the United States Congress enacted a Public Law -- *FACA*

## *The Federal Advisory Committee Act*

- To ensure that advice given to Federal agencies by committees
  - be objective
  - have balanced membership
  - be accessible to the public

- Improve access, sharing, and understanding of water data and information across the U.S. – *through*
  - Improved Coordination among Federal water agencies
  - Shared Information with non-Federal entities
  - Increased Collaboration with non-government associations & the private sector
  - Development of public-private partnerships

# Useful Monitoring Products

- **Framework for Monitoring**
  - Visual Guide to developing an effective program
- **National Environmental Methods Index**
  - Select & compare methods @ [www.nemi.gov](http://www.nemi.gov)
- **Water Quality Data Elements**
  - Guidelines for comparable metadata
- **State & Regional Monitoring Councils**
- **Biennial National Monitoring Conferences**
- ***National Monitoring Network***

# National Monitoring Network



- **Develop a Network to**
  - **Coordinate & expand existing efforts**
  - **Cover both**
    - **coastal waters**
    - **upland watersheds**
  - **Link to the Integrated Ocean Observing System**

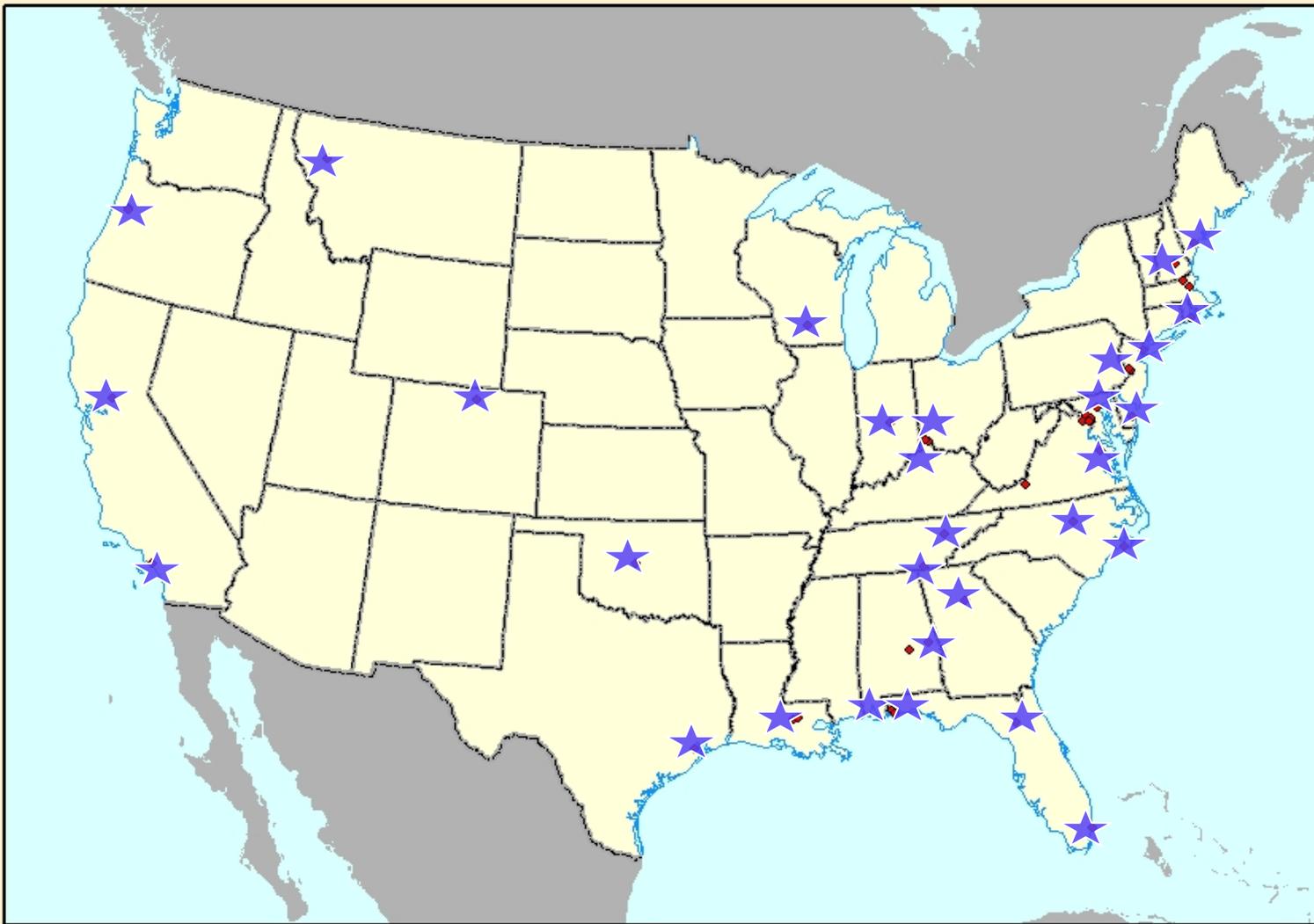
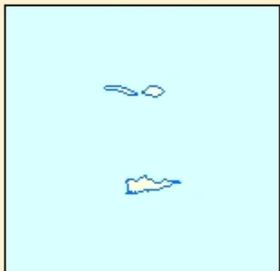
Alaska



Hawaii



Virgin Is.



**80 Participants in the Network Design**  
**40% Fed, 30% State+, 23% Academic, 7% Industry**

# Network Pilot Studies

**Delaware Bay** – Delaware River Basin Commission

**San Francisco Bay** – SF Estuary Institute

**Lake Michigan** – Great Lakes Commission

- More than 100 individuals, representing over 50 organizations, were active partners including:
  - 15 State Agencies
  - 7 Federal Agencies
  - 11 Universities
  - 15 non-government organizations
  - 3 private sector companies

# Techniques and Approaches

- **Communication by**
  - Regular conference calls, web conferencing
  - Frequent emails; broad discussion via List Serves
  - Wiki Web sites
  - Periodic regional meetings
- **Reports developed through**
  - Word processing using tracking features
  - Intranet sites for posting materials for review and comment
- **Cooperative Research and Development Agreements (CRADA's)**
  - Participation by Government, University and Private Sector
  - Partners may contribute funding or in-kind support

# Key to Success

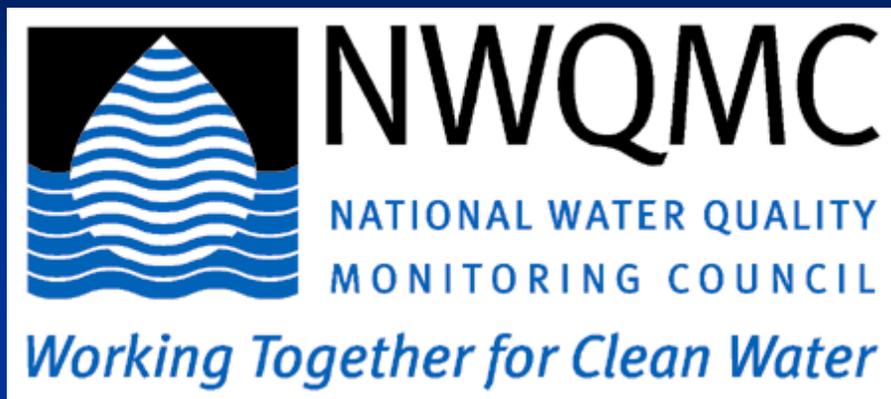
- **Guidance provided by Federal Interagency Steering Committee**
  - **Clear and consistent goals and objectives for all pilots**
  - **Flexibility built into initial design**
  - **Outline for comparable reporting**
  - **Formats for data and statistics**
  - **Frequent communication to consider, accept and adjust to meet the needs and resources of participating partners**

# Goals of ACWI and Council using Public Participation

*Improve access, sharing, understanding of  
water data and information*

- Use known principles of **Public Participation**
  - <http://iap2.org>
- Share Information openly among governments
- Use an **Advisory Committee** process to
  - bring multiple stakeholders to the table
- Increase **Collaboration** with non-government organizations
  - Develop public-private partnerships
- Create better policy by combining
  - Science and Technical Knowledge
  - Public perspectives on their watersheds

**Let's Make Things  
Better by...**



**Water Information Coordination Program**

**Wendy Norton or Tracy Connell Hancock**

**wenorton@usgs.gov – thancock@usgs.gov**

**703-648-6845, 6810      804-261-2618**

**<http://acwi.gov/monitoring>**