

The background of the slide is a photograph of a body of water, likely a lake or river, with a dense patch of tall, thin reeds or grasses on the right side. The water is a deep blue color with gentle ripples. The text is overlaid on this image.

**Volunteer Monitoring:  
Getting Started  
*and*  
Growing Successfully**

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# Agenda

- 🔹 **Overview**
  - 🔹 **Volunteer monitoring movement**
  - 🔹 **How to get started**
- 🔹 **Tell us about yourselves!**
- 🔹 **Program examples**
  - 🔹 **Agency**
  - 🔹 **Cooperative Extension**
  - 🔹 **Academia – grassroots**
- 🔹 **Study Design and the Dreaded QAPP**
- 🔹 **Resources**
- 🔹 **Q&A/discussion**

# Extension, Master Naturalist, VM Parent and Service Provider Programs



<http://www.usawaterquality.org/volunteer/VolunteerMonPrograms/index.html>

*Thanks Kris Stepenuck!*

# How Many *Water* VM Programs\*?

**349** Parent or stand-alone

**1415** Affiliated, sponsored

**9** Service Provider

**Grand Total = 1773**

**(1998 ~ 770 environ VM programs)**

# Totals...

Water Body Type	Number of Sites	Number of Volunteers
River/stream	14,610	46,170
Lake/pond	4570	6980
Wells	315	340
Beach	660	9400
Wetlands	295	710
Estuary/Marine	390	660
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>20,850</b>	<b>64,260</b>

# 20,800+ sites monitored

Water body type	Percent
Rivers and streams	70
Lakes and ponds	22
Beaches	3
Estuary/marine	2
Drinking water wells	2
Wetlands	1



# Contributing

>514,700 hours  
(2010)

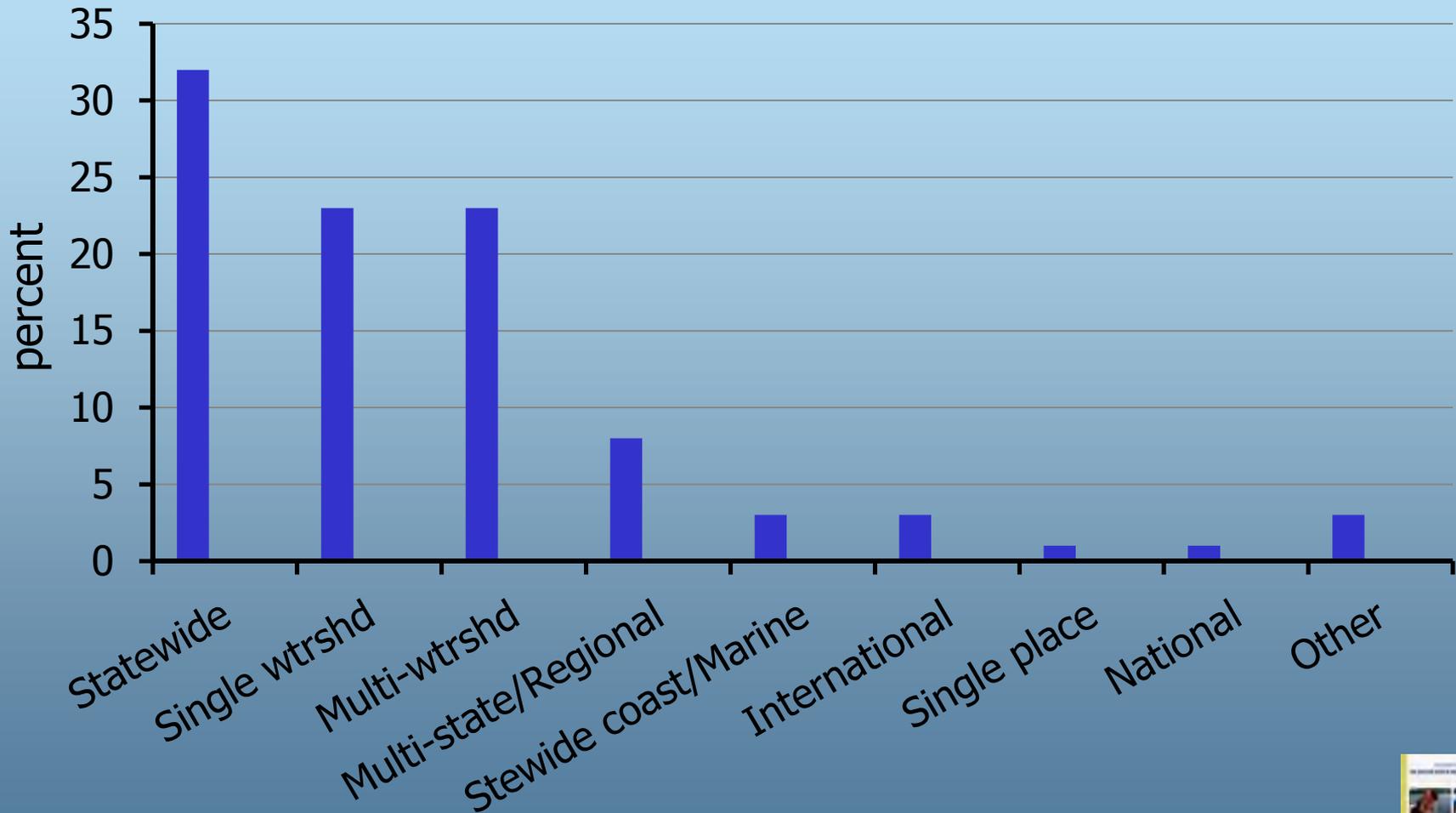
Valued at  
\$10,834,300\*

Ranging from  
15 hours (local WI program) to  
260,000 hours (Texas Master Naturalist  
Program)

\*www.independentsector.org  
using each state's valuation

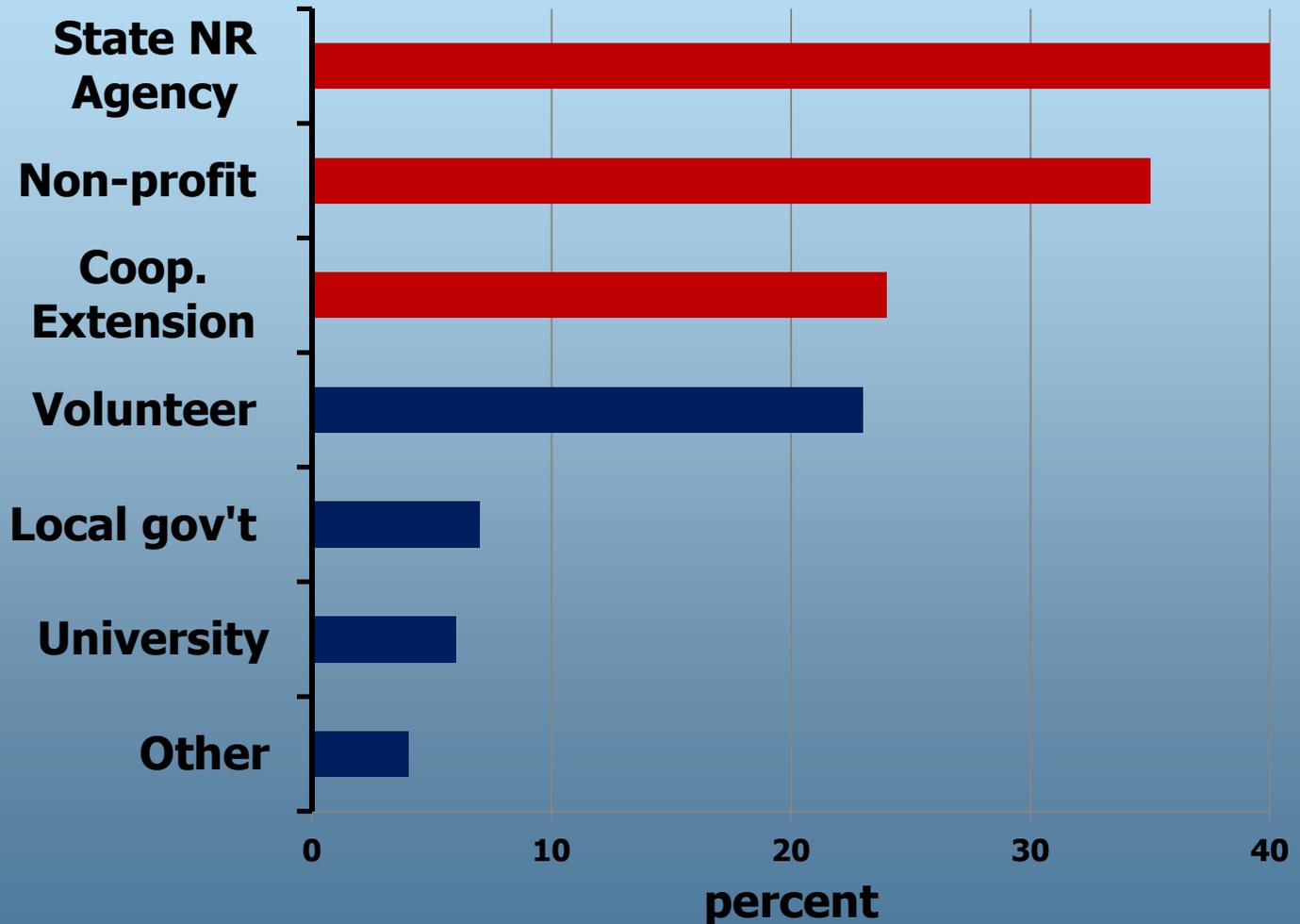


# Geographic Extent of Programs

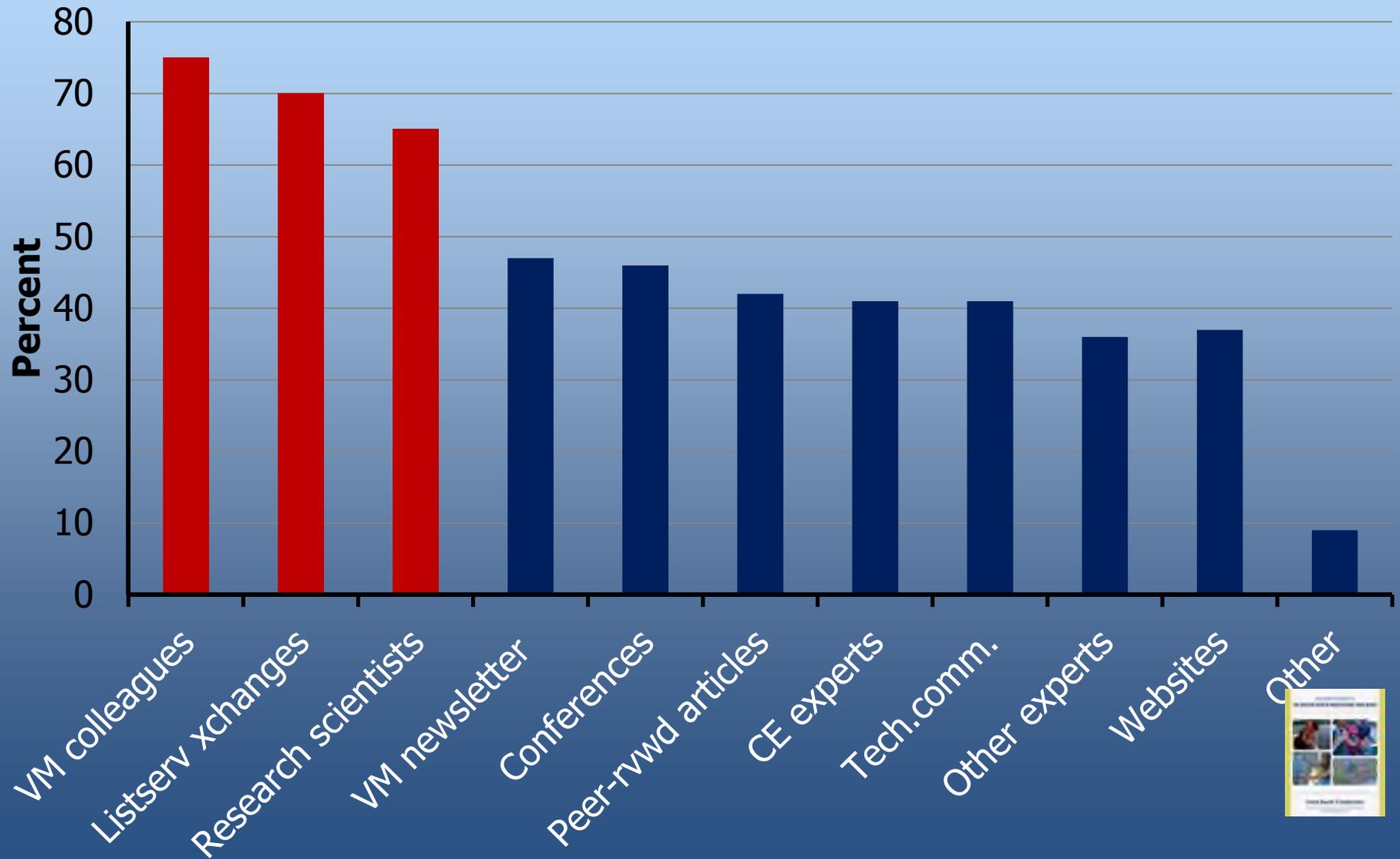


# Who Starts Programs?

Often there are multiple leaders who lead the charge to start a program.



# We Rely Upon Each Other for Program Development and Support



# Successful Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Programs are. . .

- 💧 **Well-organized**
- 💧 **Sound scientific basis**
- 💧 **Respectful of their volunteers**
- 💧 **Strong organizational support**
- 💧 **Report & use results**
- 💧 **Make a difference**

# Successful Programs Make A Difference

- 💧 **Raise awareness**
- 💧 **Involve people in real science**
- 💧 **Promote individual actions**
- 💧 **Create an informed constituency**
- 💧 **Provide information on places where no one else is looking**
- 💧 **Identify & solve problems locally**



A photograph of a body of water with reeds in the foreground. The water is blue and has small ripples. The reeds are tall and thin, with some brown seed heads. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

**Start small,  
start simple,  
seek out help,  
ask a lot of questions  
go to workshops/conferences**

# What is the most widely monitored WQ parameter?



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