

The Evolution of the Virginia Water Monitoring Council: Becoming a 501(c)3 nonprofit Organization



Growing Up, Growing Stronger

Organizational Goals

- Enhance communication, cooperation, and collaboration.
- Encourage effective and efficient use of monitoring resources.
- Facilitate the sharing of water monitoring information.



We are now a teenager!

- Formed in 1999. 15 years old.
- Over 600 non-paying members
- Steering committee composition
 - local, state, & federal government agencies
 - NGOs
 - One business



VWMC Historical Structure

- Historically up to 25 organizations represented on Steering Committee; including gov't, NGO, & industry representatives
- Many inactive over last 10 years, resulting in a leadership gap and quorum issues
- Membership definition is very loose
 - If you are interested, you are a member

VWMC Historical Structure

- Membership definition is very loose
 - If you are interested, you are a member
- VA Water Resources Research Center provides (currently) part time staff to act as Administrator for free

VWMC Steering Committee

- Currently structured to be smaller than historical composition
 - More efficient; more quorums
- Co-Chair model to help spread the workload

Organizational Services

- Weekly/Bi-weekly Email Announcements
- Annual Conference
- Volunteer Water Monitoring Google Map Application (Partnership w/ VA DEQ)
- Coordination of World Water Monitoring Day Activities
 - Recruitment
 - Free WWMD Kits to Educators

Virginia Water Monitoring Council



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Welcome

Welcome to the website of the Virginia Water Monitoring Council (VWMC). We have information about who is monitoring in Virginia, water quality events, and water resources information.

The VWMC provides coordination between all water monitoring programs in Virginia. The VWMC is modeled after the [National Water Quality Monitoring Council](#).

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2013 VWMC Conference ["Exploring Emerging Water Issues"](#)

Henrico County Training Center, Henrico, Va.
Tuesday, June 25, 2013

Organizational Services

- Statewide coordination of World Water Monitoring Day efforts
- VA specific website
- VA on-line activity guide

Virginia Water Monitoring Day

How to Plan | Lesson Plans | Putting Data to Use

World Water Monitoring Day Activity Guide for Virginia

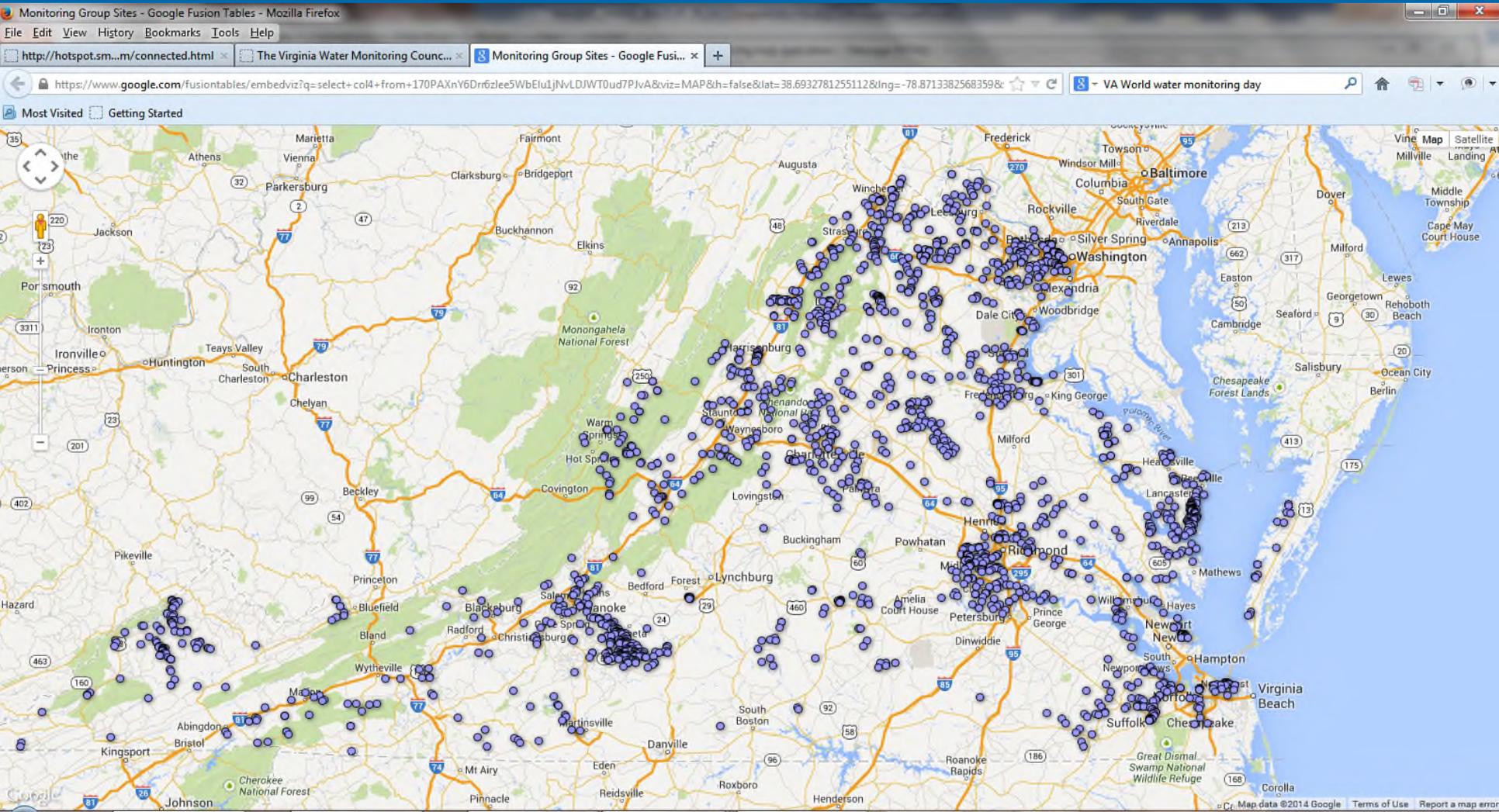
This on-line Activity Guide for Virginia will help you plan a safe and educational World Water Monitoring Day event on your school grounds, or in a nearby park.

Your school or community can hold a World Water Monitoring Day event, and be part of an international effort to better understand and care for our streams, rivers, lakes, bays and oceans. Teachers: Participation in the program helps your school provide a meaningful watershed experiences for students! A World Water Monitoring event can be an important outreach tool for communities as they strive to be better stewards of their watersheds.

World Water Monitoring Day was established to increase public awareness and involvement in the protection of water quality. As part of this celebration, citizen scientists and students worldwide monitor surface waters for **temperature, pH, clarity, and dissolved oxygen** using simple easy-to-use test kits. Monitoring data are collected between March 22 and December 31, and are shared on the WWMD web site (deadline for data submission is December 31 each year).

VIRGINIA WATER MONITORING COUNCIL (VWMC)
CLEAN VIRGINIA WATERWAYS
ALLIANCE for the CHESAPEAKE BAY
DEQ

Volunteer Water Monitoring Google Map Application



The Challenge...

- The VWMC is not incorporated
- Steering committee are all volunteers
- Funding
 - VA DEQ and VA Dept of Health Grants
 - Historically work with NGO partner organizations to obtain funding beyond VA DEQ and VDH.
- Model has worked in past, but not the most effective way to function.

Growing up...

- 2014 – VWMC is in the process of transitioning into a 501(c)3 organization
- Benefits are:
 - More sustainable operating model
 - No need to operate under someone else's umbrella
 - Can secure more stable funding over time
 - Mission can remain intact!

Growing up...

- Assembling organizational bylaws
- In the process of completing IRS and VA State Corporation Commission paperwork
- Steering Committee will ultimately transition to a Board of Directors
 - Challenge – some govt members may leave

Growing up...

- Will solicit private dollars to help sustain organization
 - Sponsorships, Donations, etc.
- Plan to develop membership structure
 - Different rates for businesses, academics, government employees, and volunteer monitors likely
 - Goal is to keep this affordable and reasonable
 - Challenging balance – Who do we potentially isolate as a result of decisions?

We don't have all the answers
yet...

... but are growing, developing a new
framework ...



...and continuing to share what we do know.



Questions?

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