

VIRGINIA'S WATER MONITORING AND NEEDS ASSESSMENT SURVEY

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Biographic Sketch of Authors

Jane Walker is a research associate and Tamim Younos is the associate director of the Virginia Water Resources Research Center (VWRRC) at Virginia Tech. Ms. Walker has been involved with the Virginia Water Monitoring Council (VWMC) since its inception in 1999 and serves as the VWMC's administrative assistant. As administrative assistant, Ms. Walker works with the VWMC Steering Committee and the chairs of the working committees to facilitate the activities of the Council. Dr. Younos was instrumental in organizing the initial meeting to discuss the formation of a water monitoring council in Virginia and in helping to establish the VWMC. He is a member of the Steering Committee and supervises the efforts of the administrative assistant.

Abstract

In Virginia and in other states, many public and private organizations are collecting water monitoring data. There is a need to create a common database or inventory for these activities so information can be shared and redundant activities can be avoided. To meet this goal, the Virginia Water Monitoring Council (VWMC) developed an on-going Water Monitoring and Needs Assessment Survey to document all active and historic (inactive) water monitoring activities in Virginia. The survey obtains information to identify public and private groups and individuals that generate water quality and quantity data. The survey also addresses the needs of water monitors in order to evaluate possible services and activities the VWMC can offer to water monitors.

The VWMC's website is under construction (www.vwrcc.vt.edu/vwmc/default.htm). Contact information for monitoring organizations will be posted on the VWMC's Website, and hyperlinks to the Websites of water monitoring programs will be established. The website will enable users to search for water monitoring activities based on major watersheds, sample parameters, county/city, and organization type. The VWMC will describe the results of the needs assessment component of the survey at its annual meeting and will provide an opportunity for participating organizations and individuals to collaborate and organize effective water monitoring strategies. Results of the needs assessment component of the survey will also be posted on the VWMC website. The methods used to develop the survey and some resulting information will be presented at the conference.