

# Volunteer Monitoring Work Group Update

May 13, 2019



**National Water Quality Monitoring Council**

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# Quick Summary

- Two calls
  - February 21 & April 15
- Work plan survey (January-February)
  - 6 key areas for focus:
    - Conference
    - Webinars
    - Articles
    - VM data into WQP
    - Fact Sheet
    - Fostering better communication across the community



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# Calls: New Members

- James Beckley, VADEQ
- Eliza Nixon, SC DHEC
- Michelle Maier, EPA
- Samantha Briggs, IWLA
- 2-3 other possible people:
  - Erin Stretz, NJ
  - Meghan Smart, AZ
  - Tara Muenz, Stroud



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# Volunteer Monitoring

## NMC Conference Scholarships

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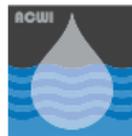
- 11 applications
- 8 registration scholarships
- Thank you to vendors!
- Thank you Phillip – PALMS for your help!



# National Monitoring Conference

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- VM Booth – Thank you EPA!!!!
- VM Meeting ~50 people
- Thank you Barb Horn and Danielle Donkersloot for organizing



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# 2019 Goals – 12 Survey Responses

- Conference support
- WQP Data Connections/Submissions
- Webinars/Regional trainings
- Populate newsletter with articles
- Resources – fact sheets, best practices
- Better connecting the community/networking/share what people are doing/success stories



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## Water Quality Portal

The Water Quality Portal (WQP) is a cooperative service sponsored by the United States Geological Survey (USGS), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the National Water Quality Monitoring Council (NWQMC). It serves data collected by over 400 state, federal, tribal, and local agencies.

### DOWNLOAD DATA

Download water-quality data in Excel, CSV, TSV, and KML formats.

### HOW TO USE THE WQP

- User Guide
- Web Services Guide
- FAQs
- Upload Data

### NATIONAL RESULTS COVERAGE

Water-quality data in your state.

### ABOUT THE WQP

- What is the WQP?
- Contributing organizations
- Other Water Quality Portals

# WQP Data Integration

<https://www.waterqualitydata.us/>  
<https://waterdatacollaborative.org/>



Applying knowledge to improve water quality  
**Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring**  
 National Facilitation Project  
 A Partnership of USDA NIFA & Land Grant Colleges and Universities

December 2002  
 Factsheet II  
 (Updated Sept 2016)



United States Department of Agriculture  
 National Institute of Food and Agriculture

## Why Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Makes Sense

University of Rhode Island

University of Wisconsin

### Engages Citizens in Watershed Protection and Enhancement

Assessments of existing volunteer monitoring efforts within Extension<sup>1</sup> suggest that volunteer water quality monitoring programs provide a unique opportunity to engage citizens in watershed protection and enhancement efforts. These programs have a unique capacity to:

- Address Extension program themes
- Help communities make informed decisions and improve water quality
- Capture the excitement and attention of local communities and citizens to water quality issues
- Obtain long-term data or new data on water bodies that otherwise may go unmonitored due to budget or staffing constraints

*Kelly Addy, Linda Green, Elizabeth Herron, and Kris Stepenuck*

### Addresses CSREES Themes

The Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES) Water Quality Program, with help from Cooperative Extension (CE) programs of each state and territory, identified eight topical themes for research, education and extension. These themes are: Animal Waste Management, Drinking Water and Human Health, Environmental Restoration, Nutrient and Pesticide Management, Pollution Assessment and Prevention, Watershed Management, Water Conservation and Agricultural Water Management, and Water Policy and Economics. Volunteer water quality monitoring can effectively address each of these themes. Volunteers learn the background to these water quality issues, gather valuable water quality data, and share information with the local community. In addition, volunteers often become involved in watershed management and their data help guide environmental decisions.

### Helps Communities Make Informed Decisions and Improve Water Quality

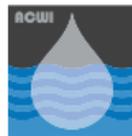
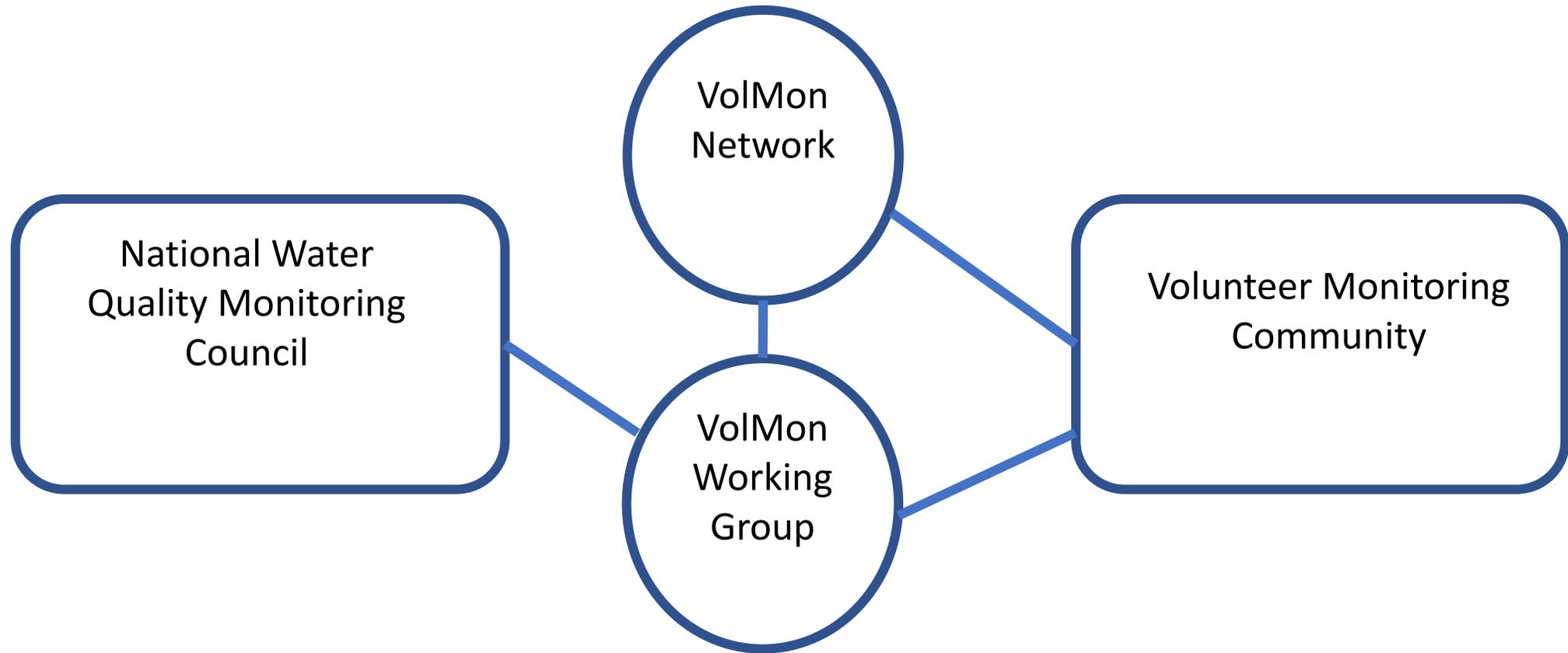
Through monitoring, volunteers learn how the quality of surface and ground water is affected by our actions on the land and how we can

- James Beckley & Erick Burres
- Presentation from James on next call

# VM Fact Sheet – Value of Volunteer Monitoring



# Volunteer Monitoring Network



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Next Call: Wednesday May 29, 11am EST

