

# Volunteer Monitoring Work Group Update

July 8, 2019



**National Water Quality Monitoring Council**

Working together for clean water

# Committee Member Updates

Welcome James Beckley, VADEQ  
new VM alternate & VM work  
group co-chair



## Additional new members:

Eliza Nixon,  
SC DHEC

Michelle  
Maier, EPA

Meghan  
Smart, AZ  
DEQ

Erin Stretz,  
Watershed  
Institute (NJ)

Sammantha  
Briggs, IWLA

# 2019 VM Work Plan

- Work Group Calls: Feb. 21; April 15; May 15
- Conference VM coordination - Thank you Danielle Donkersloot & Barb Horn
- Collaboration & Outreach (webinars & newsletter articles)
- VM Data Sharing
- Resources for the community
- Fostering connections





National Water Quality  
Monitoring Council  
Presents

## Volunteer Monitoring

Connecting volunteer data to the  
water quality portal

*July 1, 2019*



## Webinars

- July 1: Volunteer Monitoring: Connecting volunteer data to the water quality portal
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cA3C7LeUiW4>
- On deck:
  - Macroinvertebrates.org (September 25, 2pm EST)
- Planning stages:
  - Volunteer Recruitment/Management (crossover series with Citizen Science Association)
  - New EPA QA Handbook



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

## New Sub Committee!

- James Beckley, Elizabeth Herron, Mary Skopec & Erick Burres

Meeting: July 9, 1:30pm EST

# New VM Fact Sheet – Value of Volunteer Monitoring

# New Sub Committee! Communication

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- VM Council Web Pages
  - Sam Briggs, Michelle Maier, Erin Stretz
  - Meeting: July 23, 2:30 EST
  - Thank you Alice Mayo for feedback!





Next VM Work  
Group Call:  
August 8, 1pm EST  
<https://doilearn2.webex.com/doilearn2>



Additions? Questions?