

State and Regional Councils: Iowa Case Study



Oakville, Iowa – June, 2008

Iowa's Water Monitoring History

Iron Iowa Bill (SF 2371), 1999

“Prior to 2000, less than \$250,000 per year was spent on ambient water quality monitoring, with over half of that coming from federal funds.

The lack of good, long term monitoring data is putting Iowa at a distinct disadvantage in developing numeric water quality standards for nutrients and calculating TMDLs, both issues that could have significant impact on Iowa agriculture.”

Iowa's Water Monitoring History

November 1998 Lawsuit:

- SAILORS inc.* filed suit on the adequacy of Iowa's TMDL program and for failing to have an adequate water quality monitoring program
- Sierra Club joined the lawsuit Feb 1999

* Save All Iowa's Lakes, Oxbows, Rivers, Streams Inc.

Consent Decree

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF IOWA CEDAR RAPIDS DIVISION		FILED U.S. DISTRICT COURT NORTHERN DISTRICT OF IOWA 01 OCT 26 PM 3:37 CEDAR RAPIDS DISTRICT OFFICE
<u>SAILORS, INC. and MISSISSIPPI RIVER REVIVAL,</u>		
Plaintiffs,	Consolidated	FY _____
v.	Case No. C98-134-MJM	
UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, <u>et al.</u> ,		
Defendants.		
SIERRA CLUB,		
Plaintiff,	JOINT NOTICE OF FILING OF SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT	
v.		
UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, <u>et al.</u> ,		
Defendants.		

EPA will conduct a study of Iowa's Water Monitoring Program – special emphasis on the adequacy of the program to identify impaired waters

New Monitoring Program 1999

State Appropriations from Infrastructure Fund
Environment First Fund
(No State General Fund \$)

1999 - \$1 Million

2000 - \$2 Million

2001 & 2 - \$2.5 Million

2003 – '10 - \$2.95 Million

When your biggest dream becomes your biggest nightmare.....

- How to spend the Funding quickly??
 - Demonstrate need for on-going funding
- Many Gaps Existed -- How to Prioritize?
 - Lakes, Rivers, Wetlands, Beaches, Volunteer monitoring
- TMDL vs. Ambient Monitoring Program
 - Would TMDL monitoring consume all the resources?
- Money, but very few staff allocated
- Consent Decree study by EPA

Program Development Process:

Input from 47 Stakeholder Groups

Technical Advisory Group

Feedback Loop on Periodic Basis

Stakeholder Group Convened

- Goal was to identify stakeholder priorities and issues
 - Early on in the process, DUPLICATION of effort was a significant concern expressed by groups.
 - To address this concern, DNR developed a list of on-going monitoring by federal, state, local, and private entities.
 - Conflicting priorities and Concern Regarding the Use of Data

Consensus Approached to Developing Guiding Principles:

- Gather Reliable, Objective Data
- Provide Long-term Info for the State
- Develop Partnerships and Improve Coordination
- Maximize Resources – Use best science
- Promote Stewardship of Citizens

Program Priorities

Priority	Resource	Program Elements
Very High	Interior Rivers	Coordination Data Collection Database Management
High	Border Rivers Groundwater Lakes Small Streams	Data Access Data Interpretation Public Information Verification/Follow -up
Moderate	Beaches Precipitation Wetlands	Citizen Monitoring Emerging Issues Fish Tissue Impaired Waters Permitted Facilities Targeted Source Types

* As voted on by the 47 Stakeholder Groups in 1999

Water Monitoring Plan 2000

- Identified \$6.5 Million in Need Annually
- Stakeholder Buy-in for Next Steps
- Provided Transparency for the Expenditure of Funds – initial concern that these funds would be used to backfill General Fund losses to DNR

Reporting Back to Iowans

- Data Interpretation - Contentious Issue
- Annual Monitoring Conference
 - Modeled from Iowa NAWQA meetings
 - Bring together Scientists, Volunteers, Agency Staff, Stakeholders
- Fact Sheets (10 per year)
 - www.igsb.uiowa.edu/wqm/

Monitoring for the Next Decade

April 9-10, 2010

Scheman Bldg.
Iowa State University
Ames, IA

**Agenda &
Registration Form
inside**

*For more information, visit
www.igsb.uiowa.edu/wqm*



Friday April 9th – Technical Sessions on Water Quality Monitoring
Saturday April 10th – IOWATER volunteer sessions
All volunteers attend for FREE

2010 Topics

- Nutrient Criteria
- Algal Toxins and Public Health
- Midwest Floods of 2008
- Volunteer Success Stories
- Community Approaches to Improving Water Quality
- Storm Water Monitoring
- Biological Indicators of Stream Health
- Groundwater Quality

Affiliation of Presenters

- USGS (Iowa, Kansas, Wisconsin)
- Iowa DNR
- Iowa Dept. of Public Health
- Community Groups
- Academia (University of Northern Iowa, Buena Vista University, University of Iowa, University of Alabama, University of Minnesota)
- Goal – Encourage Collaboration and Exchange of Information among various groups.



Thank You

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<http://www.igsb.uiowa.edu/wqm>