

Increasing Momentum in the Formation of State and Regional Monitoring Councils

**Linda Green, co-chair,
Collaboration and Outreach Workgroup,
National Water Quality Monitoring Council**

**Presentation to
the Advisory Committee on Water Information,
May 15, 2001**



Council Mission

“Provide a national forum to coordinate consistent and scientifically defensible federal and state water quality monitoring methods and strategies.”

Create a framework for ***collaboration and comparability*** among programs as a goal necessary to the development of a national monitoring strategy.



Collaboration and Outreach Workgroup

“To support the creation and building of partnerships which foster collaboration among the many elements of the water monitoring community.”



Collaboration and Outreach Workgroup

Work Plan Tasks:

- 💧 **Support the development of state and regional councils**
- 💧 **Organize the 3rd National Water Quality Monitoring Conf.**

Support the Development of State and Regional Councils

- 💡 Who's out there and what are they doing?
 - 💧 Conduct Assessment of Councils
 - 💧 via EPA monitoring Coordinators
 - 💧 via ACWI participants
 - 💧 Summarize Results
 - 💧 Invite reps to come to NWQMC meetings
- 💡 Targeted Workshops at NWQMC conferences

Support the Development of State and Regional Councils

Council members **Emery Cleaves and Robert Ward**, NWQMC ambassadors extraordinaire, have made presentations about state/regional councils to groups that are forming .



NATIONAL WATER QUALITY MONITORING COUNCIL

Working Together for Clean Water

Purpose: Provide national coordination to implement the Strategy to Improve Water-Quality Monitoring in the United States. Develop water-quality information standards through the Methods and Data Comparability Board.

Lake Michigan Monitoring Coordination Council

Colorado Water Quality Monitoring Council



Kentucky Watershed Management



Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments



BIG THOMPSON WATERSHED FORUM



Chesapeake Bay Program



Upper Mississippi Basin Stakeholder Network



IOWA ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL

"Together for the Earth we share"



Assessment of State, Interstate, or Regional Watershed Monitoring Councils

- Council name, contact information:
- Sponsoring organization(s):
- General description of your membership :
- When was your Council created and why?:
- Charter, bylaws or other adopted written Council operating procedures?
- Meeting Schedule?
- Sub-committees?

Assessment of State, Interstate, or Regional Watershed Monitoring Councils

- Funding?**
- Staff Support?**
- Products or Publications?**
- Special Projects/Significant Accomplishments?**
- Networking via Web, list serve, document sharing?**
- Special forum/workshop at 2002 Conference?**

Common Council Themes

- 💧 **Communication**
- 💧 **Coordination**
- 💧 **Collaborative Watershed Based Monitoring**
- 💧 **Document Monitoring Activities**
- 💧 **Efficient Use of Monitoring Resources**
- 💧 **Raise Public Awareness**
- 💧 **Inclusiveness**

State/Regional Councils: Common Activities

- 🔥 Network design and coordination (6)
- 🔥 Data Inventory and management (includes GIS) (6)
- 🔥 Annual Conferences (5)
- 🔥 Field and analytical methods and QAQC (5)
- 🔥 Data Interpretation or Reporting (2)
- 🔥 Issues Based Groups (3) –there are a number of other watershed groups that focus on specific issues as well.

Common Concerns

- 💧 **Funding/Institutional Support**
- 💧 **Time - more meetings**
- 💧 **Efficiency**
- 💧 **Capacity Building**

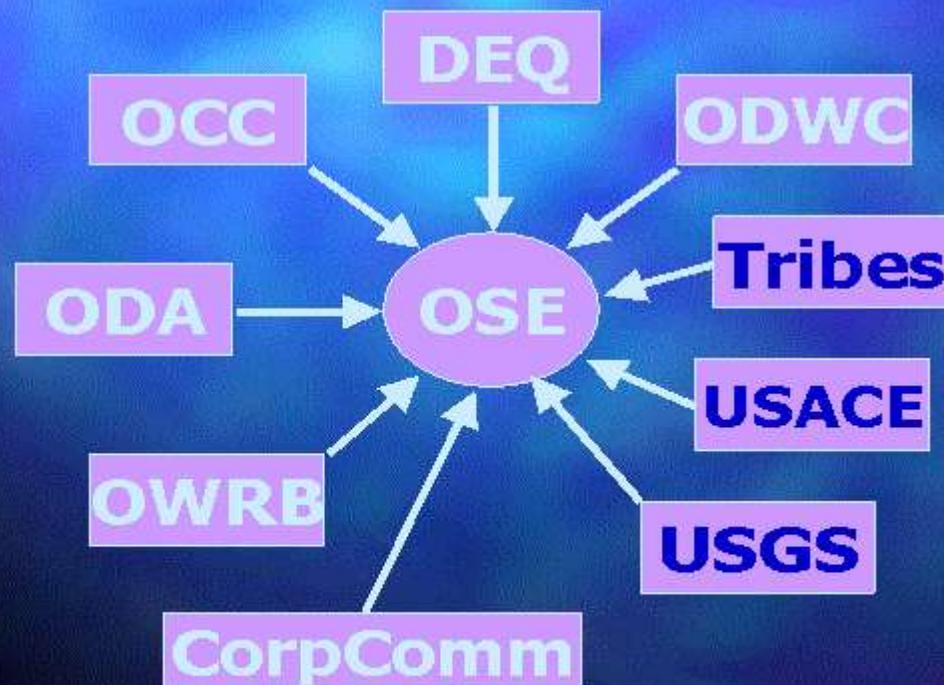
Oklahoma's
**Water Quality
Monitoring Council**

J. D. Strong, Chairman

Office of the Secretary of Environment

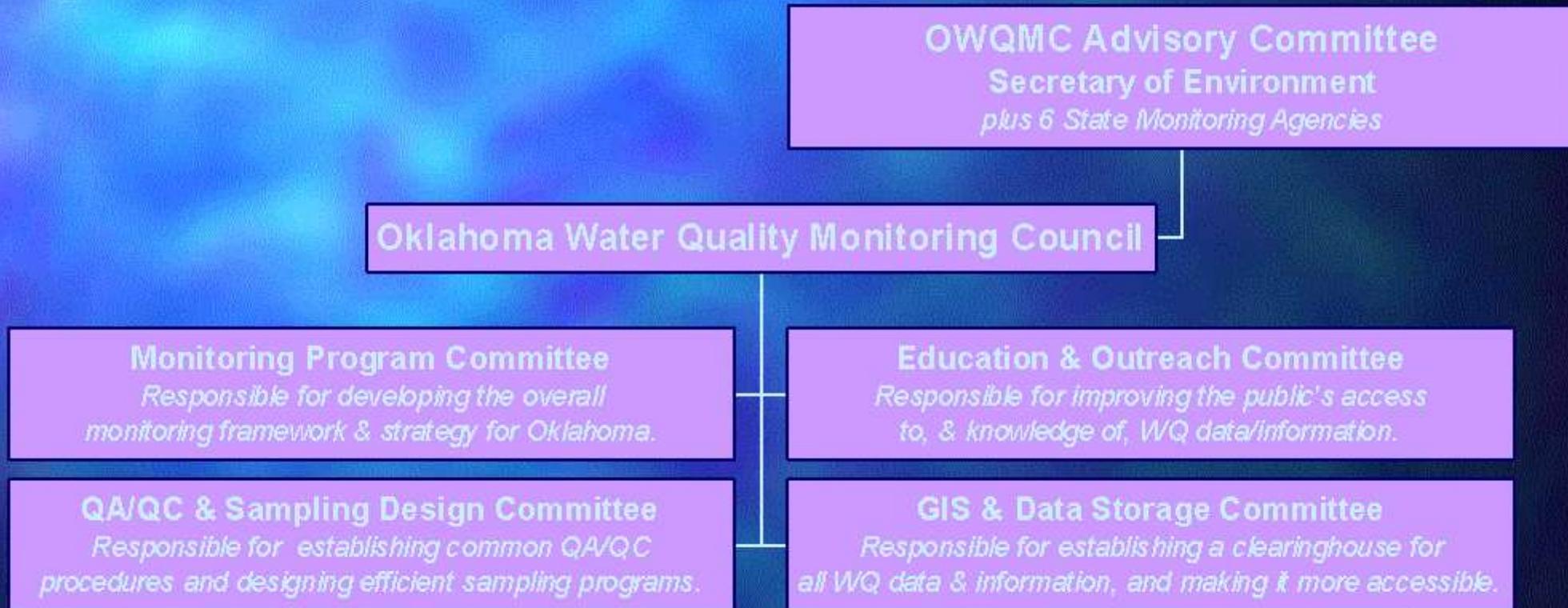
Why a Council?

... Too many chefs in the kitchen!!!



- Numerous conflicts & inefficiencies resulting from disparate monitoring programs
- Secretary of Environment needed to step-up efforts to coordinate monitoring activities

Organizational Structure



Council Membership

- **An advisory body to the Secretary of Environment, the 25-member Council is made up of diverse groups involved and/or interested in water monitoring in Oklahoma**
 - 8 State environmental agencies
 - 5 Federal environmental agencies
 - 3 local government representatives
 - 2 Tribal environmental representatives
 - 2 environmental organization representatives
 - 2 academicians from State universities
 - 3 at-large members

Goals of the Council

- **Develop and implement collaborative, watershed-based monitoring strategies**
- **Provide a forum for effective communication, cooperation, and collaboration among individuals and organizations involved in monitoring**
- **Document monitoring activities in Oklahoma using state of the art tools such as GIS-based mapping techniques**
- **Promote the use of quality assured procedures for sample collection, analytical methods, assessment, and data management**

Lake Michigan Monitoring Coordination Council (LMMCC)

💧 Why?

- 🔥 To foster cooperation and coordination among groups involved in all types of environmental monitoring activities.
- 🔥 To develop a systematic and comparable approach to all aspects of data collection, management, and dissemination...related to issues, policies, res. management in Lake Michigan Drainage basin.

LMMCC MEMBERSHIP

- 🔥 2 each from states of MI, IN, IL, WI
- 🔥 7 from Federal Agencies
- 🔥 2 Tribal Authorities
- 🔥 2 Business, industry, consultants
- 🔥 1 Agriculture
- 🔥 Local, volunteer monitoring groups
- 🔥 Sea Grant/University-based Institutes
- 🔥 Lake Michigan Lakewide Management Plan Forum
- 🔥 Local Government/planning agencies
- 🔥 Great Lakes Fisheries Commission

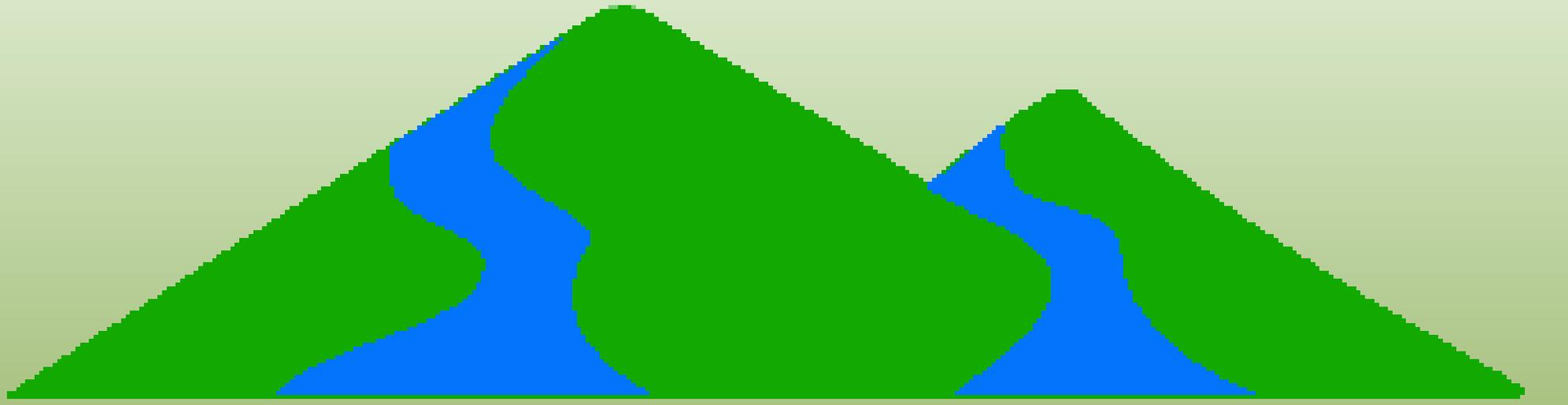


LMMCC GOALS

- 💧 Document monitoring activities, ID data gaps
- 💧 Contribute to developing monitoring framework
- 💧 Establish and maintain collaborative partnerships linking organizations and initiatives
- 💧 Encourage comparable, documentable monitoring
- 💧 Support linked info networks
- 💧 Provide guidance/assistance to improve awareness of monitoring

LMMCC Structure

- 🔥 Secretariat support provided by Great Lakes Commission, funds administration
- 🔥 Funded by US EPA Lake Michigan team
- 🔥 Chaired by 2 members, for 2 years
- 🔥 Topical Issue workgroups formed as needed
- 🔥 Meet twice per year, conf calls...



NERMOC

NEW ENGLAND REGIONAL MONITORING COLLABORATIVE

Funding provided through the US Geological Survey through
the Water Resources Research Center,
UMASS Amherst and US EPA Region 1

Why NERMC? Worn out and stretched too thin!



- Coordinate delivery of training and related services to volunteer watershed monitoring groups in New England
- Increase the level of expertise of volunteers and program coordinators
- Enhance sharing of data within watersheds and the region



Collaborators



- ◆ River Network
- ◆ Univ. of Mass. Water Watch Partnership
- ◆ Univ. of Maine Department of Public Affairs
- ◆ Univ. of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension and Freshwater Biology Group
- ◆ Univ. of Rhode Island Cooperative Extension
- ◆ Conn. Dept of Environ. Protection
- ◆ EPA- New England Region
- ◆ CSREES Regional Volunteer Monitoring Theme Team



Activities



- Production of a set of manuals, videos and training aides on 5 watershed assessment tools
- Creation of a regional training network by conducting a series of “train-the-trainers” workshop
- Institute an evaluation and planning process for volunteer monitoring programs
- Watershed Assessment Strategy Document



NERMC Watershed Assessment Tools

- **Watershed Natural Resources Inventory**
- **Rapid and Intensive Habitat Assessments**
- **Benthic Macroinvertebrate Streamside Assessment**
- **Intensive Benthic Macroinvertebrate Assessment**
- **“Following the Flow”**: On-site Non-point Source Pollution Evaluation

Opportunities: NWQMC and State/Regional Council Connections

- 💧 Working together (virtual Council) toward common goals – Networks, Methods, Data, Interpretation, Reporting and Outreach
- 💧 Active involvement at Council meetings and as members of Council Work Groups
- 💧 Important not to duplicate efforts with NWQMC activities and to share results between Councils



Role for ACWI

- 💧 **Distribute Assessments**
- 💧 **Endorse Concept of State/Regional Councils**