# Water Action Volunteers Program Review – 2014 IR

**January 2012-December 2013**

**Program Description**
The DNR and UW-Extension co-led Water Action Volunteers (WAV) Stream Monitoring Program supports citizens statewide who monitor streams and rivers. Within the program, individuals can participate in stream monitoring at one of three levels that suits their interest – **Level 1**) introductory monitoring, **Level 2**) status and trends monitoring, and **Level 3**) research and special project monitoring. Citizens in Levels 1 and 2 are trained to use specific monitoring equipment and protocols to collect data for a basic suite of water quality parameters (e.g., temperature, macroinvertebrates, dissolved oxygen, pH, and transparency). Citizens participating in Level 3 contribute to DNR data needs through various research projects (e.g., chloride, total phosphorus sampling submitted through the State Lab of Hygiene). This project allowed WAV to support and expand the network while launching new programs to fill agency data needs.

**Level 1 – Introductory Monitoring**
Volunteers monitor using educational methods (e.g., tennis ball float for flow) for: Dissolved oxygen, temperature, flow, habitat, macroinvertebrate/biotic index, transparency) - http://watermonitoring.uwex.edu/wav/monitoring/index.html
**2012** – 244 stations monitored
**2013** – 262 stations monitored

**Level 2 – Status and Trends**
Volunteers use DNR methods (e.g., hand held meters) to collect: dissolved oxygen, pH, transparency, continuous temperature -
http://watermonitoring.uwex.edu/level2/stream.html
**2012** – 243 stations monitored
**2013** – 254 stations monitored

**Level 3 – Special Projects**
***Urban Road Salt*** - http://watermonitoring.uwex.edu/level3/UrbanRoadSalt.html
Volunteers collect in-stream conductivity readings biweekly through the winter months (December – March) and monthly the remainder of the year (April-November). At least 6 grab samples of chloride are collected and sent to the State Lab of Hygiene the first year of monitoring to help develop a correlation between conductivity and chloride. Once a seasonally representative suite of chloride samples have been collected, a rating curve is established and chloride grabs are decreased and conductivity measurements are used as a surrogate (all chloride results in SWIMS are true lab results, not from the rating curve).
**2012** – 100 stations monitored [**NOTE** – map says 2011-2012 because the season started in December 2011. Same stations monitored through 2012]
**2013** – 86 stations monitored

***Total Phosphorus Monitoring*** - http://watermonitoring.uwex.edu/level3/TP.html
Volunteers collect in-stream total phosphorus samples and ship to the State lab of Hygiene for a range of projects (see breakdown below). All total phosphorus projects use WisCALM guidance for sampling requirements (6 monthly samples from May-October).

**2012 –**

- DNR requested (Water Evaluations Gap Analysis) – 16 stations monitored
- Volunteer funded and requested – 54 stations monitored

**2013 –**

- DNR Requested
  - Water Evaluations Gap Analysis – 12 stations monitored
  - Local Needs projects for Biologists – 47 stations monitored
    - **NER_16_CMP13B -** http://prodoasint.dnr.wi.gov/swims/viewPlan.do?id=74165934
    - **SCR_20_CMP13B -** http://prodoasint.dnr.wi.gov/swims/viewPlan.do?id=73908455
    - **WCR_18_CMP13B -** http://prodoasint.dnr.wi.gov/swims/viewPlan.do?id=73451828
  - 5P – 14 stations monitored - http://prodoasint.dnr.wi.gov/swims/viewPlan.do?id=78083439

- Volunteer funded and requested – 116 stations monitored