
25. RESPONSIBILITY FOR PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION & EVALUATION

Last updated: 9-2008

Water Division Monitoring Team

In recognition of changing data needs and evolving methodologies, WDNR is committed to evaluating its monitoring programs on a regular basis. A cross-programmatic Water Division Monitoring Team, comprised of administrators from each Bureau, Technical Team leaders, and regional representatives meets quarterly (or at strategic intervals as defined by the team) to evaluate the monitoring structure and determine whether modifications are needed. Membership of this Team is adjusted as needed to ensure that appropriate Central Office and regional staff are involved. Members of this team are expected to commit to 4-6 meetings per year, conference calls as needed, and limited but concentrated effort during biennial workplanning.

The Team Charge is as follows:

- Continue to define and improve a statewide monitoring strategy.
- Coordinate the development of Regional plans to implement the statewide monitoring strategy.
- Oversee the implementation of statewide monitoring activities.
- Report on progress with implementing the monitoring strategy.
- Coordinate staff training necessary to implement the monitoring strategy.
- Ensure monitoring data are entered into the Statewide Database system.

The Monitoring Team will make necessary administrative decisions, set clear expectations and timelines for the Technical Teams, and ensure that appropriate allocation of workplanning hours is granted by managers. Issues to be considered by the Monitoring Team may include overall effectiveness in meeting program needs, priorities for the future, emerging issues, shifts in funding, new federal or state regulations, and other issues presented by the Tech Teams. This Team will also be available to meet on short notice to address episodic events that require immediate assessment and action. Such emergency issues may include public health crises, hazardous spills, or other environmental emergencies. Administrators may convene immediate meetings to resolve such cases.

Monitoring Technical Teams

The Water Division has several smaller Technical Teams which address specific resource types, species, and other programmatic needs. Each Tech Team is comprised of appointed core members who are technical and field staff for whom time is allocated for Tech Team activities. Tech Teams meet on a regular basis for evaluation of their programs and to set specific monitoring schedules for upcoming sampling seasons. They are critical in providing implementation insight to the Water Division Monitoring Team, and they present proposals for modifying protocols or adopting new technologies as needed. They may consider issues related to effectiveness of current strategies in meeting data needs, identifying high-priority areas for sampling, success of staff in following delineated schedules, database development and data analysis needs, and emerging technology.

Citizen Monitoring

The WDNR is committed to using citizen volunteers to increase efficiency of data collection for use in management decisions. A Citizen Monitoring Subteam was created in 2005 to determine the most appropriate ways to incorporate this under-used resource. This Subteam is responsible for implementing a coordinated system of citizen training to help meet WDNR monitoring needs. The long-term, committed

volunteers in this program will use standard WDNR methods and protocols, and will follow monitoring designs set by WDNR monitoring staff. An updated description of the Citizen-Based Water Monitoring Pilot Project and a proposed framework for a Citizen-Based Water Monitoring Network are provided in Appendix A of this document.

Program Management

In recognition of the need for logical program-specific oversight, certain monitoring activities were assigned to either the Bureau of Fisheries Management (FH), the Bureau of Watershed Management (WT), or the Bureau of Drinking Water and Groundwater (DG). Due to the need to combine resources for the sake of program efficiency, it was recognized that some monitoring activities should be co-managed by both the FH and WT programs (Table 15).

Table 15. Primary and joint program management of monitoring activities.

Fisheries Management	FH/WT Activities (different components are done under both programs)	Watershed Management
Sport Fisheries Assessment (Coldwater/Warmwater/Treaty) Great Lakes & Commercial Fisheries Assessment Fish Contaminant Analysis Hatchery Compliance	Baseline – Lakes Baseline – Rivers Baseline – Streams Baseline – Wetlands Baseline – Mississippi River Spills & Kills Citizen Monitoring Programs	Baseline – Surface Water Quality Flow Gauging Beach Monitoring (Pathogens) L. Michigan Phosphorus Loads Total Maximum Daily Loads Stream Classification Contaminated Sediments Enforcement Nonpoint Source Assessments Point Source Effluents & Receiving Waters Long-Term Trends Water Qual.

Drinking Water & Groundwater
Baseline – Groundwater Public Drinking Water Wells

Prioritization of Future Efforts

The Monitoring Team periodically determines priorities for monitoring that reflect the priorities established by the Water Division. These programs should be targeted for implementation or enhancement as additional funding becomes available.