

Report for 2002MA3B: The Massachusetts Water Watch Partnership

There are no reported publications resulting from this project.

Report Follows:

MassWWP Activities March 2002 – February 2003

- Conducted 9 classes as part of a Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) workshop series, held in 3 locations (eastern, central, and western Massachusetts) in 2002, and taught the first of six QAPP classes in western Massachusetts in February 2003. Provided followup assistance to groups in writing QAPPs. Conducted macroinvertebrate sampling training course in Amherst. Maintained volunteer monitoring web site and managed electronic discussion list in this project sponsored in part by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs.
- Completed Watershed Monitoring Collaborative Project funded by the Massachusetts Environmental Trust (MET). Work during the 3/02-2-03 period included producing several workshops on monitoring techniques and offering followup assistance to participating organizations; helping groups establish technical advisory committees; and producing or upgrading handbooks and manuals on data interpretation, working with state agencies, and field sampling procedures.
- Began work on another project sponsored by MET. This work involves upgrading our web site, preparing a graphics utility to assist in calculating benthic macroinvertebrate-related water quality indices and graphs of sample collection results, and upgrading of a manual on lake monitoring techniques. This work is expected to be completed in the summer of 2003.
- NERMC: participated in the development of a Watershed Assessment Strategy and related work for the New England Regional Monitoring Collaborative. NERMC grew out of a 1994 USGS grant to the WRRC; it secured a contract with US Environmental Protection Agency to develop the strategy, to provide training materials and related workshops on several watershed monitoring tools, and to develop a “training the trainers” network for New England volunteer monitors. Other NERMC partners include the River Network, Cooperative Extension units of the universities of Rhode Island and New Hampshire, and the University of Maine Public Affairs division.
- EOE through UMass Extension: Led three workshops for middle and high school teachers on river chemistry, shoreline surveys, lab analysis, and streamside survey of benthic macroinvertebrates. Provided follow-up for two high schools.
- Department of Environmental Management (DEM) through Lakes And Ponds Association (LAPA)-West: Participated in a data interpretation workshop and completely revised our data interpretation manual, with the addition of a lake case study. Sponsors included the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management and LAPA–West.
- Other:
 - Conducted workshop “Introduction to Lake Monitoring” at Congress of Lakes and Ponds conference.
 - Participated in steering committee for Riverways Lake Watershed Assessment program
 - General assistance to volunteer monitors across the state
 - Participation in EOE Watershed Team meetings
 - Lake sampling and lab analysis workshop at New England Chapter of the North American Lake Management Society (NEC-NALMS) conference in Springfield

- Participated in a Lake Watershed Stewardship survey of Lake Warner watershed (Hadley) and Leverett Pond (Leverett) in project organized by Riverways Program of Department of Fisheries, Wildlife, and Environmental Law Enforcement. Began organization of a monitoring program to conduct followup chemical and biological monitoring in Lake Warner (scheduled to occur spring-fall 2003). Trained by Riverways to be a trainer in lake watershed surveys in the future.
- Revised all our field and lab protocols, obtained DEP approval.
- Conducted Data Presentation workshop at the 2002 River Network River Rally conference, Asheville NC.
- Served on editorial board of *The Volunteer Monitor* newsletter.
- Served on the EOEAs Watershed Initiative Steering Committee

2 graduate students were supported through this work: Sean Werle and Lilly Knight were hired to assist at the macroinvertebrate workshops.