Volunteer Surface Water Monitoring Guide

“You’ve got to protect the natural resources for the benefit of the state for years and years ahead of us...not just for my generation but for many, many future generations.”

—Willard Munger
How this guide was developed

The Minnesota Legislature passed a citizen-monitoring bill in 2002 to encourage the use of volunteers for water monitoring. The bill also directed the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) to collaboratively develop guidance for volunteer water monitors. Based on that direction, the MPCA convened a group of interested stakeholders to develop this guide.

This guide was developed through the collaborative efforts of many stakeholders interested in volunteer water monitoring activities in the state of Minnesota. In the fall of 2002, the MPCA initiated the guidance development by inviting about 110 stakeholders to attend a kickoff meeting and participate in the development process. From this group, 19 agreed to serve on the Work Group, which provided direction to consultants who wrote the guide. Two members of the Work Group, in turn, served on the Project Planning Committee, with the consultants, to manage the flow of work in the committees.

The Work Group met eight times, while the larger stakeholder group came together in three plenary sessions.

The guide is considered an “iterative” document and will be revised and updated as new information is received.