

VSMP Final Project Report

Upper White River Volunteer Monitoring Project

White River Watershed Partnership

Project goals and objectives

The overall goals for the project were:

- 1) To better acquaint the watershed's residents and elected officials with the role that volunteer monitoring can play in environmental protection;
- 2) To expand stake holder participation in the implementation of stream monitoring
- 3) To monitor the characteristics of the benthic macroinvertebrate community as a measure of stream health that will serve as a benchmark against which to assess any changes therein;
- 4) To establish where deterioration has created the need for remedial actions, and to document the effects of any such actions that may be, or already have been, taken

To meet these goals, the WRWP undertook the following tasks. The degree of achievement appears in parentheses following each task.

Project preparation

- Finalize study plan, site selection, and sampling schedule (100%)
- Develop QAPP and submit to MiCorps for approval (100%)
- Acquire equipment and supplies (100%)
- Participate in MiCorps-led training (100%)
- Conduct initial training for volunteers (50%)

Sampling events

- Host side-by-side sampling event with MiCorps representative (100%)
- Collect Fall and Spring benthic macroinvertebrate samples in each of two years at 12 sites (100%)
- Perform habitat assessments at invertebrate sampling sites (67%)
- Sort and identify collected samples to family level and record results (100%)

Data management

- Analyze data using MiCorps protocols and criteria (100%)

- Enter analyzed data into MiCorps Data Exchange database (100%)
- Update organization website to reflect accumulated results (100%)
- Perform stream crossing assessments at sites undergoing culvert replacements (100%)

Outreach and education

- Recruit project volunteers (50%)
- Report findings through print and electronic media, and the WRWP website (50%)
- Attend MiCorps Annual Conference and make invited presentation (100%)

Project management

- Prepare and submit quarterly progress and financial status reports (100%)
- Submit final report, fact sheet, release of claims letter, and all deliverables (100%)

Analysis of project performance

Goal	Indicators	Comment
To better acquaint the watershed's residents and elected officials with the role that volunteer monitoring can play in environmental protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Media coverage ● Increase in visits to website ● Involvement of townships ● Increase in attendance and membership 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Some coverage of training events ● Website visits numbered in the low 100s ● No substantive involvement of townships took place ● There was only a modest increase in attendance by public and in membership dues
To expand stake holder participation in the implementation of stream monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Number of volunteers trained and participating ● Responses to satisfaction surveys 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 6 Board members and 10 members of the public were trained and participated ● Initial low satisfaction with training improved after second event

<p>To monitor the characteristics of the benthic macroinvertebrate community as a measure of stream health that will serve as a benchmark against which to assess any changes therein</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of scheduled sampling events • Analyses and interpretation of macro invertebrate community assessments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All 5 scheduled sampling events were completed • All samples were identified to the family level • All data were submitted to the Micorps Data Exchange and archived at the WRWP's Wikispaces page • Data summaries were published in Newsletters and on the WRWP website
<p>To establish where deterioration has created the need for remedial actions, and to document the effects of any such actions that may be, or already have been, taken</p>	<p>Published assessments and recommendations Documentation of improvements following remedial actions</p>	<p>Pre- (3) and post- (1) physical and biological surveys of sites undergoing culvert replacements Entry of data in State road-stream crossing assessment database</p>