



STREAMGRAM

Action Needed to Help Streams



Increasing the Reliability of Level 2 VWQM Data

By the ST VWQM Staff

You have probably noticed the Stream Team Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Program has implemented some changes recently. Rather than supplying the workshop attendees with all of the equipment needed to conduct their water quality monitoring at the conclusion of the workshop, we now require individuals to do some cursory data collection prior to receiving the remainder of their equipment. This small step has saved the Program a significant amount of funds, allowing us to continue meet the needs of our dedicated volunteers even as we were required to reduce budgets.

The VWQM portion of the Stream Team Program is about educating citizens on how streams function while providing them the tools to collect valuable data on our aquatic resources. It is a tiered approach offering multiple levels of training. This allows individuals to participate at a level in which they are comfortable, while also providing different degrees of data quality.

Data submitted by individuals that have attended the Introductory and Level 1 trainings are used as screening data to inform and educate individuals about the condition of our streams, gather baseline information, locate emerging problems, and have been used to supplement other agency's data (Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Forest Service, MODOT, etc.).

However, once a volunteer attends a Level 2 QAQC training, we have higher confidence in their methods, technique, and commitment, so the confidence in the data are elevated and are often used to supplement agency data. They may be utilized to evaluate best management practices and as supplemental data for planning and permitting. They are also included in the semi-annual 305b report to EPA. This is a significant achievement, and something other Programs across the nation are working towards!!

Due to the elevated confidence in these data, we always want to ensure we are providing the highest quality data to the sponsoring agencies and all other data users. To reach this goal and to increase confidence in the data the Program will be requiring individuals to have their equipment checked at least once every three years in order to continue to maintain quality assurance and confidence in data collected by Level 2 and 3 volunteers.

Volunteers can either attend one of our regularly scheduled Level 2 trainings, or one of the new Level 2 Validation Trainings. This Validation Training will be a shorter 2½ hour session held during the

See validation training schedule continued on back →



VWQM VALIDATION TRAINING
MISSOURI STREAM TEAM
PO BOX 180
JEFFERSON CITY MO 65102-0180

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evening. This training is critical to ensure that your equipment is functioning properly and your reagents are viable. Individuals that have previously attended a Level 2 or higher training will have until the end of 2013 to attend one of these trainings. We are confident this will also increase the volunteers' confidence in their own abilities by providing additional opportunities to practice the chemical monitoring techniques, receiving new reagents, and ensuring their kits are functioning properly.

Individuals who do not attend one of the Level 2 Validation Trainings or a Level 2 workshop within a three year period are still encouraged to collect and submit their VWQM Data. These data will still be used, but not to the same degree.

We will be implementing this validation requirement beginning in 2011, and existing Level 2 Volunteers will have through 2013 to renew their training. Look for the dates and locations of these new and exciting opportunities, and thank you to all of our dedicated volunteers for continuing to work on behalf of our stream resources!

Below are the scheduled Level 2 Validation Trainings for 2011. If you are interested in attending, please register online at www.mostreamteam.org.

Level 2 Validation Training Schedule

Location:	Date:	Time:
Sedalia:	Wednesday, June 15, 2011	6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Kirkwood:	Wednesday, June 22, 2011	6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Springfield:	Wednesday, June 29, 2011	6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Rolla:	Wednesday, July 13, 2011	6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Columbia:	Wednesday July 20, 2011	6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Sullivan:	Saturday, July 23, 2011	9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Kansas City:	Wednesday, July 27, 2011	6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Announcing!
2011 VWQM Validation
Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring
Workshop Schedule

Workshop Location	Registration Deadline	Date & Time of Workshop
Sedalia: MDC Fairgrounds Building Missouri State Fairgrounds	Monday, June 6	Wednesday, June 15 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Kirkwood: Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center 11715 Cragwold Road	Monday, June 13	Wednesday, June 22 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Springfield: MDC Southwest Regional Office 2630 N. Mayfair	Monday, June 20	Wednesday, June 29 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Rolla: Eugene Northern Community Hall 400 W 4 th Street	Monday, July 4	Wednesday, July 13 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Columbia: MDC Conservation Resource Science Center 1110 S. College Ave.	Monday, July 11	Wednesday, July 20 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Sullivan: Meramec State Park Visitors Center	Monday, July 11	Saturday, July 23 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
Kansas City: MDC Burr Oak Woods Nature Center 1401 NW Park Rd	Monday, July 18	Wednesday, July 27 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

- Registration Form **MUST** be returned by the deadline to be registered. You can register for the workshop on the Stream Team Web Page (www.mostreamteam.org).
- Attendance will be limited to 30 people per workshop.
- Bring all of your chemical monitoring equipment and any invertebrate specimens you would like assistance in identifying
- **Please bring a sack lunch.** Lunch will **not** be provided.
- **If you have other questions about the workshop, call the Stream Team 800# (800/781-1989)**
- Registration confirmation (along with a map to the workshop location) will be mailed to registrants one week prior to the workshop.

Presented by:
Missouri Department of Conservation
Missouri Department of Natural Resources
and
Conservation Federation of Missouri