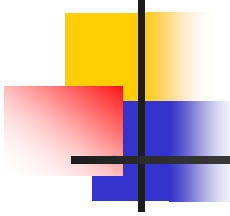




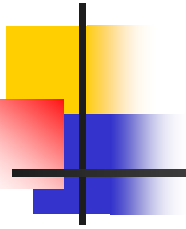
Iowa's Perspective on Developing a State Monitoring Strategy

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Region 7's Steps for Constructing a Strategy

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- Describe the state's program (+ understand what other agencies are doing to monitor in the state)
 - Identify and lay out all program objectives
 - Inventory all water resource classes (How much of each kind)
 - Examine the monitoring of design for each class to identify the resource coverage gaps or design (science) issues.
 - Examine the monitoring system for ability to meet program objectives and other science issues (program weaknesses) such as inadequate indicators or reference condition, etc.
 - Evaluate the system against the remainder of the 10 elements.
 - Develop a strategy to address each gap and weakness (include what other agencies are doing)
 - Prioritize the gaps and weaknesses
 - Address the implementation issues early and often

Iowa Strategy as a Region 7 Model



■ *Features:*

- Complete description of the current monitoring program
- A Description of all the following:
 - gaps = primarily unmonitored or unassessed resource classes
 - weaknesses = assessment deficiency (e.g., lack of appropriately defined reference conditions and/or indicators)
 - opportunities to improve the program (e.g., coordination)
- A discussion of Root Causes of the gaps and weaknesses
- A **detailed** plan to address each gap and weakness (including timeline, costs, priority, etc.)



Quick Background Info

- Prior to 1999, Iowa spent \$0 on surface water monitoring (\$125K EPA funded)
- New Governor in 2000 – WQ is Priority
- \$1 Million in 2000; now \$2.95 Million
- Stakeholder and Technical Groups
- Nonexistent TMDL program in 2000
- Iowa Environmental Council – pressure State on TMDLs, Standards



Positive Side of Strategies ☺

- Ten Elements seemingly spell out requirements
- Beneficial – link Objectives to Design
- Data Management is Relatively Easy
- General Support/Infrastructure is Good
- QA/QC is painful, but clearly defined



Gaps and Weakness Identification

- Allows staff to look at the program through “new eyes” and prioritize
 - Fish Tissue
 - Wetland monitoring
 - Precipitation



Negative Side of Strategies ☹️

- The Devil is in the Detail
- How Does One Define a “Strategy”
 - What is it?
 - Who do you bring to the table?
 - When do you bring them to the table?



Problem Areas for Iowa

- What is “comprehensive monitoring?”
 - Long discussions about intermittent and headwater streams, farm ponds, wetlands, private lakes, beaches
 - Which analytes to include? Are you limited to those with WQS?
 - How do you achieve balance?
 - Has identified a “niche” for our volunteers



Problem Areas for Iowa

- Core Indicators of Water Quality
 - Governor wants something simple (1 "measure"). Is the WQ better or worse?
 - Just beginning to develop IBIs
 - Many of our WQ issues are nutrient related, but no standards yet...
 - How to integrate Biological, Habitat Data with CWA standards and TMDLs?



Strategies are Dynamic

- Constant Battle to Keep Management Informed, Engaged
 - Resources pulled toward TMDLs
 - Diverting resources toward gaps and weaknesses without maintaining existing monitoring just creates new gaps....
 - Long-term payoff vs. short term needs (why are you doing biological monitoring anyway?)
 - Building monitoring partnerships takes time and commitment



Future Needs

- Have Yet to Address How to Implement On-going Program Evaluation.
- Data Analysis & Reporting



Overall Impression

- Has Helped to Improve the Monitoring
- EPA and IDNR are on the same page
- Resources are more effectively targeted
- Puts pressure on data analysis, reporting, evaluation pieces