Developing a Water Monitoring Plan Worksheet

Use this worksheet to help build out your water monitoring plan.

Who will be monitoring?

Best Practice: Choose one person to lead monitoring who is responsible for organizing the monitors and overseeing data collection and management. Monitor in groups of at least two people.

Lead Monitor: _____

Other Monitors:

_____ _____

_____ _____

_____ _____

_____ _____

What will you monitor for?

Best Practice: Test for nitrate and ammonia (test strips can be purchased at Hach), phosphorus (test kit can be purchased at AquaPhoenix), and E. coli (required to be analyzed in a lab). Some other possible parameters are dissolved oxygen, macroinvertebrates, arsenic, and turbidity. Lab samples are considered "official" results by regulatory agencies because their integrity can be guaranteed. If you have the financial resources, send samples you have identified as contaminated to a lab for analysis to confirm your tests. You can send these results to regulatory agencies in many cases.

Best Practice Parameters

- ☐ Ammonia
- ☐ Nitrate
- ☐ Phosphate
- ☐ E. coli

Other Parameters

- ☐ Dissolved Oxygen
- ☐ Turbidity
- ☐ pH
- ☐ Macroinvertebrates

When will you monitor?

Best Practice: Monitor between every two weeks to one month during the months of March–November. Keep a consistent schedule of testing to build a comprehensive record of water quality. Test if there is a storm with significant run-off or an illegal waste discharge is expected, even if it's outside of your normal monitoring schedule.

Frequency (Bi-weekly, Monthly etc.): _____

Day of the Week: _____

Where will you monitor?

Best Practice: Monitor 2-3 sites to start. Safe monitoring sites downstream of the facility or property in question are best. Choosing a site that has particular community value (drinking water source, recreation area, protected land etc.) can be helpful to convince regulators, government officials, and the general community to take action. **DO NOT TRESPASS.**

Location 1:

Description (e.g. Walnut Creek downstream of Poultry CAFO on Larson Road)

_____

_____

Location Address or Coordinates

_____

_____

Location 2:

Description

Location Address or Coordinates

Location 3:

Description

Location Address or Coordinates

How will you track your data?

Best Practice: Use SRAP's field data sheet and long term data management spreadsheet to record and track data.

What will you do with your data?

The data you collect is yours. You can share it with a regulatory agency in your state, you can store it to build a record of water quality, you can submit it to a database.

If you have any questions about setting up your monitoring plan, contact the Water Rangers team at waterrangers@sraproject.org.