

June 2003



**Summary of Finding Support for  
and Funding Local Efforts**



**University of Rhode Island**

**University of Wisconsin**

As part of the Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring National Facilitation Project, we sent an inquiry in February 2002 to coordinators of existing Cooperative Extension (CE) sponsored/co-sponsored volunteer water quality monitoring programs that were identified through an inquiry in the fall of 2001. The program-level inquiry was designed to help us learn the ins and outs of existing volunteer water quality monitoring programs so that we could compile and share that information through our website ([www.usawaterquality.org/volunteer](http://www.usawaterquality.org/volunteer)), list server, guidance materials, trainings, and general networking. There were 6 main sections of the inquiry that correspond with sections of the guidance documents we are preparing. The sections are: types of activities available, effective training techniques, quality assurance issues, volunteer management and support tools, outreach tools, and funding issues. This summary discusses what we learned about program-related funding issues. We asked about these issues to help identify basic funding trends and develop more detailed questions to be posed at a later date. Our goal is to share information about funding sources, opportunities, and challenges to help groups develop realistic budgets and identify potential funding sources. Twenty programs responded to our questions.

Annual program budget

We grouped total annual funding into six categories and asked program coordinators to identify where their program's budget fit (Figure 1). Seven programs reported having budgets of less than \$5000 per year. The annual budgets of two programs fit into each of the four central categories of funding (\$5,000-\$20,000, \$20,000-\$50,000, \$50,000-\$75,000, and \$75,000-\$100,000). Six programs reported having budgets of greater than \$100,000. Two program coordinators with budgets in the upper category noted that staffing costs (including benefits) consumed much of the budget. Another program in the upper tier indicated that their budget includes \$15,000 in grants that they provide to local groups for monitoring equipment.

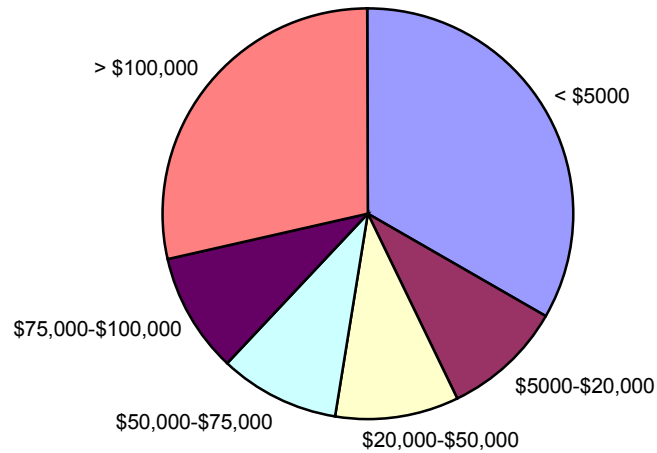


Figure 1. Annual budgets for CSREES Volunteer Monitoring programs. More programs indicated small and large annual budgets than moderate budgets.

### Staffing

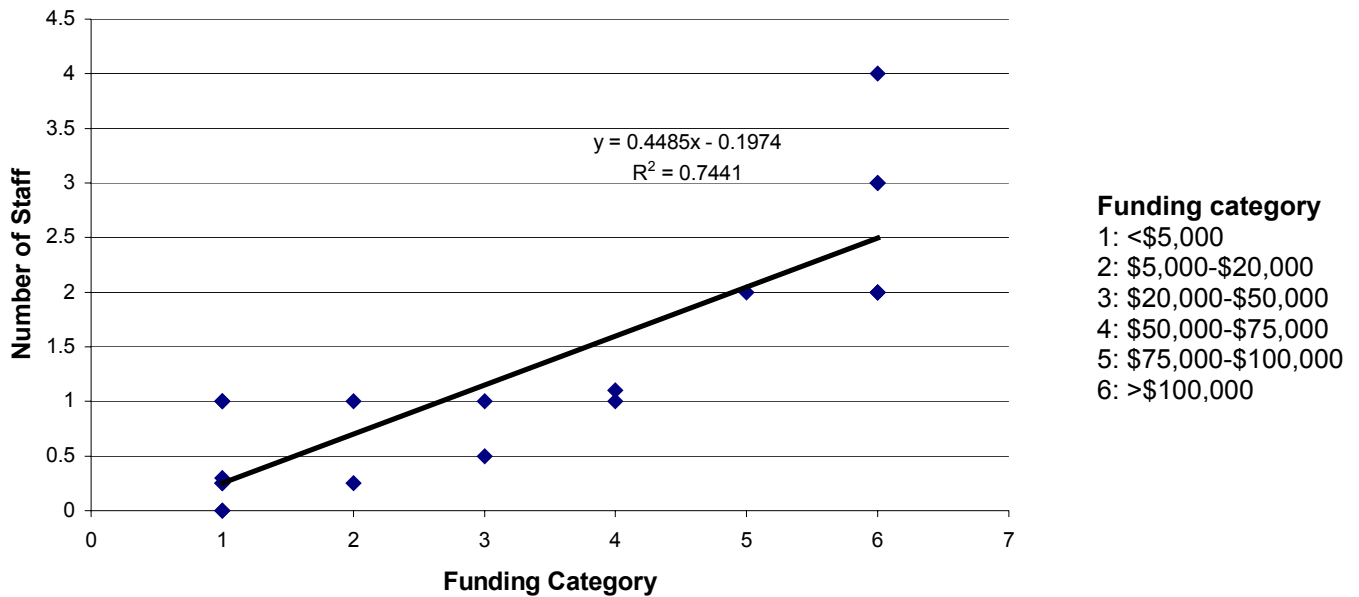
Between zero and four full time equivalent (F.T.E.) staff were covered by these programs' budgets. One program funded four F.T.Es; two programs funded three F.T.Es; and four programs funded two F.T.Es. Six program coordinators indicated that between one and two F.T.Es were funded, and five coordinators indicated that between 0.25 and 0.3 F.T.Es were funded with the existing budget. Two programs indicated they had no funding allocated for staff. A strong and significant positive linear relationship ( $r^2=0.74$ ,  $p<0.0001$ ) was seen between annual budget and number of FTE staff in a program (Figure 2).

Three coordinators (St. Louis River-River Watch in Minnesota, New Hampshire Lakes Lay Monitoring and Wisconsin's Water Action Volunteers) commented that other personnel on campus, including student FTEs, secretarial staff, graphic/web designers and accountants assisted with the program coordination. One coordinator (Tahoe-Truckee Snapshot in Nevada and California) indicated that most staff time for the project was donated as in-kind service.

**Table 1: Staffing and budget ranges for CE-sponsored and co-sponsored volunteer water quality monitoring programs during 2001**

<b>State</b>	<b>Program</b>	<b>Number of staff (FTEs)</b>	<b>Annual Budget</b>
Alabama	Alabama Water Watch	3	>\$100,000
Colorado	North Fork Volunteer Monitoring Project	0	<\$5,000
Indiana	Hoosier Riverwatch	2	>\$100,000
Iowa	IOWATER Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring	4	>\$100,000
Kansas	Private well monitoring	0	<\$5,000
Maine	Maine Shore Stewards	2	\$50,000-\$75,000
Michigan	Lake Superior Lake Watch	0.25	<\$5,000
Minnesota	Volunteer Stream Monitoring Partnership	2	>\$100,000
Minnesota	St. Louis River- River Watch	1+*	\$75,000-\$100,000
Nevada, California	Tahoe-Truckee Snapshot	1	\$5,000-\$20,000
New Hampshire	NH Lake Lay Monitoring Program	2	>\$100,000
New Hampshire	Great Bay Coast Watch	1.1	\$50,000-\$75,000
New York	Community Fly Fisher	0.25	<\$5,000
North Carolina	Watershed Watch	1	<\$5,000
Oklahoma	Illinois Basin/Spring Creek Blue Thumb	0.25	\$5,000-\$20,000
Rhode Island	URI Watershed Watch	3	>\$100,000
Washington	WSU Beach Watchers	0.3	<\$5,000
Washington, Idaho, Oregon	Pacific Northwest Water Quality Monitoring Program	1	\$50,000-\$75,000
Wisconsin	Wisconsin Lakes Partnership/Adopt-a-Lake	1	<\$5,000
Wisconsin	Water Action Volunteers	0.5	\$20,000-\$50,000
Vermont	Watershed Alliance	1	\$20,000-\$50,000

\*Portion of support staff also funded



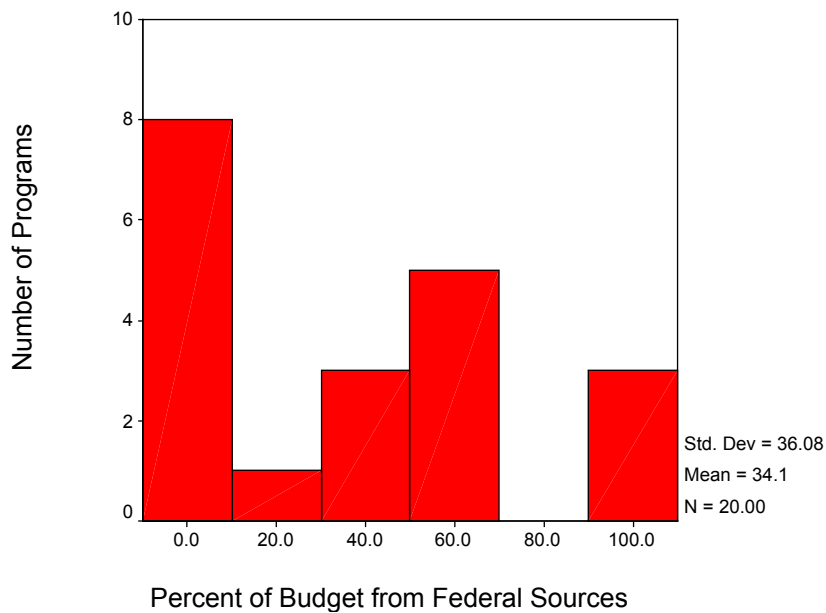
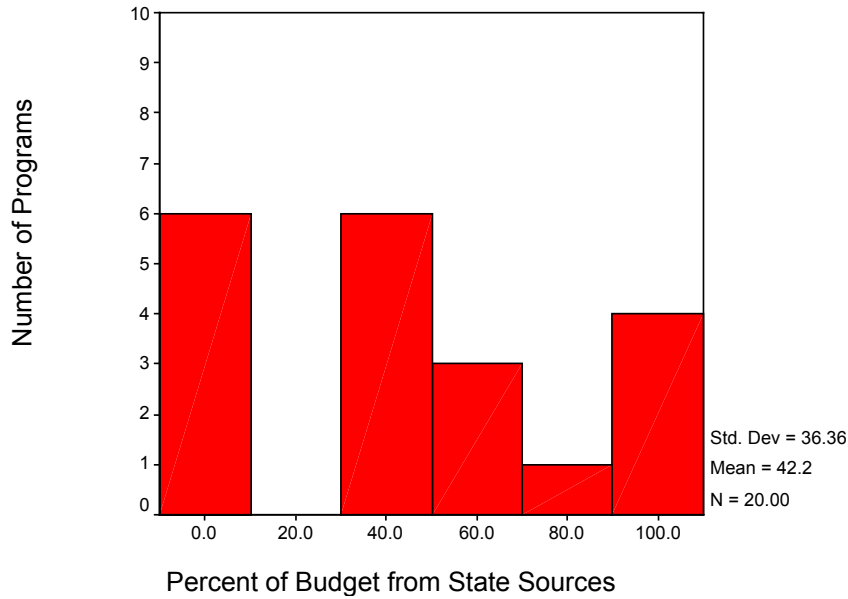
**Figure 2. Number of staff increased with increased annual budget (as represented by funding categories).**

Current Funding Sources

We asked program coordinators to classify their 2001 funding sources. We defined seven categories of funding sources (federal, state, dues, donations, grassroots, corporations, and foundations) and also asked coordinators to identify other sources of funding. The 20 responding programs showed a wide diversity by their range of responses for each category.

Federal and state sources of funding ranged from 0 to 100% of programs' budgets. Fourteen programs indicated state funds and twelve programs indicated federal funds were used to support their program (Figure 3).

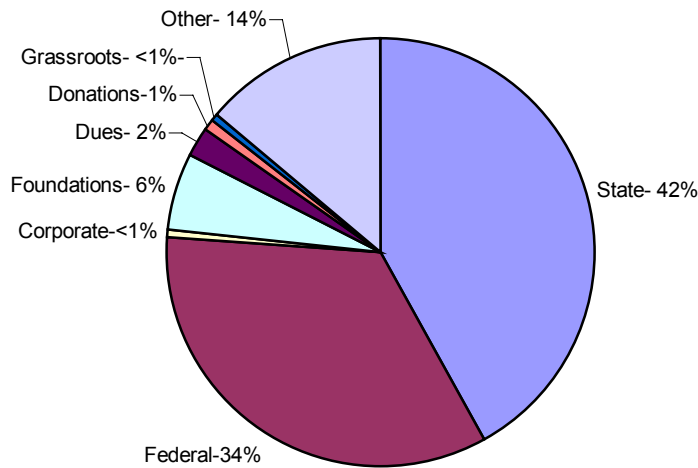
Dues, donations, and grassroots, corporate, and foundation funding tended to contribute smaller portions to program budgets, with only one program funded entirely by foundation contributions and dues. Two programs indicated that dues sustained 20% of their programs' funding. Donations contributed up to 10% of three programs' 2001 budgets. Two programs indicated that grassroots efforts provided up to 5% of their support. Two programs indicated corporate funding was used to support 2% to 10% of their program. Four programs indicated support from foundations, with up to 80% of their budgets from this source.



**Figure 3. Histograms show the diversity among volunteer water quality monitoring programs in percent composition of budget by state and federal sources. Actual data are represented by bars in the chart, with percent budget composition separated into categories in the following ranges: 0-9%; 10-29%; 30-49%; 50-69%; 70-89%, and 90-100%.**

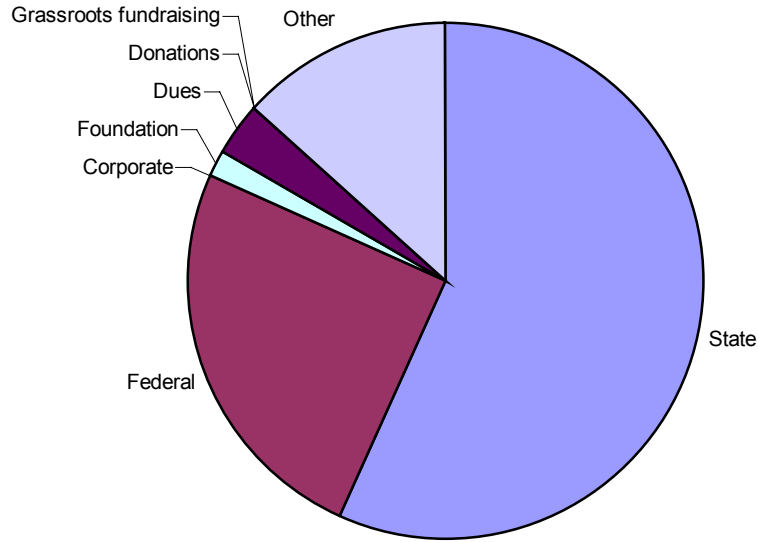
Overall, state funding supported an average of 42% of these programs, while federal funding supported an average of 34%. “Other” sources of funding represented an average of 14% of 2001 annual budgets. These other sources included cost for services, fees for workshops, sample processing, cost share provided by the University through an E.P.A. 319 (Nonpoint Source Education) grant, other grants, the local General Improvement Districts (serving property owners with sewer, water, etc.), and local agencies. An average of 6% of 2001

funding was from foundations, while just 2% was from dues, and 1% or less was from donations, corporate fees, or grassroots efforts (Figure 5).

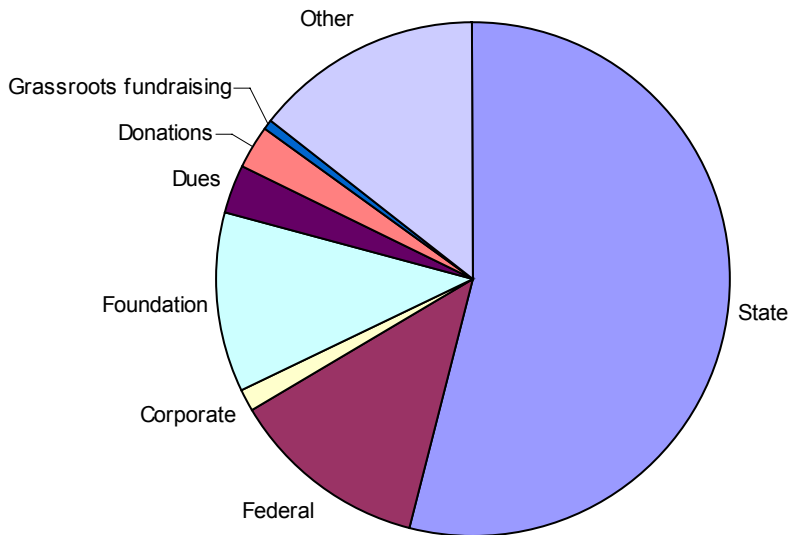


**Figure 5. Average composition of 2001 annual budget among 21 responding volunteer water quality monitoring programs.**

For comparison, we assessed the average percent composition of budgets for programs with 2001 annual budgets less than \$5000 and for programs with 2001 annual budgets of greater than \$100,000 (the extremes in our budget categories) (Figures 6 and 7). We found that the two groups had similar percentages of state funding (54% for programs with budgets less than \$5000 and 56% for programs with budgets greater than \$100,000). However, a disparity was seen in federal funding between programs with smaller vs. larger budgets. Federal sources provided 25% of budgets in programs with larger budgets but only 12% of budgets in programs with lower budgets. Smaller budgeted programs found support from foundations (11%), dues (3%) and donations (3%). Alternately, programs with larger budgets (>\$100,000) had only 2% of their funding from foundations, 3% from dues and no funding from donations. Grassroots and corporate funding each supplied minimal to no funding within each category.



**Figure 6. Average composition of 2001 annual budget among responding volunteer water quality monitoring programs with budgets greater than \$100,000 (six programs in this category).**



**Figure 6. Average composition of 2001 annual budget among responding volunteer water quality monitoring programs with budgets less than \$5,000 (seven programs in this category).**

## Summary

In summary, our findings showed that there is a wide range of budgets among responding programs. Programs with larger budgets tended to support larger staffs. Federal and state funds generally contributed a greater percentage to programs' budgets than other private sources of funding, and in programs with larger (greater than \$100,000) budgets, federal funds were most often the source of program funding.

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