

Panel Discussion on Volunteer Trainings During COVID

July 8, 2020

Panelists: Mona Dominguez, Barb Horn, Julie Vastine and Jason Frenzel
Moderators: Jill Carr and Kris Stepenuck



Agenda

- Introductions
- Lightning Talks
- Q and A

Housekeeping



- We are recording
- Note on zoom bombing
- You will be automatically muted
- Ways to communicate:
 - ✓ Unmute yourself and speak
 - ✓ Write comments in chat box

<http://volunteermonitoring.org/covid>

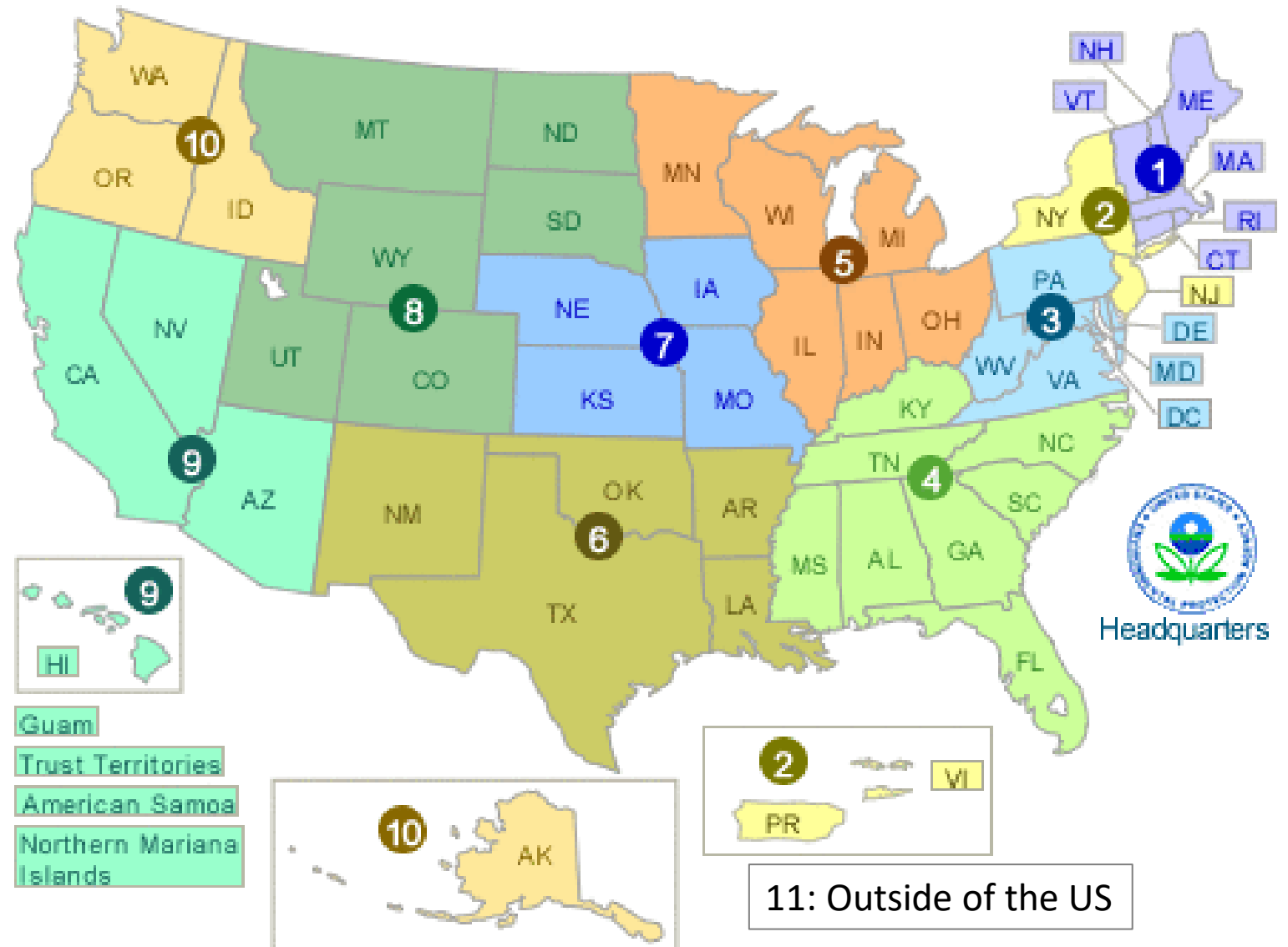
Our speakers

- Mona Dominguez, Program Director, Alabama Water Watch, Auburn University
- Barb Horn, Water Resource Specialist, River Watch of Colorado, Colorado Parks and Wildlife
- Julie Vastine, Director, Alliance for Aquatic Resource Monitoring (ALLARM), Dickinson College
- Jason Frenzel, Volunteer and Stewardship Coordinator, Huron River Watershed Council



Poll: Getting to Know One Another

- Identify your
 - region
 - monitoring focus





Mona Dominguez



Program Director

Alabama Water Watch, Auburn University

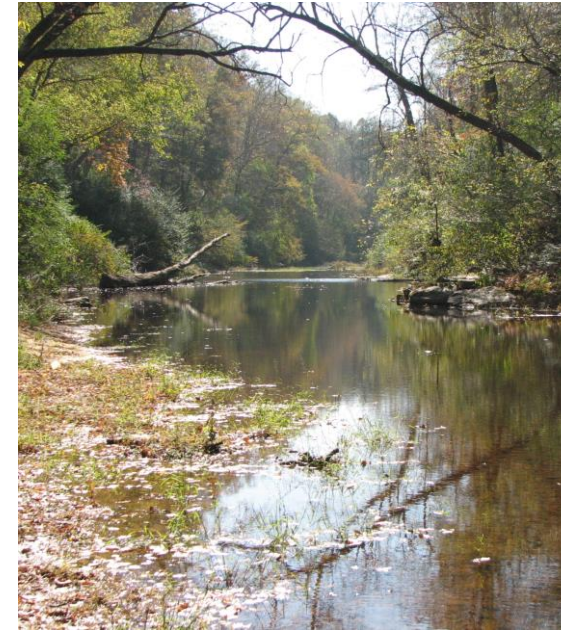
Alabama Water Watch



Alabama 4-H
Alabama Cooperative Extension System



AUBURN UNIVERSITY
ALABAMA AGRICULTURAL
EXPERIMENT STATION
Water Resources Center



A program dedicated to developing
Citizen Volunteer Water Monitoring of
Alabama's lakes, streams and coasts.





Challenges to Training during COVID-19

- Remaining consistent with QA Plan
- Conducting field work virtually?
- Safety issues for in-person field work
- Creating a model for Volunteer Trainers



What we have done?

- Zoom Trainings for our Trainers
- Pilot Virtual Bacteriological Workshop via Zoom
- Pilot Hybrid Water Chemistry Workshop (Zoom/ socially distant field work exercise)
- Virtual 4-H AWW Club Meeting
- Data Tools Webinar Series for Aug.-Sept.



What have
we learned?

We miss our in-person workshops

Our pilot virtual trainings have worked fairly well

We need to make Zoom Trainings more interactive

We have a lot more to learn... So we look forward to today's Panel!

Sydney Smith

Mona Dominguez

Rachel McGuire

Gary Lemme

Henry Fac

eric reutebuch

Virginia Johnson

Isabella Trussell

Cynthia Allen

Gary Wagoner

Michael Mullen

Patricia Hurley

Rebecca Persons

Rodney Yanker

Debra Joy Gordon-Hellman

Zoë Nye

James and Peggy Lowery

Harold Bruner

Sara Bolds

Stephen Stetson


Martha Hunter

Next steps...

- Adjust model based on survey feedback from participants
- Work with Volunteer Trainers to adapt model to their needs
- Fine tune our teaching tools (videos, PowerPoints, Field Work)
- Possibly create online learning courses in the future.

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 @alabama_water_watch

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 @alwaterwatch

 Channel: Alabama Water Watch

Poll: Who are you training to monitor this year? (Check all that apply.)


- New volunteers
- Seasoned volunteers



Barb Horn



Water Resource Specialist
River Watch of Colorado,
Colorado Parks and Wildlife





Colorado River Watch



Stats

99% _____
85% _____
140 _____

& Facts

- S_____wide
- Vol's analyze F_____
- Metals/Nut L____
- B_____/ Phys H____



Colorado River Watch



Pre

Training / Annual Site Visits

- Retreat 4 day
- 3/group – 40 to 60 people
- Required
- Summer/Fall
- Spring 2day Refresh

-
- 2 hr/in person
 - Oct-Feb

Post

Training / Annual Site Visits

Plan A, B, C, D

- On-line Classes / Tutorials
- Equipment Exchange Points
- Virtual Live Sessions
- Change Times, Duration
- Core only

-
- Exchange vs Visit
 - Send QA / Live Visit

Poll: Are you conducting QA/QC protocols to ensure data quality?

- Yes, as usual
- Yes, modified from usual
- No, never do this
- No, too complicated with COVID
- Other
- NA



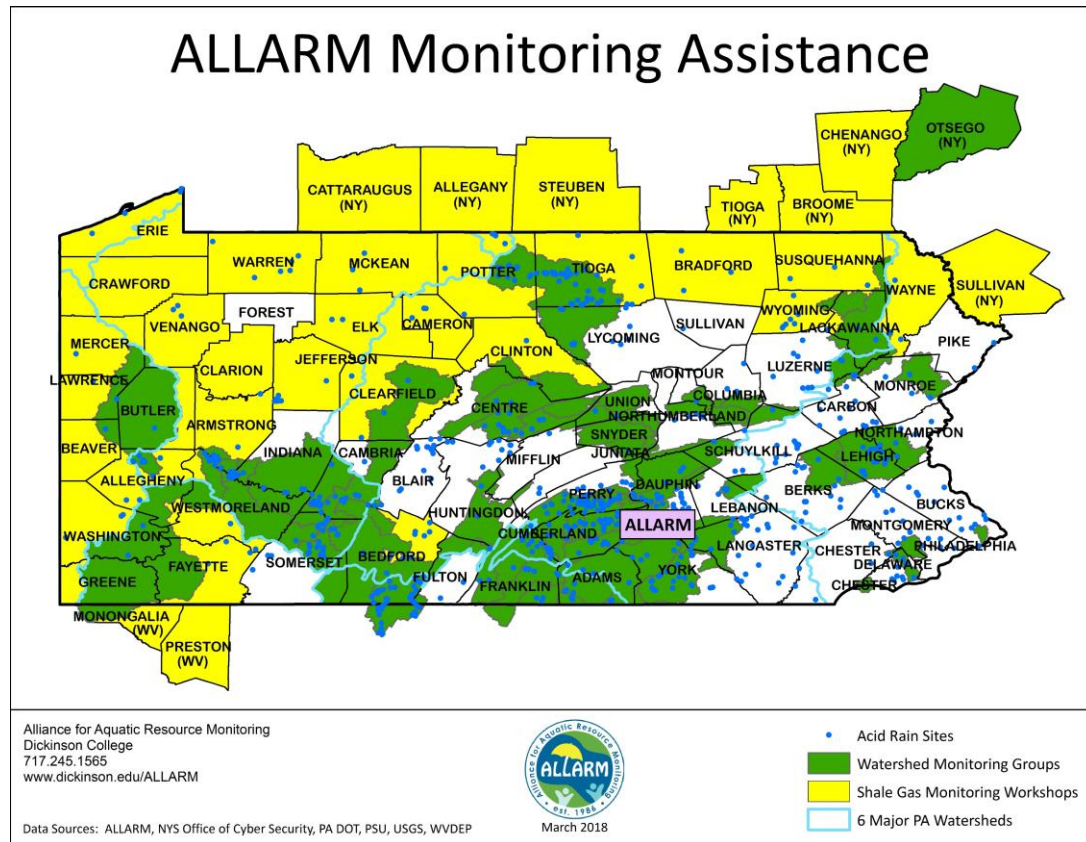
Julie Vastine

Director

Alliance for Aquatic Resource Monitoring
(ALLARM), Dickinson College



Alliance for Aquatic Resource Monitoring





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COVID Impact

- 18 events scheduled March-May
 - Moved 10 online
 - Postponed 6
 - Cancelled 2
- Paused stream monitoring March-June
- No new monitor workshops (~50 volunteers waiting to be trained)
- Hope to open in July with strong guidance

COVID Innovation: Quick Tidbits

- Creek Courses
- Data Interpretation Workshop
- Refresher workshop

 JOIN ALLIANCE FOR AQUATIC
RESOURCE MONITORING FOR

CREEK COURSES

Community Streaming on diverse water
quality topics!

EXPLORE THE BAY IN THE MONTH OF MAY

05/07 Course 1: Introduction to Water Quality & Policy
05/21 Course 2: Clean Up Efforts & Role of Monitoring

June topics coming soon...

LiveStream with us!
12PM-1PM, **Thursdays**, Twice a month beginning
05/07/2020

TO STAY INFORMED, REGISTER [HERE](#)

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Creek Courses

- Opportunity: Build volunteer aquatic science and policy baseline
- Challenges: Innovation during a pandemic & zoom bombing



 JOIN ALLIANCE FOR AQUATIC
RESOURCE MONITORING FOR

CREEK COURSES

Community **Stream**ing on diverse water
quality topics!

GET IN TUNE IN JUNE!

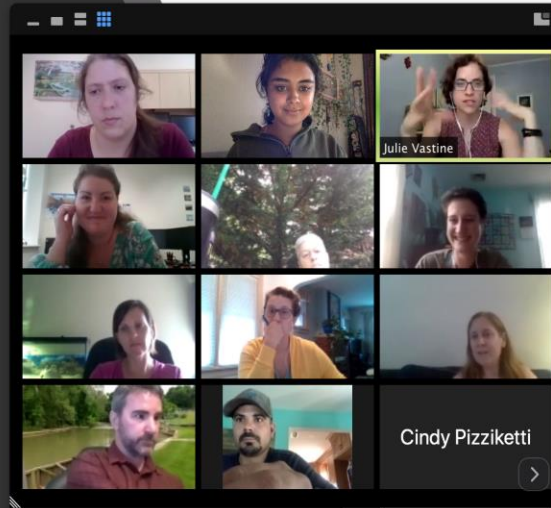
06/11 Stream Health Influencers: Geology
and Land Use
06/25 Water Policy 101
July topics coming soon...

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Agenda 6:00 - 9:00 PM

- Welcome
- Monitoring process overview
- Data reminders
- Site results breakdown
- General findings & discussion
- Survey and next steps



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Summarized Data (All York I Stream Team Sites)

	Conductivity ($\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$)			Nitrate-nitrogen (mg/L)			pH			Temperature ($^{\circ}\text{C}$)		
	min.	max.	avg.	min.	max.	avg.	min.	max.	avg.	min.	max.	avg.
BERCRE 1.22	165	342	231	0.0	3.0	1.4	7.00	9.00	8.2	1.8	28.1	13.1
CODCRE 12.16	316	767	524	2.0	5.0	4.0	7.00	8.00	8.0	3.9	29.8	14.6
CODCRE 12.39	276	739	482	3.0	5.0	3.3	7.00	8.00	7.9	3.9	27.4	15.2
CONCRE 7.04	172	380	261	0.5	3.0	1.3	7.00	8.50	8.1	2.1	29.9	12.8
KRECRE 8.67	354	974	494	4.0	9.0	6.7	7.00	8.50	7.6	2.0	22.6	11.3
MILCRE 0.09	352	641	557	2.0	7.0	3.6	8.00	8.50	8.2	4.6	25.5	13.5
PLUCRE 4.26	387	525	435	3.0	5.0	3.8	8.00	8.50	8.3	5.2	22.5	17.0
TYLRUN 0.50	520	928	653	2.0	5.0	4.1	7.25	8.25	7.7	4.5	21.8	10.9
TYLRUN 1.01	487	884	609	2.0	6.0	4.3	7.25	8.25	7.7	4.3	21.7	10.9
CENCRE 0.07	148	177	162	4.0	7.0	4.9	6.75	7.20	7.0	3.4	26.0	14.1
Total	148	974	441	0	9	4	7	9	8	2	30	13

Data Interpretation Workshop

- Combination old and new technology
- Opportunity: Revise data interpretation approach. Giving materials ahead of time helped with analysis
- Challenge: Connecting with volunteers without internet access

Restarting monitoring

- Refresher training
 - Jeopardy!
 - July back to monitoring
 - August duplicate sample QC check
- COVID monitoring guidelines (still waiting on approval)
- Challenge: Some monitors lost steam/motivation
- Opportunity: Engage volunteers in new ways bi-monthly calls, Creek Courses, etc.



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Alliance for Aquatic Resource Monitoring (ALLARM)

dickinson.edu/ALLARM | [@ALLARMwater](https://twitter.com/ALLARMwater)

Julie Vastine | vastine@dickinson.edu



Poll: Have you paused data collection this year?

- Yes
- No
- NA

Jason Frenzel

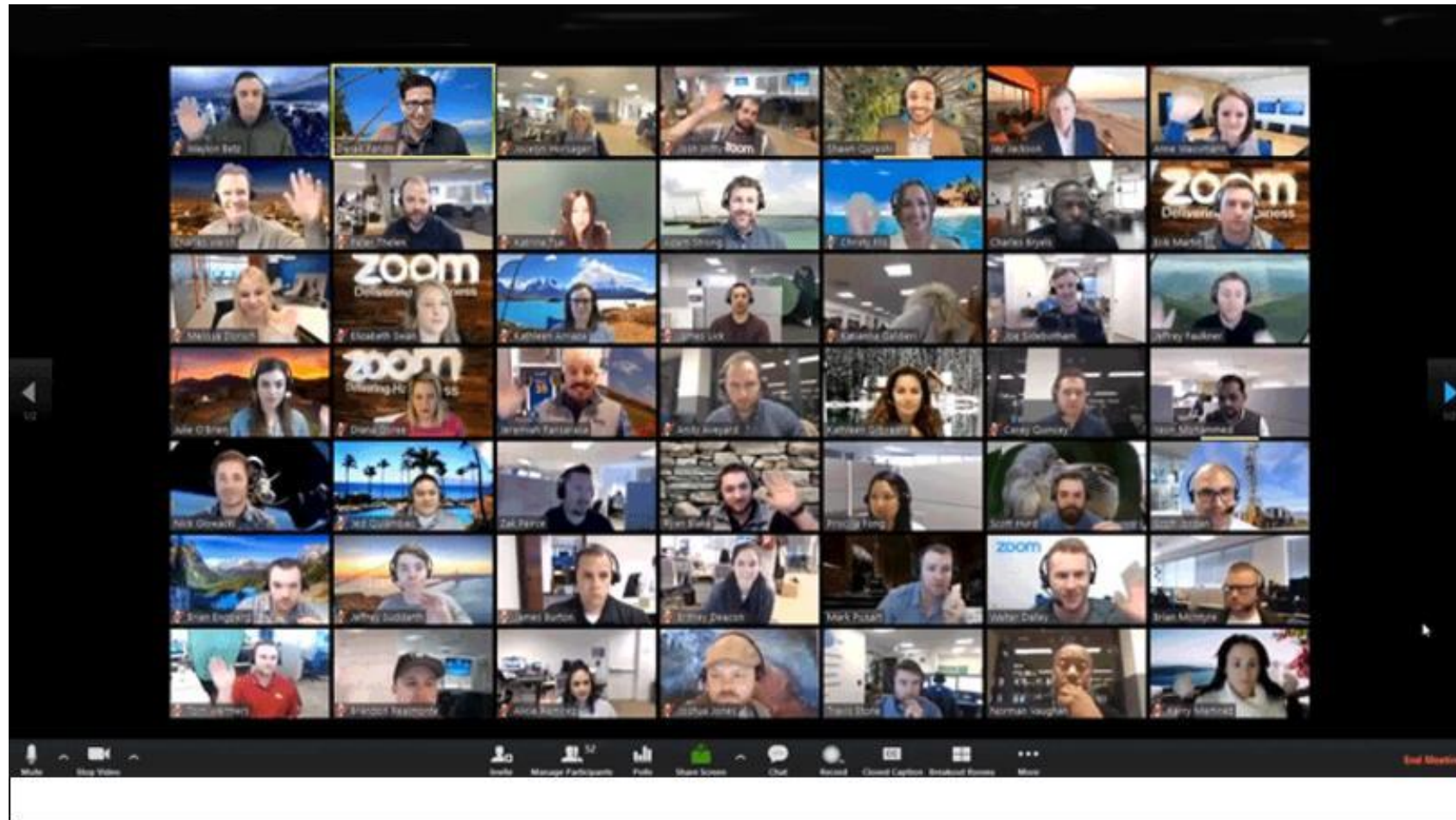


Volunteer and Stewardship Coordinator
Huron River Watershed Council

Huron River Watershed Council



Huron River Watershed Council



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Chime in!



Ways to communicate:

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Next steps

- Upcoming webinars to address other needs/interests expressed in survey
- Sharing slides and recording to:
 - USA Volunteer Monitoring Network, Covid Page (<http://volunteermonitoring.org/covid>)
 - MassBays' "Monitoring Resources" YouTube playlist (<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLqrr9eewSGTKkGPbsqdHrctLuy2stvwdB>)

Thank You and Stay Well!

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