

## Why Monitoring Matters?      Synopsis of Key Outcomes

### Conclusions and Recommendations Lake St. Clair Regional Monitoring

Gary White, Macomb County Health Department

#### Enhance Monitoring

- **Bacteria** - continue implementing IDEP and LSC Assessment Program monitoring
- **Phosphorous and Chloride** - current data warrants programs to identify sources and implement controls.
- **Wet weather** - LSC Monitoring Project - 22% less precipitation than normal.
- **Nutrients** - need to better understand nutrient distribution and human health risks
- **Metals and pesticide** - need to better understand trends in water and sediment

#### Regional Funding Mechanism Needed

- A new state bond similar to CMI
- Continue interagency cooperation to leverage local, state, and federal funding

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#### Turning Info into Action

Chris Harrington, Upper Thames River Conservation Authority

#### Communication of Subwatershed Data is Essential

- Continue using Subwatershed Report cards to communicate data to stakeholders.
- Data summarization, communication and outreach should be a strong component of monitoring programs.
  - Report cards have made monitoring information more accessible and inspired more public participation to address problems.
- Monitoring data should be summarized on the subwatershed scale
  - Smaller scale allows better identification of watershed issues for stakeholders.

#### Increase of Groundwater Monitoring is Needed

- Not enough data for grading.

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#### Communication of Monitoring Information Drives Action

Jim Ridgeway, representing himself

#### Monitoring is a local issue; it must be driven by the public

- Trend of less federal and state support for monitoring will continue. They have an important role – but its not monitoring or enforcement.
- If it's not enforcement driven, then monitoring must be driven by the public.

#### Programs should not get too big and expensive or they won't last

- We must fund our own programs and ideally involve volunteers in them.

#### If monitoring is shared quickly & easily, the public will drive environmental change

- Data should not be kept under wraps until trends are clear.
- Empower your “pied piper” or local champions with enough data to start asking questions and demanding change.