

Table 14. How can we best integrate wetland monitoring and assessment into the ‘traditional’ water quality monitoring programs? Or are wetlands really such a different ecosystem that they need to be considered in a different light?

Moderator: Alan Quakenbush

Vision:

- To preserve the wetland resources we have now, and restore and enhance degraded wetlands
- Wetlands protected at the same level as other waters
- Maintain healthy wetlands and restore degraded wetlands
- No net loss; no more degradation; no more “hurt”
- Maintain healthy watersheds

Issues:

- Funding earmarks or mechanisms needed
- Wetlands are complex; methods from streams used to detect point discharge effects may not apply.
- Need for more education and outreach on the importance of wetlands
- Monitoring strategy needed, with long-time goals, classification, funding
- Wetland quality is important
- Definition of waters: does it really apply to all wetlands?
- There is a connection between wetland health and watershed health
- Condition of wetland important to consider in relation to adjacent land uses
- While it may be easy to integrate monitoring of wetlands adjacent to lakes and streams, what about wetlands with no adjacent water body? Forested wetlands? Headwater?
- Periphyton is a sensitive indicator and should be used in wetland assessment
- Public trust; how does it apply to wetlands?
- Incentives to landowners; tax breaks, easements, etc.

Round 1:

Tom Touchet, Metcalf and Eddy

Bob Nuzzo, Mass DEP

Christine Manuck, VT DEC

Beth Connors, ME DEP

Josh Gorman, VT DEC

Dave Neils, NH DES

Sonja Schuyler, The Johnson company

Round 2:

Kerry Strout, NEIWPC

Julia Eichman, EcoAnalysts, Inc.

Brian Duffy, VT DEC

Nicole Jordan, EnviroScience  
Sarah MacDougall, ENSR  
Diana Heitzman, NY DEC

Round 3:

Ben Jessup, TetraTech  
John Tipping, Lotic Inc.  
Lauren Moore, VT DEC  
Sue Kiernan, RI DEM  
Bill Hanson,?