

A misty river scene with trees and people on the bank. The text is overlaid on the image.

# River Watch North Dakota: The Beginning

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# Background

- River watch is a program designed to involve high school students in water quality monitoring
- Active program in western Minnesota
- Focused on the Red River valley

# Background

- Need for someone to help on the North Dakota side
- A main component of the Prairie Waters Education and Research mission
- We provide equipment:
  - YSI multiprobe sonde
  - Water sampling bottle
  - Hach Turbidimeter







# Background

- Training
  - Calibrating equipment
- Funding
  - Cover 60% of transportation and substitute teacher costs
- Host River Watch Conference twice a year





# Background

- Website for data:
- <http://www.vcsu.edu/prairiewaters/vp.htm?p=2002>
- Currently our website is only accessible to member schools
- They can share information



# Background

- Funding is covered in the Prairie Waters budget
- Planned to start with five schools and eventually add three more in year four of the grant
- Popularity of the program has caused us to speed up that process and add three schools this year

# Background

- Currently work with 8 schools
  - Original 5 – Minot, LaMoure, Mayville  
Portland, Sargent Central, and West  
Fargo
  - Newly added – Kensal, Hillsboro, and  
Valley city

# Challenges

- Travel distance
  - Schools from long distances don't always make it to functions
- How schools run the program
  - Extra curricular activity
    - Best for continuity
  - Class project



# Challenges

- Strong representation in the Red River basin
- What about the rest of the state??
- Monitor the validity of the data

# Vision

- Prairie Waters in working with other entities to start a training program to certify water sampling professionals
- Develop a certification program that schools can take part in
  - If the teachers and students obtain proper certification we could then release their data on the website

# Vision

- Establish regional approach in North Dakota
  - Souris River branch
  - Missouri River branch
  - Red River basin branch
- Conferences would be held at a local site
  - Prairie Waters would organize and present



# Vision

- Find a venue where we can bring all schools together for one conference a year
  - ND Water Quality monitoring council meeting?
  - Meeting at Prairie Waters?

# Vision

- Provide a local focus
- Involve more schools
- Eliminates several long trips to Prairie Waters
- Challenges:
  - Funding – local industry??
  - Recruiting schools

# Thank you

- Joelle Manlove – Education Specialist at Prairie Waters
- Louis Wieland – Lab Manager at Prairie Waters
- North Dakota Department of Health



# Thank you

- Brad Hohnadel – LaMoure High School
- Jake Haag – Sargent Central
- Dean Strand – Mayville/Portland
- Joe Super – Minot
- Sara Forness – West Fargo
- Susan Duffy – Hillsboro
- Mat Nielson – Valley City
- Andrea Anteau - Kensal

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# Questions?

