



Volunteer River Monitoring Program Volunteer Certification Workshop Outline



Indoor Training

(If training is indoors, trainers should fill bucket with water, before beginning training session)

- (1) Introduction of trainers and participants.
- (2) Overview of the VRMP and Maine's Water Classification System.
- (3) Review of basic water quality parameters and their importance.
- (4) Review safety considerations. Volunteers fill out liability forms.
- (5) Review Water Sample Collection and Field Data Sheet and Data Management procedures.

Indoor or Outdoor Training

(if weather is poor, then use bucket and river water in the classroom))

- (6) Overview of VRMP's site description form and how to complete them *(if applicable)*.
 - a. Discussion of various parts of the form and definitions of terms.
 - b. How to use a GPS unit.
 - c. Volunteers practice filling out site description form (see Appendix 6) and then review as a group.
- (7) Calibration procedures and Equipment Checks
 - a. Individual Calibration Procedure
 - b. Zero Dissolved Oxygen Check
 - c. Membrane Cap Replacement
 - d. Sodium Thiosulfate Test
- (8) Review of monitoring procedures and parameters the volunteers will be using and measuring.
- (9) Demonstration of the monitoring procedures by VRMP staff.
- (10) Volunteers practice using equipment until level of comfort is achieved
- (11) Testing of the precision and accuracy of volunteers' equipment and techniques.
- (12) Summary of monitoring steps and protocols.
- (13) Answer any questions and concerns.
- (14) Issue certification forms/cards and evaluation forms.