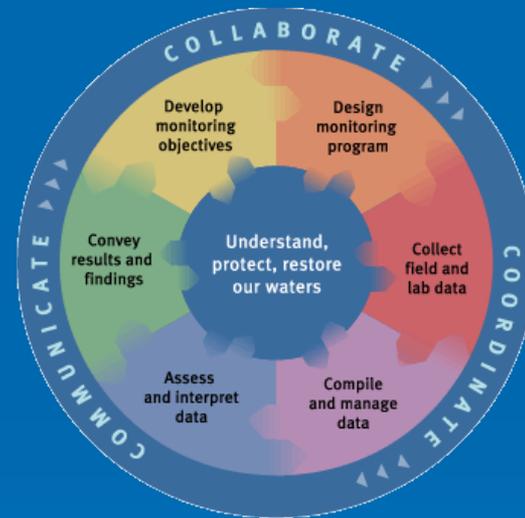


A proposed Vermont Water Monitoring Council – Results of a Needs Survey, and Next Steps



Neil Kamman, VTDEC
Keith Robinson, USGS
Diane Switzer, USEPA

Central Tenet

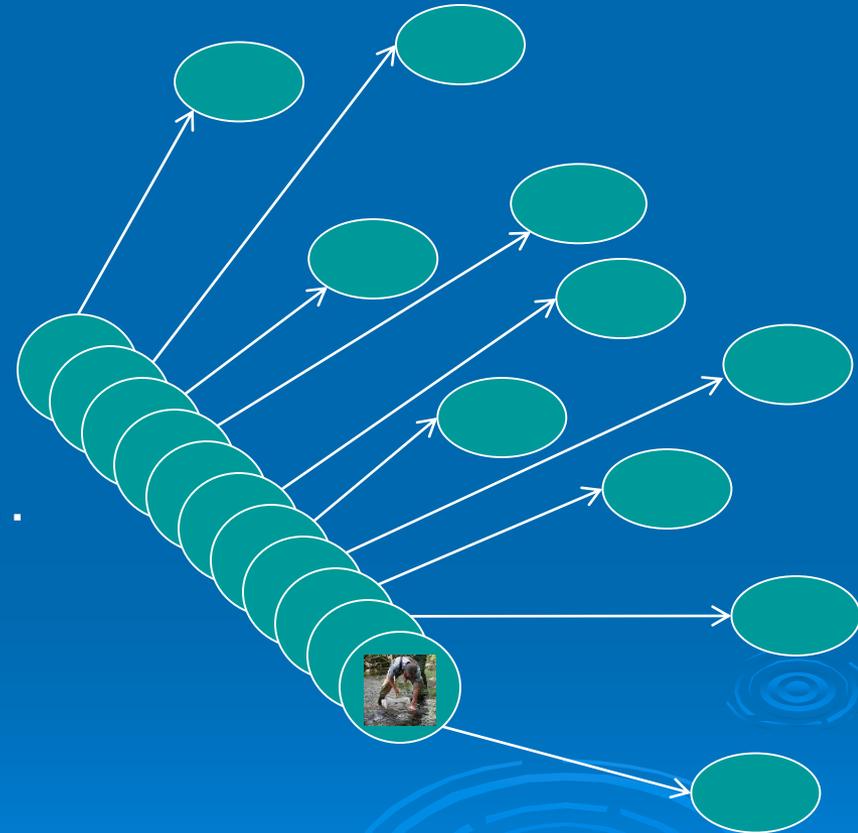
- There is need for water monitoring information among information consumers
 - Federal, State, Municipalities, Watershed and Lake Associations, private sector businesses, and individuals.
- Many of these same entities are producers of water monitoring information of specified scope.
- Not every data consumer knows of each producers 'offerings.'

Which is more cost efficient?

Collect data once and use it many times,



...OR...



collect data many times,
and only use it once?

Prior work towards Council

- ANR and USGS presented the idea of a coordinating Council for water monitoring data at VMC last year.
- Coordinated set of meetings with stakeholder organizations to discuss concept and need.
- Identified prospective roles.
- Drafted mission, goals, objectives.
- Looked at the experiences of other Councils.
- Attended State of NJ Council meeting.

VT Monitoring Council



- Establish and *maintain* relevant long-term networks
- Promote *reliability* of newly collected information
- Promote *stability* in long-term networks
- Provide public *accessibility* of data and information
- Engage stakeholders to ensure *relevancy* of data.

Council perspective on data availability

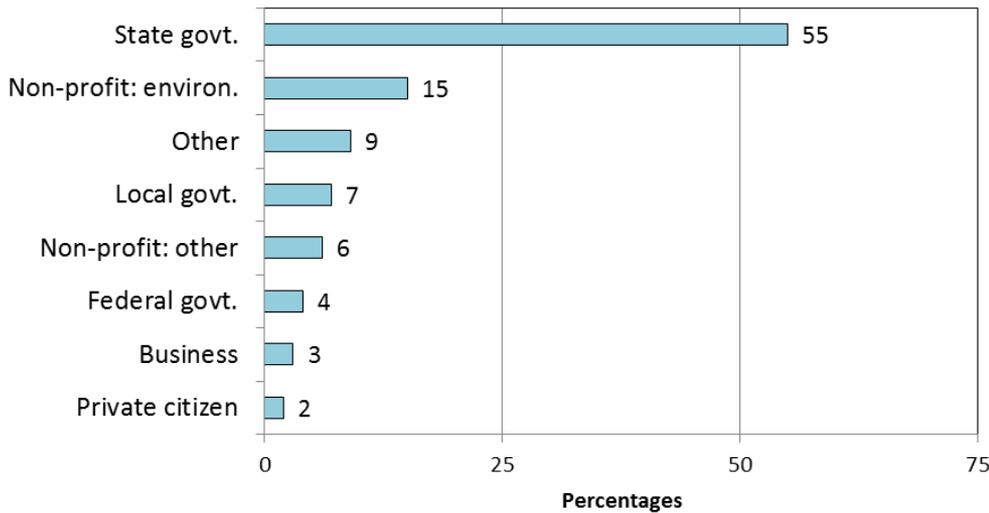
- There is significant cost to operating monitoring networks, borne mostly by public sector and volunteer networks.
- Once obtained, publically-funded data should remain freely available to all (with reasonable timelines for pub.).
- Data quality should be understood by the end user.
- Modern informatics can serve data easily.

Getting the word out

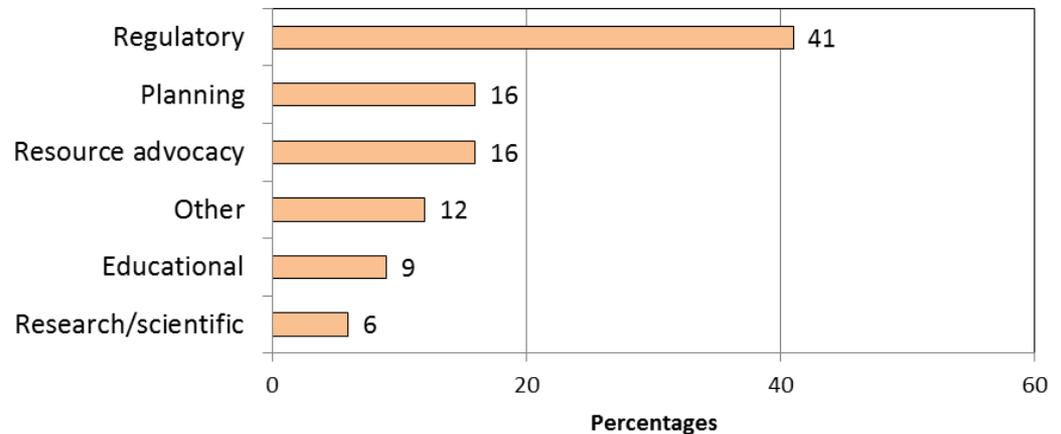
- VT Council took a lesson from State of Oregon
- Survey of ~200 individuals in VT with connections to identified organizations
 - Fed, State, Local Govt
 - Watershed/Lake Assoc's
 - GMWEA/NE Rural Water
 - Consulting engineers/technical services
- 57% aggregate response rate

Who is responding?

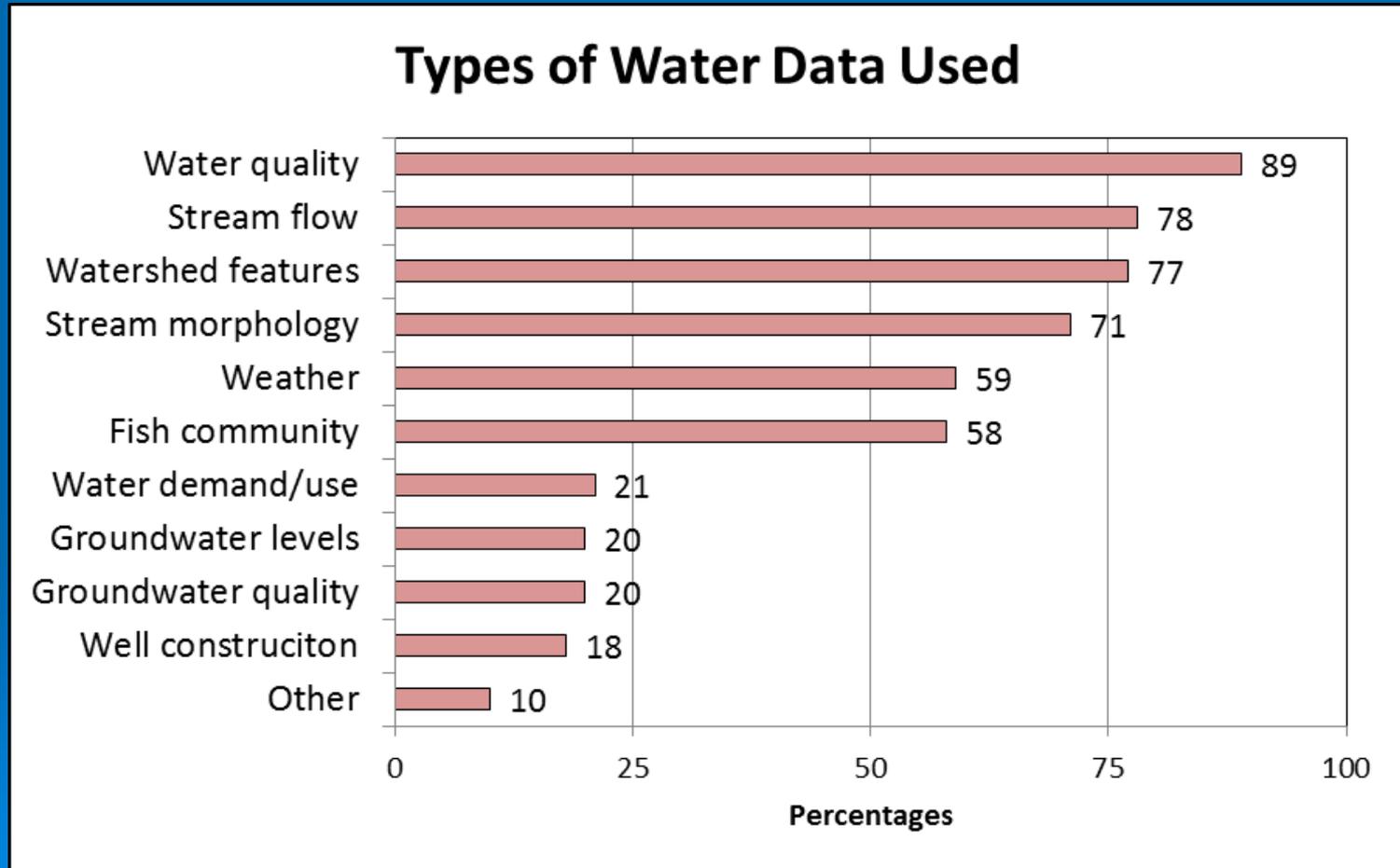
Organization Type



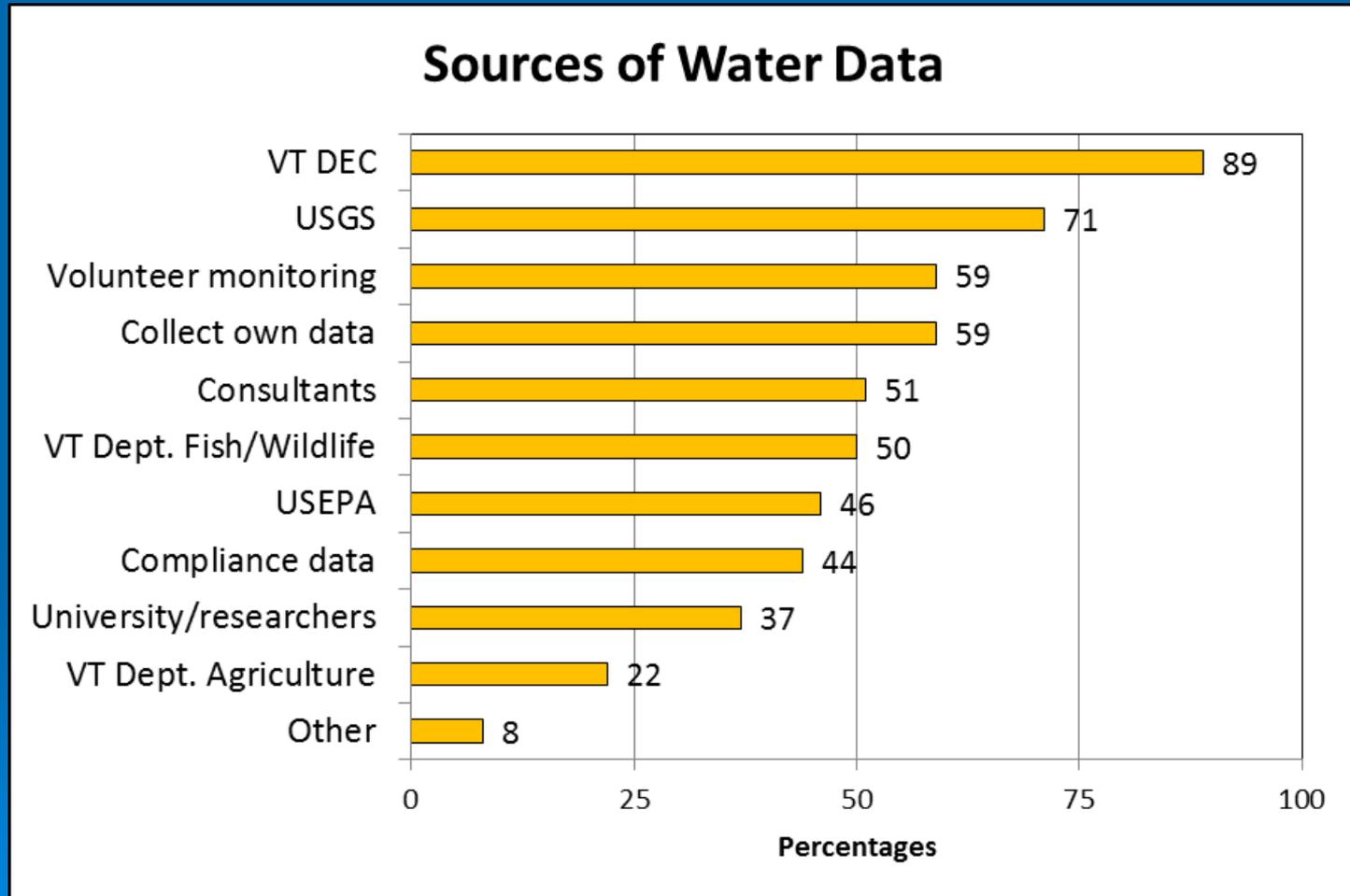
Major Role of Organization



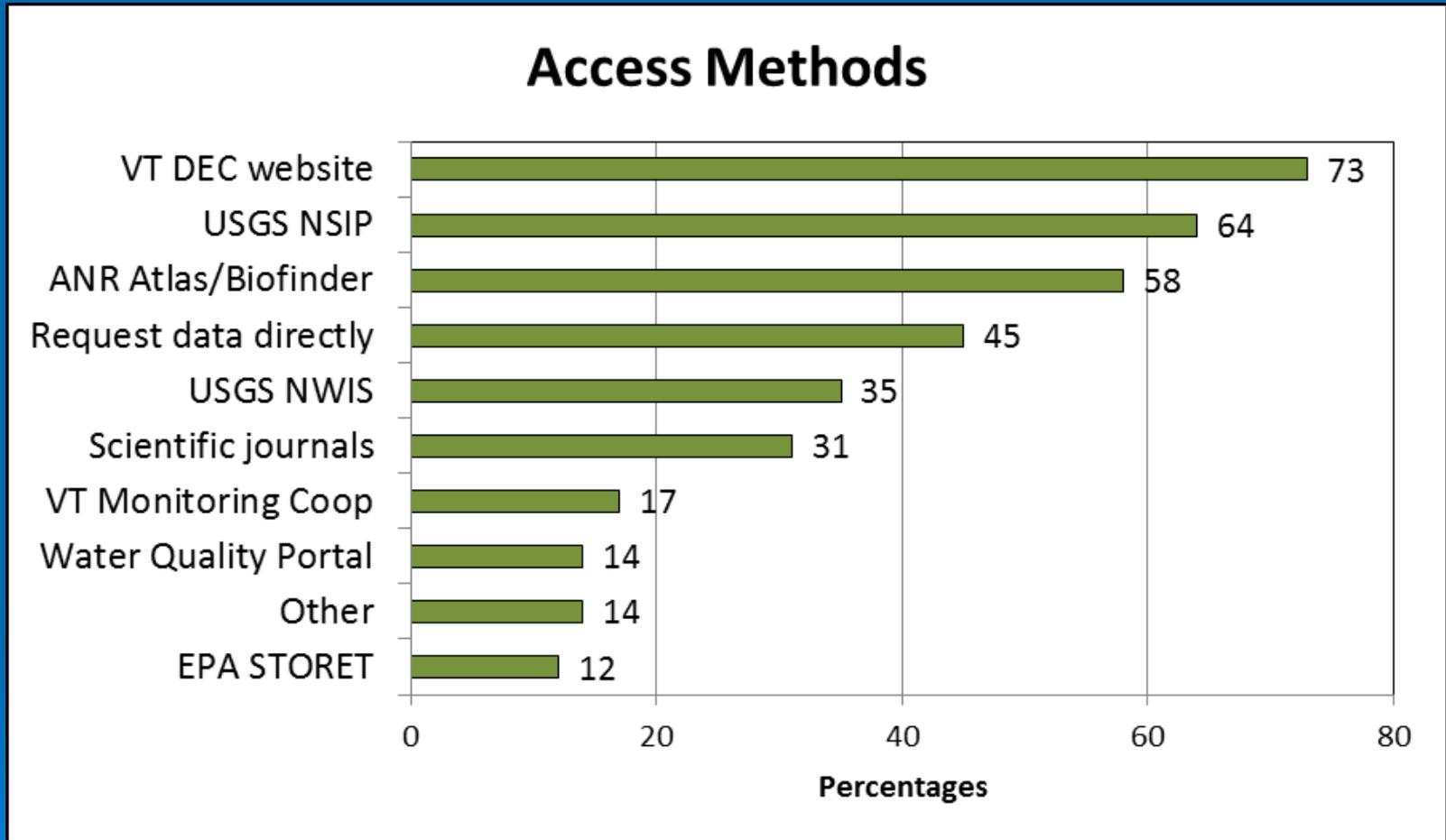
What data types are being used?



Which organization's data are used most often?



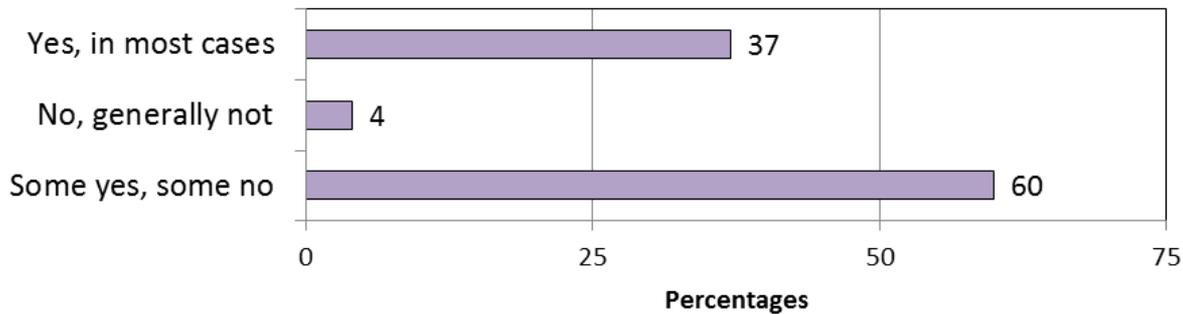
How are the data obtained?



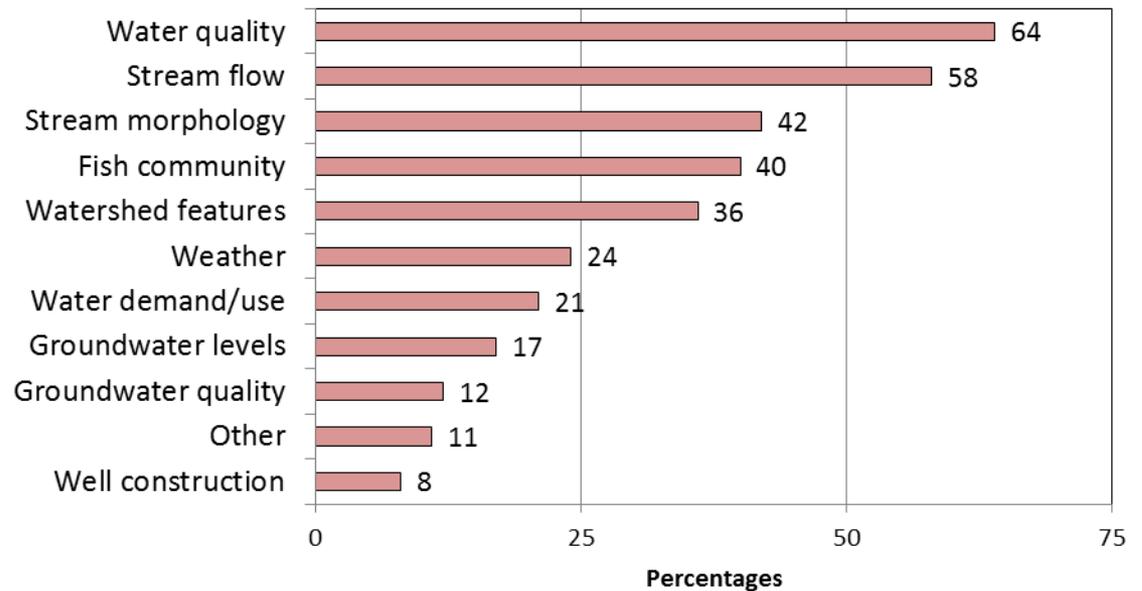
Nearly 50% of respondents are obtaining data weekly or daily!

What is missing?

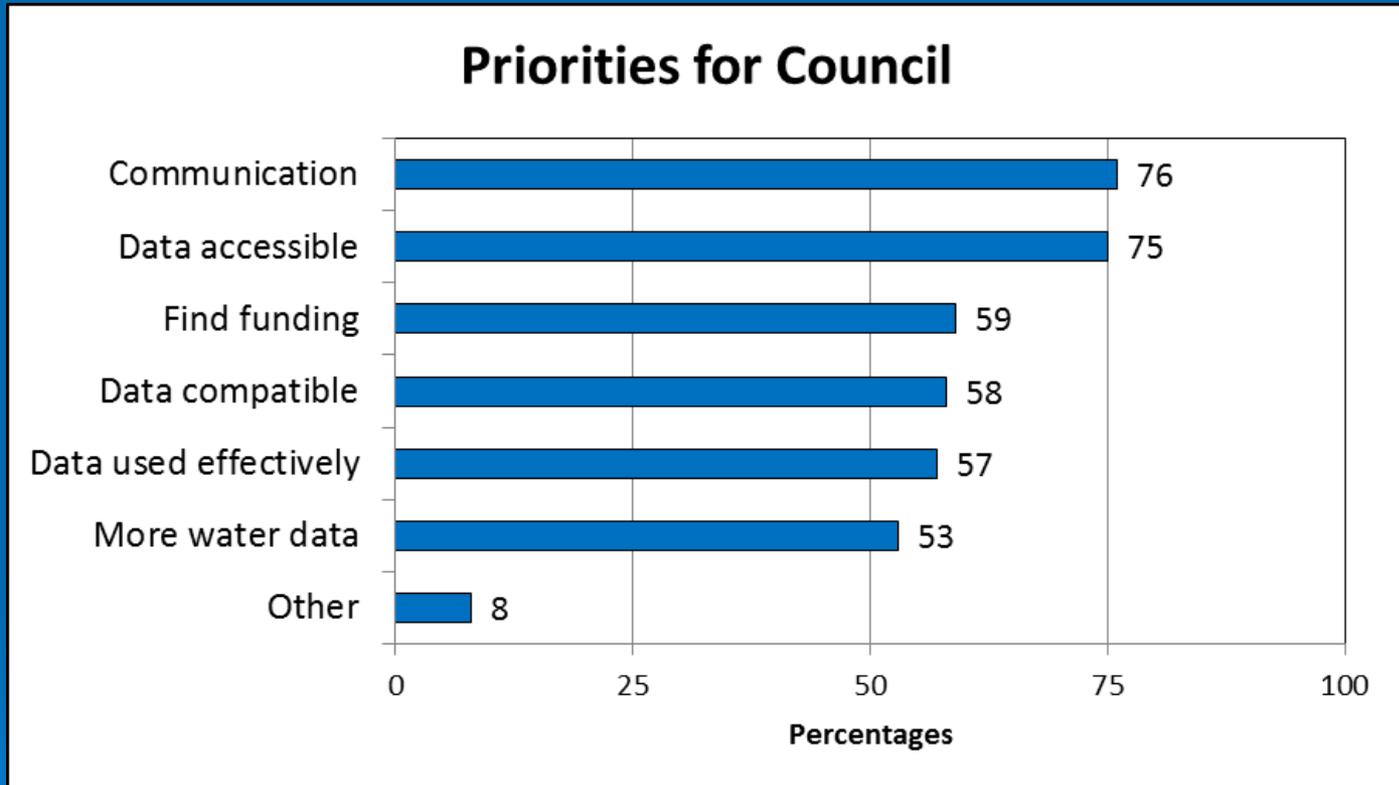
Current Data Adequate?



Like to See More

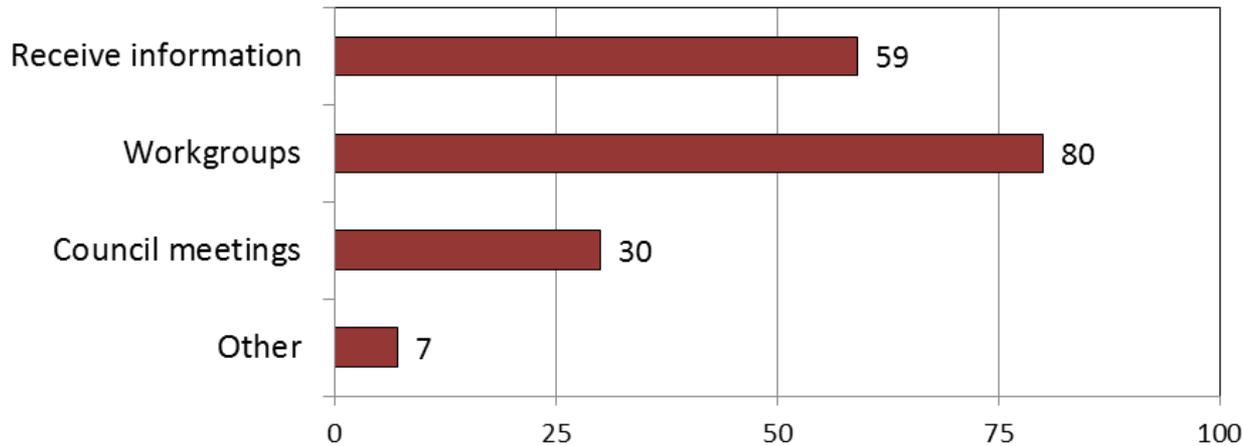


Where should the Council focus?

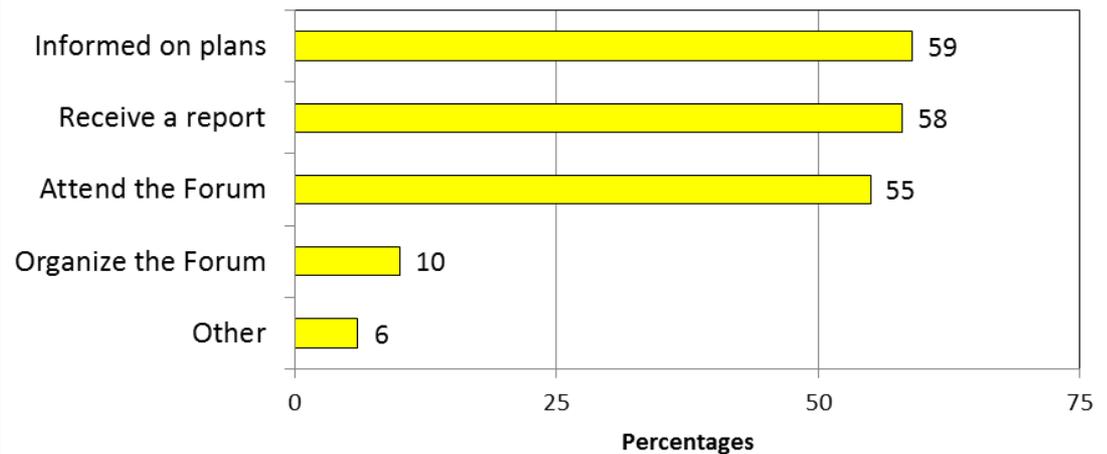


There is *significant* interest

Participation in Council



Participation in Forum



Main findings

- Considerable interest in availability of data
- Considerable interest in a Council
- While the State is the largest producer and consumer of data, there are large needs among other organizations
- Most beneficial enhancements will be expanded WQ data and stream gauging data.

Next Steps

- Setting up webpage (USGS to host)
- Letter to survey recipients thanking for participation (pre-Holiday week)
- Circulate survey results (mid-January)
- Council coordination meeting (Feb 13, 2014)
- Council session at NEAEB meeting (last week March)
- ANR and USGS propose to initially focus on support of stream gauging using a workgroup process

For More Information



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