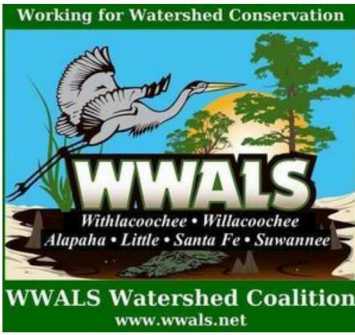


November 16, 2020, updated 2023-01-06 and 2024-04-05



To: WWALS water quality testers

Re: **Quality assurance and quality control (QA/QC)**

Dear Testers,

Thank you very much for volunteering to be a WWALS water quality team member.

As more testers are coming on board, it is useful to review and document our quality control methods.

This document mostly concentrates on bacterial tests and results, since we use those to track contamination events in our waterways, and we have access to quite a bit of comparable data from Valdosta, GA, several Florida agencies, and other sources.



Why Quality Assurance is Important

Mutual Support

All WWALS testers have already been through the Georgia Adopt-A-Stream (AAS) testing training, which provides the details on how to do the testing, including basic quality assurance.

AAS Bacterial Monitoring Presentation

<https://adoptastream.georgia.gov/document/document/bacterial-qaqc-workshop-presentationno-backgroundmay-2022/download>

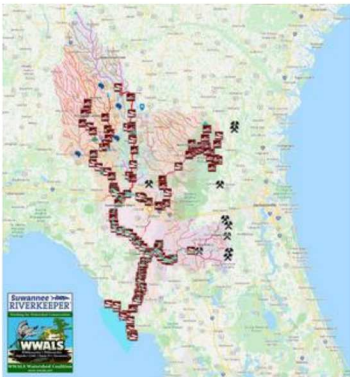
AAS Bacterial Monitoring Manual

<https://adoptastream.georgia.gov/document/document/bacterial-manual-updated-address/download>

AAS's instructions are essentially the same as 3M's own *PetriFilm Interpretation Guide*:

<https://multimedia.3m.com/mws/media/2362460/petriefilm-ecoli-coliform-interpretation-guide.pdf>

Why is the present document necessary, then? The Miller Pyramid is a useful illustration:



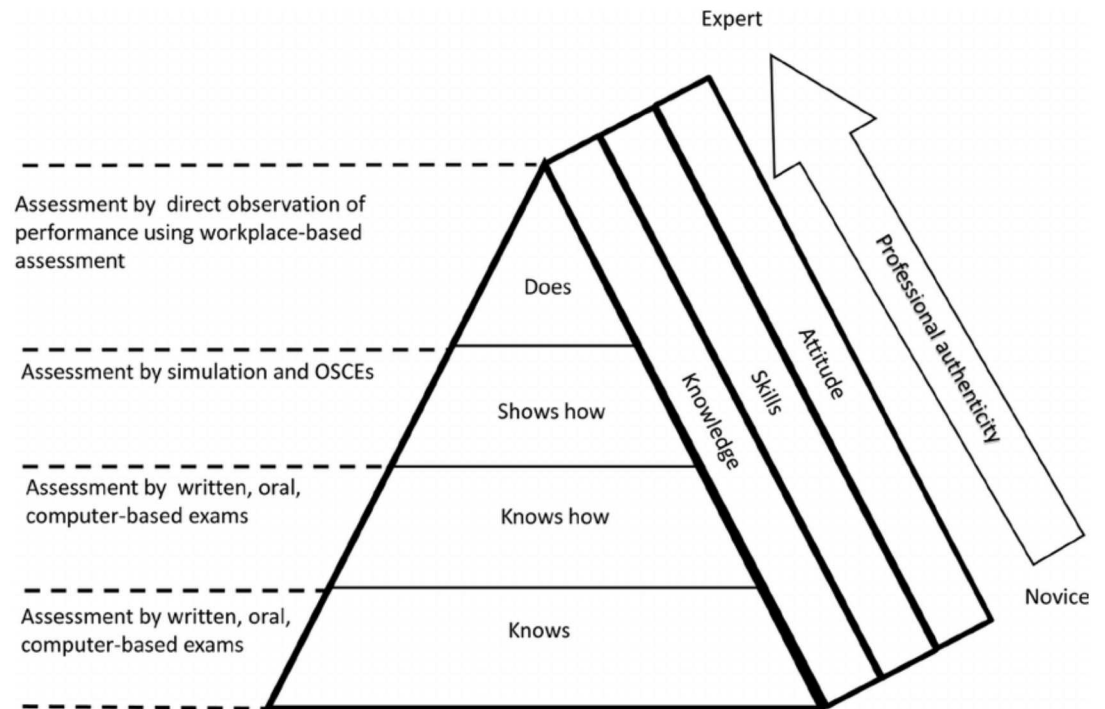
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WWALS is an IRS 501(c)(3)
nonprofit charity est. June 2012

WWALS advocates for conservation and stewardship of the surface waters and groundwater of the Suwannee River Basin and Estuary, in south Georgia and north Florida, among them the Withlacoochee, Willacoochee, Alapaha, Little, Santa Fe, and Suwannee River watersheds, through education, awareness, environmental monitoring, and citizen activities.



Miller's pyramid of clinical competence Modified from Miller, G.E. The assessment of clinical skills/competence/performance. Acad. Med. 1990;65(9):s63-s67. Via [Jill Marie Norris](#).

