

RESOLUTION
of the
Advisory Committee on Water Information
Approving the Synthesis Report on Pilot Testing the National Ground-Water Monitoring Network and
Adopting a Conceptual Plan for Facilitating Full-Scale Implementation of a
National Ground Water Monitoring Network for the U.S.

Whereas: The Advisory Committee on Water Information (ACWI) is charged by the Office of Management and Budget through its Memorandum No. M92-01 to recommend to the Federal government procedures to coordinate funding, staffing, and the provision of other resources needed to support water-information activities for ensuring the best use of available resources; and

Whereas: The ACWI approved the creation of its Subcommittee on Ground Water (SOGW) at its Annual Meeting in 2007, charging the Subcommittee with developing a framework design for a National Ground Water Monitoring Network; and

Whereas: The ACWI accepted the Framework Document for, and adopted a plan for the pilot-testing of a National Ground Water Monitoring Network at its Annual Meeting in 2009; and

Whereas: The U.S. Congress passed the SECURE Water Act in 2009, which authorizes the National Ground Water Monitoring Network and directs that the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) coordinate with ACWI and local water resources agencies on development and implementation of the Network. The Congress passed this legislation partly in response to efforts, such as the Heinz Center reports on *The State of the Nation's Ecosystems*, the National Ground Water Association's report on groundwater availability and information needs, and the National Science and Technology Council report on water availability and quality in the U.S., which all indicated the significant need for coordinated and comprehensive ground-water monitoring in light of pressing problems related to ground-water supply, resource sustainability, and ecological system support from ground water; and

Whereas: The House of Representatives has included report language accompanying the House FY 2012 Department of the Interior, Environment and Related Agencies bill which calls for the USGS to include with its fiscal year 2013 budget request a proposal to establish a national groundwater monitoring network as authorized by the SECURE Water Act; and

Whereas: The ACWI Subcommittee on Ground Water has followed through by leading the pilot-testing of a National Ground Water Monitoring Network that was approved by ACWI at its Annual Meeting in 2009. The pilot-testing was conducted by the volunteer efforts of six states within five pilot-test projects, culminating in proof-of-concept as reported by each project and as documented by the SOGW in the Synthesis Report that has been submitted for ACWI review. In addition, as part of the pilot-testing, the USGS created, tested, and implemented a web portal for data from the pilot-testing states to flow to analysts successfully, using internationally-accepted techniques for data-sharing; and

Whereas: The SOGW has formulated a Plan for Full-Scale Implementation of a National Ground Water Monitoring Network that has been presented at the ACWI Annual Meeting in 2011. The plan includes updating of the Framework Document to reflect the results of the pilot-testing that was conducted by the volunteer efforts of six states within five pilot-test projects, and to acknowledge the need for continuing development and improvement of the web data portal; and the plan also includes the recommended role of ACWI and the SOGW for facilitating the full-scale implementation and serving in an oversight role as defined in the SECURE Water Act and within the approved Framework Document;

Now Therefore Be it Resolved that the Advisory Committee on Water Information approves the synthesis report "National Ground-Water Monitoring Network---Results of Pilots Studies", as submitted to the ACWI

for review in June 2011; and the ACWI will make the this “Synthesis Report” available to the Department of the Interior, the Office of Management and Budget, the Council on Environmental Quality, the Office of Science and Technology Policy, and the ACWI member organizations; and

Be it Also Resolved that the Advisory Committee on Water Information appreciates the tremendous volunteer efforts of the National Ground-Water Monitoring Network pilot projects in Illinois-Indiana, Minnesota, Montana, New Jersey, and Texas, and accepts the comprehensive reports submitted by each pilot project; and

Be it Also Resolved that the Advisory Committee on Water Information approves the conceptual full-scale network implementation plan for the National Ground Water Monitoring Network as presented at the 2011 annual meeting of ACWI, with this approval including support for updating of the Framework Document (including consideration and appropriate inclusion of changes based on comments received from ACWI and other stakeholders), and for the Subcommittee on Ground Water to move forward with facilitation and oversight of a full-scale Network; and

Be it Also Resolved that the Advisory Committee on Water Information approves the continuation of the four Working Groups within the Subcommittee on Ground Water (Inventory, Field Practices, and Data Standards and Data Management) and the reorganization of the fourth Working Group (Design) into the Implementation Working Group.

Presented to ACWI July 13, 2011