

ACWI
Streamflow Information Collaborative (SIC) Conference Call
Monday, March 5, 2018
10:30am Central

Phone: 1-855-547-8255 (toll free), Access Code 74449#
1-703-648-4848, Access Code 74449#

WEBEX: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/137353901>

Call Purpose:

- Overview of National Water Quality Portal
- Provide input on key elements to characterize portals
- Update on streamflow related activities

Agenda:

- Approval of agenda – additions/deletions
- Approval of previous meeting minutes
- National Water Quality Portal presentation
- Key elements to characterize portals
- Info exchange – streamflow information related activities
- Upcoming meetings

Attendees:

Ryan Mueller, Co-Chair (IN DNR), Mike Woodside, Co-Chair (USGS)
Jim Kreft (USGS), Sarah Kreitzer (OSMRE), Claudia Hoeft (NRCS), Sara Larsen (Western States Water Council), Sandy Eberts (USGS), Scott Rogerson (NOAA), Richard Antoine (NOAA), Will Thomas (Michael Baker International), Dave Goodrich (USDA), Michele Eddy (RTI), LaSanias Broyles (USACE)

Approval of agenda – additions/deletions:

Agenda approved with the following additions ...

- (1) Introduction of Richard Antoine, newly hired NOAA GOES Data Collection System (GOES-DCS) Program Manager
- (2) Quick discussion of SIC member use of the GOES-DCS

Approval of previous meeting minutes:

Minutes from 2/5/2018 were adopted

Agenda addition:

- (1) New NOAA GOES-DCS Program Manager ...
Richard Antoine was recently hired as the GOES-DCS Program Manager, replacing the Acting Manager Scott Robertson. Richard recently retired from the Air Force. Richard will be attending the upcoming Miami meeting.
- (2) Examples of member use of GOES-DCS ...
 - Ryan Mueller ... served as Director of Water for the State of MO for 10 years ... 170 real-times observation wells ... some precipitation & soil moisture instrumentation ... data were served through GOES ... MO staff worked w/ USGS ...
 - Mike Woodside ... USGS heavily relies on GOES ... 8200 real-time streamflow gages rely on the system ... concerned about encroachment on the GOES frequency and what that could mean to data loss... important for situational awareness

- USCOE relies heavily on GOES ... wants to hear more at an upcoming meeting in Miami on encroachment ...

National Water Quality Portal presentation – Jim Kreft (USGS, Wisconsin):

The National Water Quality Portal (WQP) is an operational, standalone web-service that allows users to easily download USGS, USEPA and USDA and others' water-quality data from a single website. The WQP is not a system of record. It is standards driven and uses the water quality exchange (WQX) template. The benefit is a one-stop data shop (except for continuous data). It has a highly usable interface that makes data available and visible. There are currently 349.9 million records available through the portal. There are many data contributors, but vast amounts of data are still not included. The data are mostly physical and chemical data, but there are some QA/QC data as well. The WQP has seen a steady increase in usage, especially since it was made available to Google so that more people could find it. 32-billion rows of data were served in 2017. Direct calls for data far outstrip downloads. The WQP was built using Responsive Design. It can be used on any device. The current focus is on system performance. There is discussion of moving the WQP to the Cloud. Data quality is becoming an issue. There also is focus on high value data display and discovery (ex. the ability to identify sites upstream and downstream by using a separate database/network linked data index). The team is working with stakeholders to develop a summarization service & data analysis tool. Over 70 publications already cite the WQP. A future challenge is how to integrate assessment networks, as is how to include continuous monitoring data. The WQP is hosted at the USGS EROS Data Center. There currently is no redundancy, but this issue could be solved by moving to the Cloud. If move to the Cloud there might be a need to limit the size of downloads. This needs to be explored.

Question: Are the data cached or does the WQP reach out on the fly? Answer: Cached in order to drive high performance web services. NWIS systems are refreshed daily. EPA systems are refreshed 2-3 times per week. Question: Are there downloadable metadata standards for the different providers? Answer: A workgroup sat down and established a standard and elements in the standard that are necessary for reuse of the data. It took years to crosswalk parameter codes.

Key Elements to Characterize Portals:

Mike Woodside presented an Excel spreadsheet that suggests info the SIC should record when evaluating portals. Standards will need to be a big part of the portal discussion for the SIC. Someone noted that it would be worth documenting which portals make use of linked data. It was noted that infrastructure is important. Sarah Larsen has a portal that reaches back and provides data on the fly; her group is looking to make use of the Cloud so that there aren't performance issues. She wants to know what some smaller (than USGS) organizations have been able to achieve. Sarah offered a demo of WaDE. Ryan Mueller asked everyone to look at Woodside's spreadsheet to review on next call.

Info exchange – streamflow information related activities:

USGS 2017 hurricane response activities and recent flooding.

Woodside showed USGS WaterWatch (<https://waterwatch.usgs.gov/>). It was noted that USGS puts out storm tide sensors during hydrologic events. Woodside showed two event viewers, (1) current Nor'easter, and (2) Hurricane Harvey (<https://stn.wim.usgs.gov/fev/#HarveyAug2017>).

Upcoming meetings:

- Connecting Texas Water—Data Workshop coming up April 2018. Invitation Only.
- Joint Washington Round Table [meeting](#) is next week; Crystal Gateway Marriott, Crystal City

Next SIC Meeting:

April Meeting—Monday, April 2, 2018 10:30am central. National Groundwater Monitoring Network portal was discussed as a possible agenda topic. There also was a suggestion to include a

webinar on the ARS experimental watershed network during an upcoming call/meeting. The network includes monitoring of headwater streams that are often not monitored due to their intermittent nature.