



Methods & Data Comparability Board

Albany, New York Board Meeting

Nov. 17th-21st, 2003

Website: http://wi.water.usgs.gov/methodsboard/albany_03/
(user=methods; password=nocarp99)

Meeting Rooms

**New York Dept. of Environmental
Conservation**

New York Dept. of Health

Phone Numbers: 518-402-8179
Fax Number: 518-402-9029
(Attn: Sharon Hotaling)

(Wednesday Morning Only)

Hotel Info:

Crowne Plaza Albany

Phone: 1-518-462-6611

Board Meeting Structure:

Based on discussion following the RTP meeting, our meeting format has been lengthened to allow more time for workgroup meetings. The meeting agenda is quite full and runs through the middle of the day on Friday, so plan departure flights no earlier than mid-afternoon on the 21st.

Major Board Meeting Objectives:

- Review outreach tools and determine most effective
- Discuss funding and implications for Board activities
- Discuss Board Workplans and project status
- Establish contact with external parties through interactions with invited participants
- Finalize Board website
- Discuss and resolve issues concerning ACWI approved WQDE
- Discuss status of NEMI and its implementation, including externalization for non-water methods
- Review status of NELAC in light of ACWI's adopted recommendations concerning Federal lab accreditation
- Discuss relationship of Board to EPA's Forum on Environmental Measurements
- Discuss Specific Board Participation in National Conference

Call-in Lines:

- Line 1: (513) 569-7897 code: 6668#
- Line 2: (513) 569-7897 code: 8666#

All Times Are Eastern Standard

Monday, Nov. 17		
6:00 p.m.	Outreach Meeting Chaired by: Dennis McChesney	Dennis' hotel suite
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conference• New and recent pubs• Website• Newsletter• Maintenance of Board roster and distribution lists• WQDE – marketing to State and regional councils	
Tuesday, Nov. 18		
8:30-10:00	NEMI Workgroup Chaired by: Larry Keith	DEC Room 424 Call-in line #1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• New Workgroup Co-Chair• Budget status• Vision for NEMI• Web site update• Steering Committee for externalizing non-water methods• Uploading methods from staging area• Inclusion of remaining water regulatory methods and information• Adding additional chemistry, microbiology, and radiological methods• Inclusion of field and biological methods• Method subcategories• Methods submission criteria; on-line forms• Outreach, publications, success stories• National Conference participation• Status of NEMI-CBR	
8:30-10:00	Room Set-up	DEC Room 129
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Those not involved in NEMI workgroup or other activities can assist in setting up phones, computers, overheads, donuts, etc.	

10:00-10:15	Break	
10:15-10:35	DEC Welcome Sandra Allen, Director, NY DEC Division of Water	DEC Room 129 Call-in line #1
10:35-12:00	FEM Discussion and Related Topics Barbara Finazzo, Director, EPA Region 2 Division of Environmental Science and Assessment and Herb Brass	DEC Room 129 Call-in line #1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of FEM activities • Overview of Methods Board activities • Discussion of FEM--Board interaction • FACA requirements • Relationship Between Methods Board and FEM activities 	
12:00-1:00	Lunch	
1:00-1:30	Board Business Chaired by: Herb Brass and Charlie Peters	DEC Room 129 Call-in line #1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review goals and agenda, structure of meeting 	
Concurrent Sessions		
1:30-5:30	NEMI – cont.	DEC Room 424 Call-in line #1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue from morning agenda • Meet for ~1 hour with Biology Workgroup: review methods in Staging Area 	
1:00-5:30	Biological WQDE -- Chaired by: LeAnne Astin Chem/Micro, Other WQDE Issues – Chaired by Chuck Job, Charlie Peters, Chuck Spooner	DEC Room 430 Call-in line #2
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bio WQDE issues • Session at National Conference • EPA Challenge Grant for electronic data exchange of water quality data • Web Site update • Fact sheet • Chem/micro issues (USGS) • WQDE Tech Report • Laboratory Data Elements – EDSC (Tony Jover) – time permitting 	

Wednesday, Nov. 19		
8:00-12:00	Invited Speakers See separate agenda for more detail	DOH – David Axelrod Theater
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8-8:15 Welcome • 8:15-8:30 Methods Board • 8:30-9:00 NELAC • 9:00-9:30 Early Warning Biomonitoring System • 9:30-10:00 NYC Phosphorus Comparability Study Results • 10:00-10:20 Break • 10:20-10:50 NY DOH Wadsworth Laboratories • 10:50-11:20 FBI Microbial Genetics and Forensics • 11:20-12:00 Environmental Methods Data Systems and Expert Systems 	
Concurrent Sessions		
1:00-3:00	NYC Phosphorus Comparability Workshop Open Forum	DEC Room 424 Call-in Line #1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of Comparability Study • Identify opportunities and lessons learned • Use of comparability data by ultimate data users 	
1:00-3:00	NEMI-CBR Workshop Open Forum	DEC Room 919 Call-in line #2
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation and discussion of four systems—NEMI-CBR, Water Advisor, NEMI, and EMMA • Discussion of format, utility, appropriateness, and completeness of the data systems and expert systems 	
3:00-3:15	Break	
3:15-4:00	Workgroup & Workshop Report-backs Larry Keith, Dennis McChesney, LeAnne Astin, Herb Brass, Charlie Peters	DEC Room 424 Call-in Line #1
4:00-5:30	New Technologies Workgroup	DEC Room 424

	Chaired by: Katherine Alben and Eric Volwinkel	Call-in Line #1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workplan, objectives, projects, future direction • External Website • Archives • NOAA movies and more 	
4:00-5:30	Website workgroup Chaired by: Ed Johnson	DEC Room 919 Call-in Line #2
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Status of Web site • Discuss meetings with Workgroups to date • Follow-up actions to be completed at Board meeting 	
Thursday, Nov. 20		
Concurrent Sessions		
8:30-10:00	Accreditation Workgroup Chaired by: Bart Simmons and Merle Shockey	DEC Room 418 Call-in Line #1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web site update • NELAC field activities standard (Chapter 7) • INELA proposed revision to Chapter 7 • State lab accreditation issue (Krueger) • Discussion with Ken Jackson • State accreditation white paper • Participation in National Conference 	
8:30-10:00	PBS Workgroup Chaired by: Cliff Annis	DEC Room 430 Call-in Line #2
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Website update • DQO Comparability Paper • COD Pilot Report • Conference Planning – PBS Workshop, Comparability Session, Review of relevant abstracts 	
10:00-10:20	Break	
10:20-12:00	Accreditation Workgroup – continued.	
10:20-12:00	PBS Workgroup – continued.	
12:00-1:00	Lunch	

1:00-1:30	Report-Backs Katherine Alben, Bart Simmons, Cliff Annis	DEC Room 424 Call-in line #1
1:30-5:30	Conference Preparation	DEC Room 424 Call-in Line #1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of conference • Review Methods Board participation • Discuss workshop and comparability session plans • Discuss draft Methods session thoughts and specific abstracts • Discuss session moderators • Determine if there are any presentations that need to be invited • Discuss vendor list and solicit individuals to make contacts 	
2:30-2:50	Break	
3:30-5:30	Website Workgroup – cont. from Wednesday pm, (as needed) Chaired by: Ed Johnson	DEC Room 430 Call-in Line #2
6:00	Steering Committee Meeting	Dennis' hotel suite
Friday, Nov. 21		
8:30-11:30	Full Board Meeting – Board Business	DEC Room 919 Call-in line #1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conference and Website Report-backs • Major Meeting Conclusions and Discussion • Discuss Workplans and Updating them • Roster and Delegate Rotation • Schedule next meeting and format 	
11:30	Adjourn	