History of the Advisory Committee on Water Information’s
*ad hoc* Workgroup on USGS Monitoring Challenges

At the July 10-11, 2012, meeting of the Advisory Committee on Water Information (ACWI), Assistant Secretary for Water and Science Anne Castle challenged ACWI to examine the state of the USGS water monitoring networks (streamgages, groundwater monitoring, and water quality), and make recommendations on how best to stabilize and strengthen these networks, in the face of static budgets. Some of the questions to be investigated include –

- Can we "get a bigger bang for our buck"?
- Can we make better use of new sensor technologies?
- Can we change the way we think about and manage our networks, to get the kind of coverage we need and can afford?
- Can we use modeling to help us understand conditions at un-gaged locations, rather than build new gages?
- Should we reevaluate the need to have all our data meet the highest gold-standard?

Several ACWI member organizations volunteered to participate in an *ad hoc* workgroup to examine these and many other questions. The group is being chaired by a representative from the Interstate Council on Water Policy. The organizations who initially indicated that they wanted to be involved in this task include –

- American Society of Civil Engineers
- American Society of State Floodplain Managers
- American Water Works Association
- Association of American State Geologists
- Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies
- Association of State Drinking Water Administrators
- Electric Power Research Institute
- Ground Water Protection Council
- Interstate Council on Water Policy
- National Council on Air and Stream Improvement
- National Ground Water Association
- North American Lake Management Society
- Nuclear Regulatory Commission
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- Water Environment Federation
- Western States Water Council

Additional participants include USGS Water Senior Staff and Program Coordinators, and the Chairs and Co-Chairs of the various ACWI Subcommittees:

- National Water Quality Monitoring Council
- Subcommittee on Hydrology
- Subcommittee on Ground Water
- Subcommittee on Sedimentation
- Subcommittee on Spatial Water Data
- Sustainable Water Resources Roundtable
- Water Resources Adaptation to Climate Change Workgroup
- National Liaison Committee for the National Water-Quality Assessment Program

The group has been holding teleconferences every other week and is aiming to have written recommendations for Assistant Secretary Castle by early July 2013.

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