

MISSION OF THE ACWI SUBCOMMITTEE ON GROUND WATER

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ABSTRACT

The Federal Advisory Committee on Water Information (ACWI) Subcommittee on Ground Water (SOGW), created in January 2007, has been working steadily to develop and encourage implementation of a nationwide, long-term ground-water quantity and quality monitoring framework. This paper serves as an explanation of the mission of the SOGW, along with a brief history of SOGW.

The SOGW grew out of efforts initiated over 10 years ago as well as from the overall mission of ACWI. Recently, the development of the coastal water-quality-oriented National Monitoring Network triggered related interest on the part of several ground-water professionals, who identified the need for similar efforts for ground water. This led to formulation of a steering committee for exploring the need, which resulted in a strong show of support through volunteer participation from federal, state, private-sector, and academic areas. The ACWI approved the SOGW early last year, with the primary mission assigned as the development of a national framework to facilitate assessments of the quantity of U.S. ground-water reserves, as constrained by ground-water quality.

The SOGW targeted this conference for discussion of the framework document, because of the conference themes of monitoring design, collaboration among organizations, and data sharing – all of which appear as critical elements in nationwide ground-water monitoring. The SOGW mission includes addressing several issues regarding network design, as well as developing plans for concept-testing, evaluation of costs and benefits, and rolling up from pilot-test results to full-scale implementation within a reasonable time period. The SOGW related sessions at this conference represent an important opportunity to take steps toward implementation, through sharing of experiences and ideas among ground-water professionals, as well as those from other disciplines.

KEYWORDS

network, national, ground water, monitoring