

NWQMC Steering Committee Minutes for August 2, 2019

Meeting Attendees: Gary Rowe, Susan Holdsworth, Dan Sullivan, Kris McSwain, Julie Vastine, Jeff Schloss, Lareina Guenzel, Marie DeLorenzo

1. Membership Updates (Susan & Gary)

- No updates since 7/12 NWQMC steering committee meeting
- Jeff Adams participating informally

2. ACWI Updates (Kris McSwain)

- Kris is required to attend all Work Group meetings and needs to be informed and invited of all meetings. She also needs an agenda for our work group meetings before they happen. Email her at kmcswain@usgs.gov. Check the calendar at <https://acwi.gov/upcom.html> to see her availability before scheduling workgroup meetings.
- We are moving forward with business as usual until we hear more information. If ACWI is selected to shutdown, Kris will advise Gary and Susan ASAP to coordinate a smooth glide path.
- Preplanning for shutdown is premature, but may become a future discussion item, especially if FY2020 Budget talks become an issue.

3. National Monitoring Conference Update

- Jeff discussed results of the Conference survey (shown below)
 - Preference for year for the NMC Conference (N=27) 2021- 15 (55.6%) 2022 -12 (44.4)
 - Preference for venue – Madison WI and San Antonio TX: 13 (15.3%)

Hartford CT and Salt Lake City UT:	11 (12.9%)
Kansas City MO	10 (11.8%)
Chicago, IL and Atlanta GA	9 (10.6%)
Hartford CT	6 (7.0%)

Only other suggested venues : Sacramento CA and Richmond VA.
 - Impact of JASM: Not at all 55.6% To a small degree (a few attendees lost) 11.1% Somewhat (about half lost) 14.8% To a large degree (majority could not come) 14.8% Totally 3.7%
 - Of the respondents above the number of typical attendees per conference:

Not at all :	2, 1-2, 150, 1, 2
Small Degree:	3-4, 5, ~200
Somewhat:	10, 5-6, 6-8, 6
To a large degree:	4,5,30,<10
Totally:	2
 - Not many additional comments:

We need to have a conference every 2 years
While 2022 would be slightly better 2021 would be fine.
No preference for year or locale
Last conference held east of the Mississippi was 2008 (NJ). It is time for it to occur again given the density of monitoring groups and waterbodies vs the central and western half of the country
Meeting in 2021 doesn't commit us to an odd year cycle

- The Steering Committee members present agreed that holding the Conference in 2021 is preferred over 2022.
- Jeff and Lareina will compose a conference debrief along with a white paper on a new proposed session abstract review process to be fleshed out by the September 2019 Council meeting.

4. Collaboration and Outreach (C&O) Work Group (Danielle)

- Next Webinar is September 5-“Applying the Biological Condition Gradient to Support Water Quality Management”
- Articles for the newsletter will be sent to editors next week. If anyone has additional articles please send them to Danielle.
- C&O is always looking for more help and energy

5. Methods Board (Dan)

- Having continued conversations with Margaret McCauley about standardization for trash assessment methods for water. Would like to poll the Council at the September meeting.
- NEMI bio methods and new info in the works along with website updates. Contractor working on the website left but replacement will be starting soon. Dan is updating methods as available.
- Website refresh and modernization for mobile devices is the next step.

6. National Network of Reference Watersheds Working Group (Mike, via email)

- The entire NNRW website database has been exported and Mike has it on his computer.
- Mike is making progress on the analyses for the Watershed Metrics paper he is working on.
- The last meeting of the Interagency Workgroup to establish a national water quality network was held last week. Lori Sprague will be presenting the results to the Council on Sept. 9th. The next steps are unclear, ideally they would like to move into the next phase by forming a working group under the Council, but with no new activities allowed that cannot happen now.
- Mike suggested that the NNRW work group could serve that function, but at least for the time being, it doesn't sound like that will be possible. By Sept. we may have more guidance on Council activities. We would really like to keep the momentum going that we have built over the past year. So this will be a topic of discussion at the Sept. meeting.

7. Volunteer Monitoring (VM) Work Group (Julie)

- Last meeting July 12, James reported on Factsheets looking at value of VM and how to quantify the value of VM work. Draft framework circulated. Web page workgroup for Council Website discussed.
- Next work group call on August 8th and Webinar on Macroinvertebrates on Sept 25. Upcoming webinars: Nov 7-Citizen science and Jan 14 Atypical water-quality monitoring.
- Sept 17 EPA citizen science training in DC for EPA employees and online for entire Federal community October 16.

8. Water Information Strategies (Mary)

- No updates

Upcoming Dates to Remember

Thurs Sept 5 2pmET – Webinar: Applying the biological condition gradient to support water quality management

Fri Sept 6 12pmET – Council Steering Committee telephone call

Monday September 9 11amET – Council Web Meeting

