

NWQMC Steering Committee Minutes for January 12, 2018

Meeting Attendees: Dan Sullivan, Susan Holdsworth, Candice Hopkins, Tim Oden, Marie DeLorenzo, Aaron Borisenko, Gary Rowe, Mike McHale, Danielle Donkersloot, Martha Clark Mettler, Wendy Norton, Mary Skopec

1. Membership Updates (Gary and Susan)

- All EPA State Regions are now filled with representatives. Liz Smith is now the Region 7 Representative and Jeremy ZumBerge is now the Region 8 Representative.
- There are still a few vacant positions on the Council. One of the vacant positions is the River Basin Commissions slot. Danielle and Marie both had suggestions for this position.

2. ACWI Meeting Update and Business

- The ACWI meeting will be held in Reston, Virginia on January 17-18, 2018
- Gary and Susan both plan to attend; Gary is finalizing a presentation on the NWQMC

3. National Monitoring Conference Update (Tim and Marie)

- The Co-Chairs had a meeting on January 9th; they plan to reach out to committee chairs to schedule a regular meeting time for the Conference Planning Committee
- The Conference venue has still not been selected. Jeff contacted multiple venues in Denver in December but he is out of the country and will hopefully know more in February.

4. February Web Meeting (Candice)

- At this time, we do not have a budget to travel for an in-person meeting. Our next meeting will need to cover more in-depth Council business and will therefore be held over a span of several days.
- The layout of the meeting was discussed and it was decided that Work Groups will try to meet during the week of February 12th. The group will have time to then report out during a Council-wide meeting held the week of February 20th. All meetings will be held virtually although it was acknowledged that this meeting will not be as productive as an in-person meeting would be.
- ACTION: Gary and Susan will compile talking points about the need for a face-to-face meeting

5. WIS Work Group Update (Aaron)

- Jane Caffrey will be working with Danielle Donkersloot to look for ways to combine efforts of the "Increasing Portal Submissions" group with the efforts by the Volunteer Monitoring (VM) community
- The Fact Sheet effort is well underway and the group continues to find new Fact Sheets to produce, including one on Water Quality Metadata and one on Water Quality Standards. WIS is working on drafting several Fact Sheets currently.
- WIS was tasked with reviewing the "Water Quality Portal Communication Plan" after the Collaboration and Outreach group initially reviewed it. They discussed the current plan and are going to return comments back by COB on January 31.

6. Volunteer Monitoring Update (Danielle)

- The group is wanting to schedule a four-part webinar series on using volunteer monitoring data at various levels and will be working to line up speakers for that series.

7. National Network of Reference Watersheds Update (Mike)

- Mike is in the process of getting funding to update and maintain the website and is revising the work plan to do so.
- Mike is planning to incorporate NADP total deposition data and a hydrologic disturbance metric as the next sets of data
- NNRW needs a formal communication plan and Mike will be working to draft one in the coming months

8. Methods Board Update (Dan)

- The Bioassessment group is going to get back up and running with the addition of a new member (Liz Smith)
- The Bioassessment group will focus on improving biological methods listed in NEMI
- NEMI is undergoing some improvements but it should not be apparent to ordinary users

9. Collaboration and Outreach (Candice)

- There are several webinars scheduled for the next two months
- The Fall 2017 Newsletter was distributed in December. We sent out a call for articles in early January for the Spring 2018 edition.