

## **NWQMC Steering Committee Minutes for February 1, 2019**

Meeting Attendees: Lareina Guenzel, Gary Rowe, Candice Hopkins, Susan Holdsworth, Dan Sullivan, Mike McHale, Marie DeLorenzo, Monty Porter, Julie Vastine, Danielle Donkersloot, Mary Skopec

### **1. Membership Updates (Gary and Susan)**

- Region 9 will have a new alternate, Ali Dunn (California State Water Board)

### **2. National Monitoring Conference Update (Lareina, Susan, Gary, Jeff, Monty)**

- The contractor is still receiving confirmation from presenters. For oral speakers, we have 223 confirmed speakers, 14 who declined their invitation, and 44 who still need to respond; out of those 44, 27 are federal employees.
- The USGS Conference Approval Package only left USGS on Thursday and is on its way to the Department of Interior. Tim worked to reduce this package to under \$400k. If approved, it would allow all 70 USGS presenters and 15 alternates to attend the Conference. It is unclear when this will make it through the approval process, so Gary recommended waiting until next Friday before we make any decisions on postponing or moving the Conference.
- If the USGS Conference Approval package is NOT approved by the Department of Interior, it means USGS would only be able to send about 25 people (not including invitational Council members).
- If the Conference is postponed or cancelled, this would mean a whole new contract in order to get contractor support for the program from EPA. EPA will need to do another conference approval package, which will include a new request for budget in this scenario.
- Jeff has been negotiating with the hotel for the past three days; they think they can get around the government shutdown clause in the contract that Jeff negotiated. He is having his lawyer look at the language and see what the potential options are for backing out of the contract. The hotel has not expressed interest in delaying the Conference until 2020, so if we do decide to delay the Conference, Jeff would like to use another venue.
- The group discussed what postponing the Conference would mean for the agenda and if we could keep presenters or if we would need to find new ones. Monty suggested maybe adopting the approach of using champions to help recruit abstracts. This topic will need to be addressed later if the Conference is postponed.
- Monty expressed that it will be very difficult to spend state funds to attend the Conference if there is a reduced USGS presence. He also indicated that asking state NWQMC representatives to cover their own travel would negatively impact attendance numbers.

### **3. Collaboration and Outreach (C&O) Work Group (Candice and Danielle)**

- There are no more webinars currently scheduled. We need suggestions for speakers.
- We are considering looking through abstracts that were submitted to the 2019 NMC for potential speakers.

### **4. Next NWQMC Web Meeting (all)**

- The January 14<sup>th</sup> web meeting was cancelled due to the government shutdown
- The next meeting date will be determined based upon whether the 2019 NMC is moving forward. Candice will send a Doodle poll to find a suitable date for the next meeting when we know more about the 2019 NMC.
- The next meeting is scheduled for March 11 2019, but this date may need to change.