

NWQMC Steering Committee Minutes for July 13, 2018

Meeting Attendees: Dan Sullivan, Jeff Schloss, Lareina Guenzel, Gary Rowe, Candice Hopkins, Susan Holdsworth, Marie DeLorenzo, Danielle Donkersloot, Mary Skopec, Mike McHale, Martha Clark Mettler

1. Membership Updates

- Scott Miller of BLM is going to be filling the vacancy left by Doug McLaughlin.
- Steve Greb, our Great Lakes Representative, must step off the Council. We have not yet heard from his supervisor about a replacement.
- Nichole Halsey, our industry rep, is stepping off the Council. We discussed many options for this vacancy, including another industry representative or someone from the data side of things.
 - ACTION ITEM: Gary will follow up with Dwane Young for a data candidate and other potential industry representatives about filling this position

3. National Monitoring Conference Update (Jeff, Gary, and Lareina)

- EPA has a contract in place with Tetrattech. This contractor will help to support conference activities. Lareina has met with the contractor and discussed responsibilities.
- Jeff is going to follow-up with NALMS about exhibitor and sponsor packages.
- Jeff will ask for budget updates from agencies during the August 2018 web meeting to help him estimate attendance.
- There's been significant progress from the local committee. We now have a "Welcome to Denver" speaker and have ideas for a walking field trip.
- Gary invited Tim Petty to come speak at the plenary. Tom Wells (EPA) suggested inviting the Water Cabinet for a "Fireside Chat", so Gary and Susan will discuss this idea further.
- Alex Etheridge (USGS) emailed about harassment prevention at the 2019 NMC. The Steering Committee agreed to build a Code of Conduct for the meeting and make people agree to it while registering. The whole NWQMC will discuss the idea of adding the Code of Conduct.

6. Bioassessment Comparability Workgroup (Dan)

- championed session + panel discussion. CS will include talks on "history" of bioassessment comparability; considerations of importance of QA and how to measure within bio sampling; case study of assembling bio data from disparate sources; and tag-team talk from WQX and USGS biodata on how those systems handle these considerations and what they might lack.
- panel discussion will follow up on the topic of what enhancements to databases can be made to further usefulness of large biological datasets.

7. National Network of Reference Watersheds (NNRW) (Mike)

- Mike has not accomplished much on NNRW for the past two months
- Mike has 3 weeks of NNRW work scheduled during August and September and plans to accomplish a lot before the end of the fiscal year

7. Sensors Workgroup (Dan)

- putting together a panel discussion, with perhaps a championed session beforehand, although we're leaning towards just the panel discussion with the background talks embedded within it. Topic falls under umbrella of "uncertainty" but with attempt to create a useful product. Current discussion is on the development of recommended standards for industry for both instrument performance and for data processing. Panel discussion will be attempt at getting industry and users together to discuss useful and practical steps that can be taken and how to get there.

8. Volunteer Monitoring (Julie)

- 7/25 webinar NMC and writing conference abstracts went well. Julie was wondering if there is a recorded webinar on the Council. If not, it might be good to do one closer to the conference to help advertise it and the many things the Council does.

- 9/5 webinar scheduled: Spotlight on NOAA Sea Grant
- 10/10 webinar scheduled: Lake Monitoring and Data Success Stories

9. Collaboration and Outreach (Candice)

- We need new speakers and ideas for our webinar series; please submit ideas to Candice.
- The fall newsletter deadline is August 31st; please encourage submissions.
- C&O will be encouraging continued outreach at upcoming meetings