

NWQMC Steering Committee Minutes for June 7, 2019

Meeting Attendees: Candice Hopkins, Susan Holdsworth, Mike McHale, Julie Vastine, Danielle Donkersloot, Gary Rowe, James Beckley, Jeff Schloss

1. Membership Updates (Susan)

- Dan Sullivan found a new industry representative. He's suggested someone from Campbell Scientific; we are working on invitations and formalizing membership now.
- Susan thinks she will get a new EPA representative on this month.
- Julie introduced James Beckley (VA DEQ), he is the new volunteer monitoring alternate and the Volunteer Monitoring Work Group Co-Chair.

2. National Monitoring Conference Update (NMC, Lareina, Jeff)

- A group met on June 6th to address post-conference issues.
- The group spent a good part of the meeting trying to figure out timelines for planning future conferences. A few other meetings have been brought up as potential conflicts, so the Council needs to decide between holding the meeting in Spring of 2021 and Spring of 2022.
- After much discussion, the Steering Committee decided to bring the decision before the full Council. We will present options at the July 8th Council meeting and conduct a virtual vote to allow people time to decide.

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

- The next webinar scheduled for June 12th. Candice is trying to line up another webinar for late June on remote sensing.
- We need to try to figure out a better way for people at the end of their career to share with a larger audience; how do we help folks to sunset their careers?
 - Jeff: in NALMS they have a session for folks to reflect on their careers
 - James: VA DEQ they did a video on 25 years anniversary and included interviews, we could do some videos of people reflecting on their experiences

4. National Network of Reference Watersheds (Mike)

- Mike McHale spoke to the Fort Collins web development group that hosts the NNRW webpage and they will export the entire NNRW website database in August before the website is shut down.
- Mike is making progress on the analyses for the watershed metrics paper. This will document the analyses for the NNRW watershed land use disturbance metric and the revised watershed hydrologic disturbance metric. Right now, Mike and a colleague are working on the hydrologic disturbance metric.
- Mike has continued to collaborate with the effort to establish an Interagency Water Quality Monitoring Network. That effort will wrap up next month. They have made use of the land use disturbance metric to classify the watersheds they have been working with.

5. Volunteer Monitoring (VM) Work Group (Julie and James)

- VM Call on May 29th; 7 participants (another two new VM work group members)
- James gave an update on a presentation he gave locally about VM. James will be leading some efforts on developing VM fact sheets that can go to decision makers, volunteer groups, and other audiences.
- The work group developed a subcommittee for updating the Council's VM webpage.
- Working on getting some webinars in the queue: one is scheduled for July 1st, and focuses on the Water Quality Portal and volunteer monitoring data
- Another webinar will focus on Macroinvertebrates.org; they are trying to schedule for September.
- The work group is also focusing on some webinars that will cross over with Citizen Science Association; more details to come.

6. Bioassessment Data Work Group (Dan)

- NEMI updates are back in the queue for the WMA team. Getting data entry forms updated soon to resolve some ongoing issues. Hoping to get the biological methods updates into the queue in the near future.
- Bioassessment workgroup is continuing work on updating WQX with spinoff benefits for NEMI

7. Methods Board (Dan)

- Dan would would like to have a Council discussion on how to move forward with workgroup activities given that the ACWI hiatus may not end for a while, and we have been told not to start new activities until the new ACWI membership has been seated.