

NWQMC Steering Committee Minutes November 3, 2017

1. Membership Updates

- We recently replaced our NRCS representative with Karma Anderson
- In addition, we are working on adding a few alternates and renewing members' terms if they were set to expire in 2017

2. Updates on ACWI/DOI review (Wendy)

- Wendy has not received any information at this point about the status of the DOI review

3. National Monitoring Conference: Next Steps

- Co-chairs have been identified from both EPA and USGS Candice will set up a call with them to start conference planning activities
 - Our newsletter mentions that we are moving the Conference to Spring of 2019. However, we'd like to announce this on its own to reach our audience. This announcement will likely glean ideas from the Call for Topics and be announced as a "start thinking about submitting abstracts" to keep a positive tone.
- ACTION: Candice will set up a call with the new co-chairs to start conference planning activities
ACTION: Candice will draft an announcement and have the Steering Committee review and modify it.

4. December Web Meeting

- The December 11th Web Meeting Agenda is wide open
- ACTION: Steering Committee members will submit agenda items, including ideas for technical speakers, to Candice ASAP

5. Brainstorming In-Person meeting

- At this point, Wendy does still not have a budget and can't confirm that we will have funds to have an in-person meeting
 - However, if we do meet in person, we will spend some time covering some training on the Water Quality Portal (WQP). This will be some broad training that can cover the basics of the WQP and help train Council Members to promote this product.
- ACTION: Jim will work on a training agenda for this in-person meeting

6. NNRW Update (Mike McHale, via email)

- Mike is attending the National Atmospheric Deposition Program and will be following up on leads to add more data and metadata to NNRW
- Mike has been struggling to find an efficient way to download, process, and deliver water-quality data for the watersheds. He is talking to Jason Lynch from EPA about a possible method to help ease this process.
- Mike is talking to additional folks from the National Climate Assessment about possibly working together
- Plans for 2018 include expanding sites into agricultural and urban watersheds and including lake watersheds in the NNRW.

7. Sensors Work Group and Methods Board Update (Dan, via email)

- USGS continuous monitoring workshop report is going to colleague review
- Two sensor-topic webinars on the docket for November and January
- Sensor workgroup call in next two weeks

8. Collaboration and Outreach Update (Candice)

- We are working with USGS Social Media to establish a Flickr account to house and archive a photo library of water quality field photos
- The C&O group is looking to increase our presence at meetings and conferences. We are currently reaching out to Council members who are going to conferences and sending promotional materials such as handouts and posters for them to take.
- Three additional webinar speakers have been added to our schedule. Candice is working on finalizing details and announcements.

NWQMC Report
Reference Watershed Working Group
Mike McHale
11/2/2017

Mike is not available today because he is attending the National Atmospheric Deposition Program meeting in San Diego, CA. There has been quite a bit of interest from folks at NADP in the NNRW. Mike is meeting this week with Helen Amos, an AAAS Fellow hosted by EPA, who has been leading an effort to link stream and deposition chemistry across the country. Since this is one of the things that the Reference Watersheds working group has been focusing on, Mike is working with Helen to find ways to link her efforts with the NNRW and with the EPA's Regional Monitoring Network which are being incorporated into the NNRW database. Mike is also meeting with Anita Rose and David Levinson from the National Forest Service who are working on NFS Priority Watersheds to make the data from those watersheds more publicly available. The NNRW website would be an easy vehicle to deliver both data and metadata for those watersheds. They seem excited about pursuing the partnership.

One of the things Mike has been struggling with is an efficient way to download, process and deliver water quality data for watersheds in the NNRW. Jason Lynch from the EPA was been working on a method to process water quality data from the portal and deliver data summaries at a watershed scale. Mike has been talking to Jason about taking his methodology and automating in R and incorporating it into the NNRW workflow. Jason and Mike are planning to meet on November 15-16, 2017 to work out the details.

Mike recently reached out to Julie Kiang, Katherine Chase, and Stacey Archfield who are doing work for the National Climate Assessment. They are planning to develop a new Hydrologic Disturbance Metric based on James Falcone's earlier work. Since Mike had been working on the same thing they are planning to meet next week to talk about their approaches and possibly work together to develop a modified Hydrologic Disturbance metric based on James' earlier work.

Additional Activities Planned for 2018:

Expand sites to include Agricultural and Urban Watersheds. We have the watersheds in the database, we need to link the water chemistry data which will be possible through Mike's work with Jason Lynch.

Include Lake Watersheds in the NNRW - this will begin with the EPA's Long-Term Monitoring Network Lakes.