

## **NWQMC Steering Committee Minutes for September 6, 2019**

Meeting Attendees: Susan Holdsworth, Kris McSwain (DFO), Julie Vastine, Jeff Schloss, Lareina Guenzel, Mike McHale, James Beckley, Sara Peel

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

- No updates since /12 NWQMC steering committee meeting
- Waiting for FACA updates to send membership request to Jeff Adams.

### **2. ACWI Updates (Kris McSwain)**

- Kris is required to attend all Work Group meetings and needs to be informed and invited of all meetings. She also needs an agenda for our work group meetings before they happen. Email her at [kmcswain@usgs.gov](mailto:kmcswain@usgs.gov). Check the calendar at <https://acwi.gov/upcom.html> to see her availability before scheduling workgroup meetings.
- We are moving forward with business as usual until we hear more information. If ACWI is selected to shutdown, Kris will advise Gary and Susan ASAP to coordinate a smooth glide path.

### **3. National Monitoring Conference Update**

- Jeff discussed his attendance of a conference for conference planners in Kentucky.
  - 48 different meetings with potential conference locations, focusing on the NE USA
  - Focusing on Boston, Providence, Hartford, Milwaukee, and Madison. Boston is unlikely as is Providence. Hartford may be best option.
  - Think about how to do an electronic program in 2021.
- Lareina mentioned there is a new process for session review and program development. There is an outline developed by Jeff, Lareina, and Dan, but there has not been much time to collaborate with others.
- Julie mentioned that she used XEXOrdo paid software with another group she participates with and that we could build the cost into the conference charges
- NWQMC uses CVENT software for registration and the contract will not expire before 2021.

### **4. Collaboration and Outreach (C&O) Work Group (Kris for Danielle)**

- Articles for the newsletter will be sent to editors next week. If anyone has additional articles please send them to Danielle.
- C&O is always looking for more help and energy

### **5. Methods Board (Dan via email)**

- Please fill out trash survey
- No NEMI update

### **6. National Network of Reference Watersheds Working Group (Mike)**

- No changes from last month
- Waiting to see if new working group or changes can be made to existing working groups
- Can this working group morph into WIS group to cover the broader work that Lori's work does
- No support for website, so will come down in the next FY.

### **7. Volunteer Monitoring (VM) Work Group (Julie and James)**

- Last meeting, August 8. Each member sent in a slide about themselves and their work to introduce members to each others. Will add to these minutes and post on the website
- VM monitoring fact sheet workgroup meeting later this month
- VM newsletters and web pages have limitations with Federal hosting
- Julie reminded everyone of upcoming webinars: Oct 29 Introduction to best practices and Dec 10 EPA QA handbook

## **8. Water Information Strategies (Kris for Mary)**

- Met September 4 for the first time since the spring
- Traffic on the Water Quality Portal is increasing considerably (125,000 visitors Oct 1, 2017-Aug 31, 2018; 204,000 visitors Oct 1, 2018-Aug 31, 2019)
- New cloud version of the WQP: <https://wqp-test.er.usgs.gov/portal/>
- Please test on your own and share with others, sending comments to Jim Kreft ([jkreft@usgs.gov](mailto:jkreft@usgs.gov))
- Releasing a new version of WQX (3.0)
- Mike Higgins will be sending out a scoring matrix to the Council with a list of questions, instructions, activities, and products for the Council to score (prioritize)
- Draft report sent to WIS on metadata will be presented to the Council on Monday Sept 9
- A workplan with list of fact sheets will be revisited in October
- PFAS monitoring was discussed at length.

### **Upcoming Dates to Remember**

Friday October 4 @12pmET – Council Steering Committee telephone call 866-299-3188 Code 5661187#