

# Methods Board Meeting – October 2004

## Outcome

- Preparation of 2-yr workplans for each Workgroup.
- Wadeable Streams Assessment – work with EPA in implementing a bioassessment comparability program.
- Water Quality Data Elements
  - Finalize guide and approval of guide and biological data elements by ACWI
  - Demonstration of field road map (Katznelson)
  - Promote WQDEs and offer online implementation tools

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## Outcome

- **NEMI**
  - Vision statement
  - ES&T paper accepted – feature article in May 2005
  - Other ways to publicize NEMI
  - Addition of biological and other methods
  - Field Activities Committee for addition of field methods
  - Integrate expert system (EMMA) into NEMI database
  - Hach offer of funding

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## Outcome

- Outreach
  - Update and expand scope of web site
  - Next edition of Across the Board
  - Special edition of IMPACT to focus on methods and data comparability
- PBS and Nutrients (Workgroups Combined)
  - Potential pilot for evaluating Nitrate Reductase method for nitrate determination
  - Finalize nitrate DQO paper
  - Link with EPA-FEM PBS activity
  - Examine data integrity issue

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## Outcome

- Accreditation
  - Facilitate discussion between EPA and states regarding EPA reorganization of NELAP
  - Preparation of paper to recommend accreditation of state laboratories – parallels Fed lab recommendations
- New Technologies
  - Lisa Olsen presentation (MD USGS) on real time monitoring
  - Develop a strategy for entering methods into NEMI

# Wadeable Streams Assessment

## EPA -- OWOW

- Is an ecological assessment of wadeable streams throughout the US.
- Uses a stratified, statistically based sampling survey design that will allow the extrapolation of stream condition throughout each ecological region of the US.
- State participants are using a common biologically based protocol, a comprehensive QA program, and a standardized data management system.

# Wadeable Streams Assessment

- Major new effort for the Methods Board.
- EPA priority to analyze comparability data collected during 2004-2005 and to produce a report by December 2006.
- Promote PBS and combine state and other sources of data to assess national aquatic ecosystem condition.
- Board to form Workgroup to function as Advisory Group to project, providing suggestions for project direction and peer review. Outside experts to be included.

# Wadeable Streams Assessment Tasks

- Analysis and Report on WSA Comparability Studies (winter 2005-fall 2006)
  - Complete analysis of WSA comparability studies and prepare final report by December 2006.
  - Discussions on field sampling progress and data analysis options in winter 2005.
  - Workshop to be held.
  - Methods Board Advisory Group (MBAG) to insure high quality Workshop and that monitoring community interests are considered.

# Wadeable Streams Assessment Tasks

- Critical Scientific Review of Bioassessment Comparability Studies (January – April 2005)
  - Fund outside expert/organization to prepare a critical review of the state of the science of bioassessment comparability.
  - MBAG to identify possible comparability studies to be reviewed, provide advice on possible external reviewers, and review drafts of the report.

# Wadeable Streams Assessment Tasks

- Guidance Document on Bioassessment Comparability Methods and Analysis (January 2005 – June 2006)
  - Covers all aspects of bioassessment program including PBS, sampling design, biological condition, tiered aquatic uses, and index development.
  - Applies to all water body types – wadeable streams, estuaries, lakes, large rivers, and wetlands.
  - MBAG to provide advice to EPA on content of the guidance and review drafts of the document.
  - State led groups also to be consulted.

# Wadeable Streams Assessment Tasks

- Comparability Workshop (fall 2006)
  - Bring together interested states, Feds, and other monitoring interests and experts to discuss the state of the science regarding bioassessment comparability.
  - New guidance to be a focus of the discussions.
  - Include case studies, posters, and presentations.
  - Participants to understand how to characterize and document the performance of their bioassessment methods and evaluate comparability of their programs.
  - MBAG to help organize and facilitate workshop.
  - In addition, MBAG to sponsor Workshop at May 2006 National Conference

# Wadeable Streams Assessment Tasks

- Support Additional Comparability Studies (2005-2006)
  - Literature review and other efforts may reveal further studies that will be required to evaluate bioassessment comparability.
  - If resources are available, new studies will be conducted.
  - MBAG will help recommend studies, suggest designs, and review progress and reports.