



# National Water Quality Monitoring Council

Working together for clean water



## Meeting Minutes – National Water Quality Monitoring Council (Council) Web Meeting May 13, 2019

(Agenda and list of participants on pages 2-3, presentations posted on Council website at: <http://acwi.gov/monitoring/>)

### Actions, Decisions and other Information

1. Upon a motion duly made (Jim Dorsch), seconded (Jane Caffrey), and carried, the March 2019 Council Meeting minutes were approved and will be posted on the website.
2. **Advisory Committee on Water Information (ACWI) update:** Dan Sullivan advised that since there are no active ACWI members, the Council should not take on any new business.
3. **2019 National Monitoring Conference (NMC) Wrap-Up:** Jeff Schloss was not able to attend the meeting but did send conclusions from the 2019 National Monitoring Conference follow-up survey (see presentation "XXXX"). 850 people attended the 2019 NMC, with attendees hailing from 7 countries, 49 states, and 31 tribes.

Lareina Guenzel gave an overview on lessons learned from the 2019 NMC (see presentation "[NWQMC\\_5.13.19\\_2019 National Monitoring Conference](#)"). Many aspects of the conference could be improved, including a more time-sensitive release of the program, providing paper or better digital copies of the program, developing tiered registration rates, offering additional webinars that would be livecast from the NMC, and forming a committee to address diversity issues. As planning for the next NMC starts, the Conference Planning Committee (CPC) will need to keep these lessons learned in mind.

- **ACTION ITEM:** The Conference Planning Committee (CPC) will meet with NALMS staff to discuss possible timing and locations for the next NMC and will present to Council members at the July 8<sup>th</sup> web meeting.
  - **ACTION ITEM:** Gary Rowe will prepare and send reply to Jacob Zwart and USGS coauthors of May 3<sup>rd</sup> letter regarding lack of ethnic diversity at 11<sup>th</sup> NMC with initial Council response and request for participation on a new CPC subcommittee on diversity to be added prior to 12<sup>th</sup> NMC.
4. **Round Robin of Excellent Speakers from the NMC:** Candice Hopkins asked Council members to share thoughts on excellent talks and sessions from the NMC that the Council could consider for webinar topics. Council members shared ideas with many commonalities.
    - **ACTION ITEM:** Candice will compile a list of suggested speakers and start trying to recruit them for upcoming webinars.
  5. **Volunteer Monitoring Work Group Update:** Julie Vastine gave an overview of recent updates from the Volunteer Monitoring Work Group (see presentation "[Council VM Overview 5.13.19](#)"). Over 50 people joined the Volunteer Monitoring Networking Session at the 2019 NMC; now the work group has recruited several more work group members from this audience. The work group sent out a survey to identify areas of focus, and the group agreed to focus on webinars, the Council's newsletter, and fostering communication. The group will continue to work on these different areas throughout the year.
  6. **Water Information Strategies (WIS) Work Group Update:** Mary Skopec and Aaron Borisenko updated the Council on recent WIS activities. The Evaluating Progress subgroup plans to send out a matrix to have other Council members and work groups fill out and comment on the matrix. The Water Quality Standards subgroup is working on white papers but has no major items to report. The Interagency Coordinated Water Quality Monitoring and Reporting group has been meeting frequently and plans to

report out at the September Council web meeting. In addition, the WIS work group is currently revising fact sheets, including one that focuses on harmful algal bloom advisories.

- **Action: Mike Higgins will send out Evaluating Progress matrix to full Council**

7. **Biological Comparability and Assessment Work Group Update:** Dan Sullivan reported via email that the group has met to continue their work on metadata. Our initial effort focused on the biological methods in NEMI; starting with benthic macroinvertebrate collection methods, we identified the fields necessary to determine whether a method is comparable to another one or not. We added these fields to NEMI and updated the methods that are in the database as well as adding additional methods. The updates to NEMI are pending the resolution of who the new owner of NEMI will be. The next phase of this effort that included a meeting at the National Monitoring Conference was to review and update the metadata fields in WOQ for biological sample results. This effort is ongoing and has identified additional potential fields to add to the methods in NEMI as well.
8. **Collaboration and Outreach Work Group Update:** Candice Hopkins presented on recent efforts of the Collaboration and Outreach work group. The group worked to finalize the Water Quality Portal Communication Strategy document, which is now posted on the web. The Spring 2019 Newsletter is currently in layout and will be finalized soon. There is currently one webinar scheduled, but the group hopes to work on adding additional webinars in the future.
9. **Technical Presentation:** Gary Rowe gave a presentation on future USGS Water Quality Plans (see presentation "[WMA Water-Quality Changes\\_NWQMC web mtg\\_051319](#)"). Gary discussed how the USGS Water Mission Area (WMA) is restructuring its budget programs and establishing new science priorities. Future water-quality related work at the USGS will be affected by the new WMA science priorities, and more details will become available as planning efforts mature. However, Gary mentioned there will be multiple opportunities for Council-USGS-EPA collaboration on water-quality topics of mutual interest. Council members asked Gary several questions, the majority of which Gary did not have clear answers to because planning efforts in support of work programs that will support the new WMA science priorities are just underway.

## MEETING AGENDA

Monday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2019

<b>Time (EDT)</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Speaker</b>
11:00 AM	Welcome and Introductions	Susan Holdsworth and Gary Rowe
11:05 AM	Council Business: Approve of March 2019 minutes	Candice Hopkins
11:10 AM	Wrap-Up from 2019 NMC: Numbers and Survey Results	Jeff Schloss, Philip Forsberg, Sara Peel, Alyssa Anderson
11:30 AM	Conference Workgroup Debriefs	CPC Workgroup Leads
11:50 PM	Planning for next NMC: Locations and call for leadership	Lareina Guenzel
12:10 PM	NWQMC Round-Robin: Excellent Presentations from NMC	All NWQMC members
12:30 PM	<b>Break</b>	
12:40 PM	Work Group Updates	Work Group Chairs
1:20 PM	Technical Presentation	Gary Rowe, Future USGS Water Quality Plans
1:55 PM	Adjourn	Susan Holdsworth and Gary Rowe

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