



# National Water Quality Monitoring Council

Working together for clean water



## Meeting Minutes – National Water Quality Monitoring Council (NWQMC) Web Meeting June 11, 2018

(Agenda and list of participants on pages 3-4, presentations posted on Council website at: <http://acwi.gov/monitoring/>)

### Actions, Decisions and other Information

1. **Decision:** Upon a motion duly made (Aaron Borisenko), seconded (Jim Dorsch), and carried, the April 2018 NWQMC Web Meeting minutes were approved and will be posted to the website.
2. **National Monitoring Conference (NMC):** Lareina Guenzel gave an update on the Conference Planning Committee's activities (see presentation "[NMC CPC Update 180611](#)"). Lareina emphasized that we are working on a tighter timeframe than in previous years because the conference is being held in March. Council members are encouraged to submit abstracts for regular presentations, as well as for championed sessions and extended sessions. The Program Committee will need help reviewing abstracts and will need to find a new way to review them in the absence of an in-person meeting. Doug McLaughlin volunteered to put together a spreadsheet to help review abstracts, and people suggested reviewing abstracts via Sharepoint, Google Docs, and video calls.

ACTION: Submit abstracts for regular presentations, extended sessions, and championed sessions by August 15, 2018

3. **12<sup>th</sup> National Monitoring Conference:** Candice Hopkins brought the topic of the next National Monitoring Conference before the NWQMC. Even with the 11<sup>th</sup> NMC planning efforts currently underway, it is important to think about the timing of the next conference. Three timeframes have emerged for the 12<sup>th</sup> NMC: Spring 2020, Spring 2021, or Spring 2022. The NWQMC discussed pros and cons of each of those timeframes, including funding restrictions, planning timelines, and keeping meeting occurring frequently enough to keep up with emerging technology and topics. From the EPA perspective and NALMS, it is easier to host the meeting every other year, which would put the next NMC in Spring of 2021, which may conflict with the audience from other conferences. From USGS perspective, holding it in 2020 would be very difficult and putting it off three years to 2022 seems too long. Holding it every other year and moving to an odd year schedule makes the most sense from the USGS perspective. USGS will still be required to submit conference approval packages to USGS and DOI leadership to get permission to exceed the current \$100K conference travel limit and whether those get approved this year or in 2021 is unknown. Last, with an adequate window for planning the next meeting in 2021 we can work to avoid direct conflicts with other meetings that attract NMC participants.
4. **Collaboration and Outreach (C&O) Work Group:** Candice Hopkins presented on outreach and collaboration activities (see presentation "[C&O Jun18](#)"). Speakers are needed for the webinar series in the later summer and fall months. In addition, C&O is seeking newsletter articles for the Fall 2018 Newsletter; the deadline for articles is August 31<sup>st</sup>. Candice mentioned that the group is interested in restarting the "Actionable Insights" group that Larry Willis suggested in Indianapolis; she will work to recruit members to this group in the coming months.
5. **Volunteer Monitoring (VM) Work Group:** Julie Vastine discussed VM activities since the April 2018 NWQMC call (see presentation "[VolMon Work Group Update 6.11.18](#)"). The group is focusing on recruiting volunteer monitors to the 2019 NMC; they are planning to host a workshop that highlights the benefits of attending the NMC and will also cover how to submit abstracts and how to craft a quality presentation for the conference. The VM work group is also working to coordinate a series of webinars for late summer that focus on a variety of VM-related topics. Kris Stepenuck is also working to update the directory of volunteer monitoring organizations; along with updating contact information for these groups, she is also distributing a survey about needs and topics of concern for the VM community. The group is also focused on helping to produce fact sheets on the topics of

"Volunteer Monitoring: Cost effective, but not cost free" and "Volunteer Monitoring Data Use, expected and unexpected data use stories."

6. **Methods and Data Comparability Board:** Dan Sullivan updated the Council via email on recent activities on the Methods Board and Data Comparability Board (see presentation "[Methods Board June 2018 Update](#)"). One effort the Methods Board is working on is defining biological fields necessary to provide baseline information on method comparability. This group is working on this effort to include biological methods in NEMI, and the group is currently working on an enhanced method summary comparability page in NEMI. The group is also focused on identifying the top factors that cause uncertainty for the most common analyte-sensor technology combinations. They are hoping to present information gleaned from their efforts in a workshop, website, or white paper.
7. **Water Information Strategies (WIS) Work Group:** Mary Skopec and Aaron Borisenko updated the group on recent WIS activities. The group has been working to support the Interagency coordinated water-quality monitoring and reporting group that is headed by Lori Sprague (discussed in [April's meeting minutes](#)) and encourage NWQMC members to participate with this group. Lori's group is looking for a state lead for the "Consistency in Data Discoverability" group, and WIS encourages NWQMC members to solicit names for this position. The WIS work group has been working to state and regional partners to develop a contact list for each of the EPA region that will help NWQMC state representatives to periodically check in with other states and have discussions around data submissions to the Water Quality Portal. The group continues to work on a number of Fact Sheets, with recent progress on fact sheets about "Uncertainty in Monitoring" and "Monitoring for Advisories". The Water Quality Standards subgroup has been working on a Fact Sheet on the topic of "Monitoring for Standards" and hope to have a first draft done by the end of June.
8. **"How's My Waterway" App Demonstration:** Dwane Young demonstrated recent progress on the "How's My Waterway" webpage (see presentation "[Introduction-HMW](#)"). The purpose of the webpage is to provide the public with usable, meaningful information and communicate progress that is being made towards resorting or protecting water quality. The page hopes to engage the public in understanding impacts on water and issues related to water quality. The webpage is already up and running, but recent efforts have focused on improving the website and getting more information to the public in a seamless way. The design concept is to tell stories at multiple levels, and integrate data across systems to allow for in-depth stories in addition to interactive content. Many NWQMC members expressed support of this new product and were interested in becoming involved with interactive stories that will be generated from this effort; Dwane and Candice Hopkins will work together to get more NWQMC members involved with the interactive stories effort.
9. **NRCS Water Quality Activities:** Karma Anderson, the NWQMC's new Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) representative, gave a presentation on ongoing water-quality activities happening the NRCS (see presentation "[2018 NWQMC presentation](#)"). As the U.S. Department of Agriculture undergoes organizational changes, NRCS has been moved into a Farm Production and Conservation group. Karma's current responsibilities include being a lead on water-quality policy, serving as a technical liaison for many groups, and leading water-quality practice standard development. The NRCS's Water Quality and Quantity Team focuses on nutrient management, pest management, irrigation and water management, stream restoration, market-based solutions, and edge-of-field water-quality monitoring.
10. **Quality Assurance of Sensor Data:** Mark Bushnell of NOAA gave a presentation on Quality Assurance of Real-Time Oceanographic Data (QARTOD) (see presentation "[Bushnell QARTOD QA OBP 180611](#)"). The effort started in 2004 at the National Buoy Center as a grassroots effort of data gatherers for real-time quality control. Many groups have adopted practices and guidance put in place by QARTOD, and the group is planning to develop a quality assurance manual using the process that has guided the entire QARTOD project so far. The hope is that the manual will focus on quality-assurance and address quality-control, standards, and best practices for deployment. This year, the group is also working on a real-time quality control document for streamflow measurements, and the project continues to expand to other categories.

MEETING AGENDA

Time (EDT)	Topic	Speaker
11:00 AM	Welcome and Introductions	Susan Holdsworth
11:05 AM	Council Business: Approve of April 2018 minutes	Candice Hopkins
11:10 AM	Technical Speaker: How's My WaterWay App Demo	Dwane Young
11:40 AM	WIS Work Group Updates	Mary Skopec, Aaron Borisenko, and Subgroup Leads
12:10 PM	National Network of Reference Watersheds Update	Mike McHale, via email
12:15 PM	2019 National Monitoring Conference Update	Jeff Schloss, Tim Oden, Lariena Guenzel, Marie DeLorenzo
12:35 PM	12th National Monitoring Conference Dates	Candice Hopkins
12:45 PM	<b>Break</b>	
12:55 PM	ACWI Review Update	Candice Hopkins
1:00 PM	MDCB: Sensors and Bioassessment Workgroup Updates	Dan Sullivan
1:30 PM	Volunteer Monitoring Work Group Update	Danielle Donkersloot, Julie Vastine
1:45 PM	Collaboration and Outreach Work Group Update	Candice Hopkins, Danielle Donkersloot
2:05 PM	Technical Speaker: NRCS Activities	Karma Anderson
2:25 PM	Technical Speaker: Sensor QA/QC	Mark Bushnell, NOAA
2:55 PM	Adjourn	Susan Holdsworth

Attendees via WebEx:

Name	Email
<b>Aaron Borisenko</b>	borisenko.aaron@deq.state.or.us
<b>Candice Hopkins</b>	chopkins@usgs.gov
<b>Chris Greene</b>	christopher.greene@state.mn.us
<b>Dan Sullivan</b>	djsulliv@usgs.gov
<b>Danielle Grunzke</b>	grunzke.danielle@epa.gov
<b>David Chestnut</b>	chestnde@dhec.sc.gov
<b>Doug McLaughlin</b>	dmclaughlin@ncasi.org
<b>Dwane Young</b>	young.dwane@epa.gov
<b>Jeff Schloss</b>	jeff.schloss@unh.edu
<b>Jeff Thomas</b>	jthomas@epri.com
<b>Jennifer Back</b>	jennifer_back@nps.gov
<b>Jeremy Zumberge</b>	jeremy.zumberge@wyo.gov
<b>Jim Dorsch</b>	jdorsch@mwr.dst.co.us
<b>Jim kreft</b>	jkreft@usgs.gov

<b>Julie Vastine</b>	vastine@dickinson.edu
<b>Karen Black</b>	karen.black@waterboards.ca.gov
<b>Karma Anderson</b>	Karma.Anderson@por.usda.gov
<b>Kevin Norgaard</b>	knorgaard@mknassociates.us
<b>Kim Martz</b>	kimmartz@usgs.gov
<b>Kimberly Pham</b>	kimberly.pham@waterboards.ca.gov
<b>Lareina Guenzel</b>	guenzel.lareina@epa.gov
<b>Larry Willis</b>	larry.willis@deq.virginia.gov
<b>Laura Shumway</b>	shumway.laura@epa.gov
<b>Lisa Borre</b>	borrel@caryinstitute.org
<b>Marie DeLorenzo</b>	Marie.DeLorenzo@noaa.gov
<b>Mark Bushnell</b>	mark.bushnell@noaa.gov
<b>Martha Clark Mettler</b>	mclark@idem.in.gov
<b>Mary Skopec</b>	mary-skopec@uiowa.edu
<b>Mike Eberle</b>	mbeberle@fs.fed.us
<b>Mike Mcdonald</b>	mcdonald.michael@epa.gov
<b>Nancy Schuldt</b>	nancyschuldt@fdlrez.com
<b>Nick Martorano</b>	nicholas.martorano@waterboards.ca.gov
<b>Peggy Horst</b>	peggyjhorst@gmail.com
<b>Rafael Cesmat</b>	rcesmat@san-marcos.net
<b>Richard Jones</b>	richardjones@vrsd.com
<b>Sara Peel</b>	speel@arionconsultants.com
<b>Scott Navarro</b>	scott.navarro@deltacouncil.ca.gov
<b>Sheri Alcalde</b>	salcalde@usgs.gov
<b>Steven Greb</b>	srgreb@wisc.edu
<b>Susan Holdsworth</b>	holdsworth.susan@epa.gov
<b>Tim Asplund</b>	tim.asplund@wisconsin.gov
<b>Yao Kouwonouw</b>	ykouwonouw@dpw.lacounty.gov

