



# National Water Quality Monitoring Council

Working together for clean water



## Draft Meeting Notes – National Water Quality Monitoring Council (Council) February 25, 2016

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

### Actions, Decisions and other Information

- Decision:** Upon a motion duly made (Danielle Donkersloot), seconded (Monty Porter), and carried, the December 1-3, 2015 Council Meeting minutes were approved and will be posted on the website (Kim Martz).
- Volunteer Monitoring Charter Discussion** – Danielle Donkersloot and Julie Vastine presented the draft of the Volunteer Monitoring Charter ([see document "VolMon Charter 1.15.16 final"](#)) to the Council. Council members applauded the effort of composing the charter and offered recommendations for strengthening the document. Suggested improvements include better defining the number of Council members involved, changing the wording about the annual survey to reflect how the group will solicit input, and defining that the Volunteer Map database and map will be kept up by this workgroup.
  - Action:** Julie Vastine will incorporate changes to the Volunteer Monitoring Charter
  - Decision:** Upon a motion duly made (Marth Clark Mettler), seconded (Jon Marshack), the Volunteer Monitoring Work Group Charter was approved, pending incorporation of recommended changes, with final revised charter to be distributed to Council members.
- Collaboration and Outreach Workgroup** – Candice Hopkins presented the draft calling card to the Council. A draft will be sent to Council members for further comment. In addition, the "Product Launch Plan" was presented to Council members as a plan for how to publicize events or products that the council may be interested in advertising.
  - Action:** Send newsletter articles to Candice Hopkins ([chopkins@usgs.gov](mailto:chopkins@usgs.gov)) by March 4, 2016 for publication in Spring Newsletter
  - Action:** Send ideas for future webinar presentations to Candice Hopkins ([chopkins@usgs.gov](mailto:chopkins@usgs.gov))
- Sensors Workgroup**—Dan Sullivan announced that a paper written by the Sensors Workgroup has been published in the AWRA Journal (paper is available [here](#)); this is a vision paper of continuous networks that represents combined efforts of USGS, EPA, Corps of Engineers, NRCS, and NOAA. The Sensors Workgroup is also working on a field deployment guide for continuous sensors that includes examples of various setups for sensors in rivers and streams. The group is having a number of conversations about future directions after the 2016 Monitoring Conference and will try to build the workgroup based on future needs.
  - Action:** The Sensors Workgroup will discuss the use of drones in monitoring and will advise the Council on how to address this topic
- Water Information Strategies (WIS) Workgroup:** Mary Skopec discussed the effort to push forward with the Fact Sheet Series. Four fact sheets are currently in draft format and need to be prepared for layout. Mary also gave a presentation on the Fact Sheet Series to the ACWA group and will distribute more information to the group on these sheets when they are published.
  - Action:** WIS group will prepare Fact Sheets for layout by March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2016.
  - Action:** WIS group will work with Dan Sullivan to find a location for published Fact Sheets on Council web page
- National Network of Reference Watersheds (NNRW)** – Mike McHale reported that the NNRW was featured in EPA's Nonpoint Source January Newsletter ([see "NonpointSourceJan16"](#)). Currently, the list of watersheds needs to be pared down based on available water-quality data and will also be filled in with data from other agencies.
  - Action:** Mike will make sure that the NNRS webpage links back to the NWQMC webpage
- Water Quality Portal (WQP)** – Charles Kovatch and Jim Kreft gave a presentation on the Water Quality Portal Strategic Plan ([see presentation "Portal\\_vision\\_022116"](#) and document "[PortalStrategy\\_2\\_18](#)"). Discussion with the Council included clarification of terms and communication strategies, including that the data.gov webpage will have a better link to the Portal with OWDI progress. As the vision currently stands, the Portal will be used to house discrete data and will not accept sensor or continuous data.
  - Action:** Council members should send feedback on the Strategic Plan to Jim Kreft ([jkreft@usgs.gov](mailto:jkreft@usgs.gov)) and Mary Skopec ([mary.skopec@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:mary.skopec@dnr.iowa.gov)) by March 11, 2016.
- 2016 Conference Update-** Alice Mayo and committee chairs updated the Council on the status of the 2016 National Monitoring Conference ([see presentation "10thMonitoringConference"](#)).
  - Presenters are currently being notified of their acceptance; 56 presenters have yet to confirm their attendance. Maggie will be putting together a draft agenda once she has been in communication with all presenters.

- About 1/3 of available booths have been sold so far; there are 46-48 booths available still. The Exhibitors and Sponsorship Committee is seeking help in contacting 200 potential exhibitors. All Council members are expected to participate in making phone calls for sponsorship.
    - **Action:** Council members should sign up for contacting exhibitors on spreadsheet sent by Gary Rowe
  - Hotel rooms are filling fast. Jeff Schloss is working with hotels to keep rooms available.
  - The Awards Committee has a list of final nominees. Nominations were of very high quality this year, and the committee should be choosing finalists soon.
  - The Extended Sessions are coming together well; currently the Extended Sessions Committee is working to fill in holes in the agenda where speakers had to pull out.
  - The Program Committee needs more people to sign up for moderator spots.
    - **Action:** Council members should contact Alice Mayo ([mayio.alice@epa.gov](mailto:mayio.alice@epa.gov)) to sign up for a moderator slot
9. **Sensor Decontamination Discussion-** Erik Host-Steen led a discussion on instrumentation decontamination policies ([see presentation "Invasive Species Instrument Decontamination Briefing, Feb2016"](#)). Sensors and other water-quality instrumentation may be included in decontamination procedures in areas with invasive species risks, but current decontamination methods may be incompatible with sensors.
- **Action:** Erik Host-Steen will work with the Sensors Workgroup to discuss this issue and come up with a list of priorities and council roles to address this issue
  - **Action:** Council members should contact Erik ([ehostste@otthydromet.com](mailto:ehostste@otthydromet.com)) if they wish to be involved in these conversations

## MEETING AGENDA

### Wednesday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2016 – Eastern Daylight Time

- 11:30 am – Welcome and Roll Call (Gary Rowe, Susan Holdsworth)  
 11:35 am – Council Business -- Approval December, 2015 Council meeting minutes (Candice Hopkins, USGS)  
 11:40 am – Membership Updates and Announcements (Gary Rowe)  
 11:50 am – Volunteer Monitoring Charter Discussion (Danielle Donkersloot and Julie Vastine)  
 12:20 pm – Work Group Updates (work group chairs)  
 1:00 pm – Break  
 1:15 pm – Water Quality Portal Strategic Plan (Charles Kovatch and Jim Krefl)  
 2:15 pm – 2016 Conference Update (Alice Mayo)  
 2:45 pm – Sensor Decontamination Discussion (Erik Host-Steen)  
 3:15 pm – Adjourn

### Participants:

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