



National Water Quality Monitoring Council

Working together for clean water



Meeting Minutes – National Water Quality Monitoring Council (Council) Web Meeting May 14, 2015

(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. Council Updates

- **Meeting Minutes** from February meeting in Boise were approved. Approval was nominated by Greg Petit and seconded by Dave Chestnut.
- **Membership Updates:** Gary Rowe informed the Council that Curtis Cude will be leaving the Council due to time conflicts. Gary is currently looking for a replacement for Curtis; please let him know if you have any suggestions.
- The next face-to-face meeting will take place the first week in December in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. Travel arrangements will be made in September or October.

2. **Water Information Strategies Work Group**—Mary Skopec (Iowa DNR) discussed the new Fact Sheet and asked for feedback; some minor layout feedback was given. Doug McLaughlin's Confidence Illustrator is in a final draft format and needs to be reviewed by an outside statistical reviewer; WIS is currently looking for an outside reviewer and then the tool will be made accessible.

Action: Mary will be following up with Work Group members about progress on other fact sheets

3. **Sensors Work Group**—Dan Sullivan (USGS) announced that a whitepaper authored by the Sensors Work Group will be published soon. This paper was submitted to the AWRA.

4. **Methods Board/NEMI**—Dan Sullivan (USGS) presented on updates for the Methods Board and NEMI. There is quite a bit of behind-the-scenes work happening, including adding a few new methods to NEMI that are now linked to the Water Quality Portal.

5. **National Network of Reference Watersheds (NNRW)** – Mike McHale, USGS, gave an update on the NNRW website.

- All suggested changes have been implemented in the newest version of the website
- Text changes should be made soon, and the website will be soft launched to the public before the end of May
- Once up and running, the NNRW will work with new participants to add additional watersheds and refine current methodology

6. **Water Quality Portal Vision**—Charles Kovatch (EPA) discussed the vision of the Water Quality Portal as it moves forward over the next 1 to 5 years (see presentation "[WaterQuality Vision_051615](#)" for more details). This presentation covered the history of the Water Quality Portal, its function in the Council, and a guiding vision moving forwards. Questions were posed to Council members; please send responses to Charles Kovatch by June 1, 2015 at kovatch.charles@epa.gov.

Action: Review Council responses to vision with WIS group in June

Action: Engage with other Council Work Groups and subcommittees in June and July, 2015 to work on further refining of Vision and providing feedback on the future of the Water Quality Portal

Action: Present finalized Vision to ACWI in the late summer or early fall, 2015

7. **Conference Planning Committee**—Alice Mayo (EPA)

- Alice gave an overview of updates that the CPC group has made since the Boise meeting (See Presentation "[2016 National Monitoring Conference Updates](#)" for details), including sending out the Save-the-Date announcement.

- New decisions, including a shorter plenary session, plans for various networking sessions, and the creation of a Google Form for Extended Session Submittal were discussed. The new deadline for abstract submittal will be September 18th, 2015.
 - Monty Porter gave an update on the Program Committee and reviewed that themes and sub-themes have been decided; the Program Committee now needs to identify and incorporate Council Priorities into these themes.
 - Glenn Skuta discussed progress the Plenary Committee has made so far; the group is still looking for speakers and concrete examples of how Council products are being used; any ideas on either of these topics can be sent to Glenn at Glenn.Skuta@state.mn.us.
 - Gary Rowe discussed the Sponsorship Committee; this group has met once and is looking for potential sponsors. Several exhibitors have already expressed interest in being involved in the 2016 Conference.
 - The Local Committee (led by Kim Haag) is currently recruiting more members. So far the group has come up with field trip ideas and venue locations for social outings.
 - Dan Sullivan is still looking for additional members for the Awards Committee; they have not met yet.
 - Action:** The CPC will send out the Call For Abstracts by the end of May, 2015.
 - Action:** Prepare and post ACWI conference website and Abstract Submittal Website
 - Action:** Start recruiting exhibitors, sponsors, presenters, session "champions," awards, plenary speakers
8. **Collaboration and Outreach Work Group** – Danielle Donkersloot (NJ DEP) and Candice Hopkins (USGS) announced the recent release of the Spring 2015 Newsletter and two upcoming webinars. Danielle will fill in for Candice on any C&O activities while Candice is on Maternity Leave.
9. **State and Regional Council Inventory Update** – Barb Horn (CO DNR) discussed the State and Regional Monitoring Council Inventory and Communication Plan. Barb is currently working to update links on our website but needs to wait until some technical issues are resolved. In addition, Barb hopes to add new Councils that are not currently on our website, and have these Councils link webpages back to the NWQMC. The State and Regional Councils hope to have a workshop or exchange at the 2016 Conference, and Barb will lead this group for the time being.
10. **Volunteer Monitoring Work Group** – Danielle Donkersloot (NJ DEP) presented on ideas for formalizing a Volunteer Monitoring Work Group that would be supported by the Council (see presentation "[VolMonMay2015](#)" for more details). The remains of a Volunteer Monitoring group that was supported by EPA still exists, and supports the Volunteer Monitoring Community. Danielle proposed that this group would benefit from Council Support, and suggested nesting a work group under WIS; many members of the Council expressed support for this idea. The Council voted to move forward with the formation of this Work Group under Danielle's direction.
 - Action:** This group needs to be formalized with a charter. Danielle will send a draft charter to the Council.
11. **Presentations**
- Lesley D'Anglada (EPA) presented on EPA Advisory Thresholds for Drinking Water established for Cyanotoxins (see presentation "[epa_health_advisories_may14_hab_nwqmc](#)" for more details).
 - Jennifer Graham (USGS) gave an overview of Harmful Algal Blooms (see presentation "[jlgraham_NWQMCwebinav_05-14-15](#)" for more details).
 - Amina Pollard (NLA) presented on NLA results for Harmful Algal Blooms.
 - Caitlin Gould (NOAA) presented on an Interagency Working Group on HABHRCA (see presentation "[gould_presentation_NWQMC](#)" for more details).
 - Steve Heiskary (Minnesota Pollution Control Agency) presented on Targeted and Statistical Surveys in lakes (see presentation "[NWQMC_call_SteveH](#)" for more details).
 - Tim Wynne (NOAA) presented on the progress of remote sensing that can be used to forecast Harmful Algal Blooms (see presentation "[Wynne_waterquality_2015](#)" for more details).
 - Lester Yuan (EPA) presented on Correlation between nitrogen, phosphorous, and harmful algal blooms (see presentation "[habs_n_and_p_ly](#)" for more details).
 - Hannah Holsinger (EPA) presented on Assisting Utilities with Cyanotoxin Preparation and Response (see presentation "[Holsinger_HAB](#)" for more details).

MEETING AGENDA

Thursday, May 14, 2015 (times in ET)

11:00 a.m. – Welcome and Roll Call (Gary Rowe and Susan Holdsworth)
11:05 a.m. – Council Business - Approval of February 2015 minutes (Candice Hopkins)
11:10 a.m. – Membership Updates and Announcements (Gary Rowe)
11:15 a.m. – **Harmful Algal Bloom Session** (Lesley D'Anglada, Jennifer Graham, Amina Pollard, Caitlin Gould, Steve Heiskary, Tim Wynne, Lester Yuan, Hannah Holsinger)
1:40 p.m. – Break
1:55 p.m. – Conference Planning Update (Alice Mayio, Callie Oblinger, Jeff Schloss)
2:25 p.m. – Update on WQ Portal Strategic Plan (Jim Kreft, Charles Kovatch)
2:55 p.m. – Volunteer Monitoring Work Group Resolution (Danielle Donkersloot)
3:25 p.m. – Break
3:40 p.m. – State Monitoring Council Inventory and Communication Plan (Barb Horn)
3:50 p.m. – **Work Group Updates** (various work group chairs)
4:45 p.m. – Upcoming Meetings (Susan Holdsworth)
4:50 p.m. -- Adjourn

Attendees via Phone or WebEx:

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