

DRAFT – In Progress Supporting a Water Quality Vision

NWQMC

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Overview

Background

Review recent progress

Water Quality Portal Vision

Next Steps

Homework for Members

Background

1995 - Advisory Committee on Water Information (ACWI)

- Intergovernmental Task force on Monitoring Water Quality (ITFM)
 - Published *The Strategy for Improving Water Quality Monitoring in the United States* (Strategy)
 - Their report recommended a “strategy for nationwide water-quality monitoring and technical monitoring improvements to support sound water quality decision making at all levels of government and in the private sector” and identified the establishment of the National Water quality Monitoring Council (Council) to guide the overall implementation of the strategy.
 - The report also outlined a number of water monitoring activities that have become key functional roles for the Council , of these, functions such as monitoring design, collaboration, assessment, reporting, evaluation, and implementation would not be as effective without data system modernization.

Review Progress

1995 – Strategy

1998 – NWQMC approved by ACWI

2003 – MOU on management of water quality data

2005 – NWQMC revised by ACWI

2012 – Launched Water Quality Portal

2013 – High use of Portal

2014 – Vision idea introduced in Cincinnati, OH

- OWDI initiated

2015 – Discussion in Boise, ID

Open Water Data Initiative

Proposal launched by ACWI in 2014 to integrate water information into a connected, national water data framework

Leverage existing systems, infrastructure and tools

Initiated three pilot studies to identify ways to improve access to data and develop sustainable data utilization solutions

- National Flood Interoperability Experiment
- Water Supply Decision Support System
- Spill response/Water Quality issues

Supporting a Water Quality Vision

Vision for the Council to meet its activities within the Strategy

Vision integrates the Council's functions across all the Council's workgroups including:

- Collaboration and Outreach
- Methods and Data Comparability Board
- National Monitoring Network
- Volunteer Monitoring

Vision supports the OWDI through water quality data availability and information technology tools

Vision to meet the increased demand on water information and outline how the Water Quality Portal can continue to support the Council in improving water quality monitoring and communicating the health of our national water resources

Council's 12 Functions

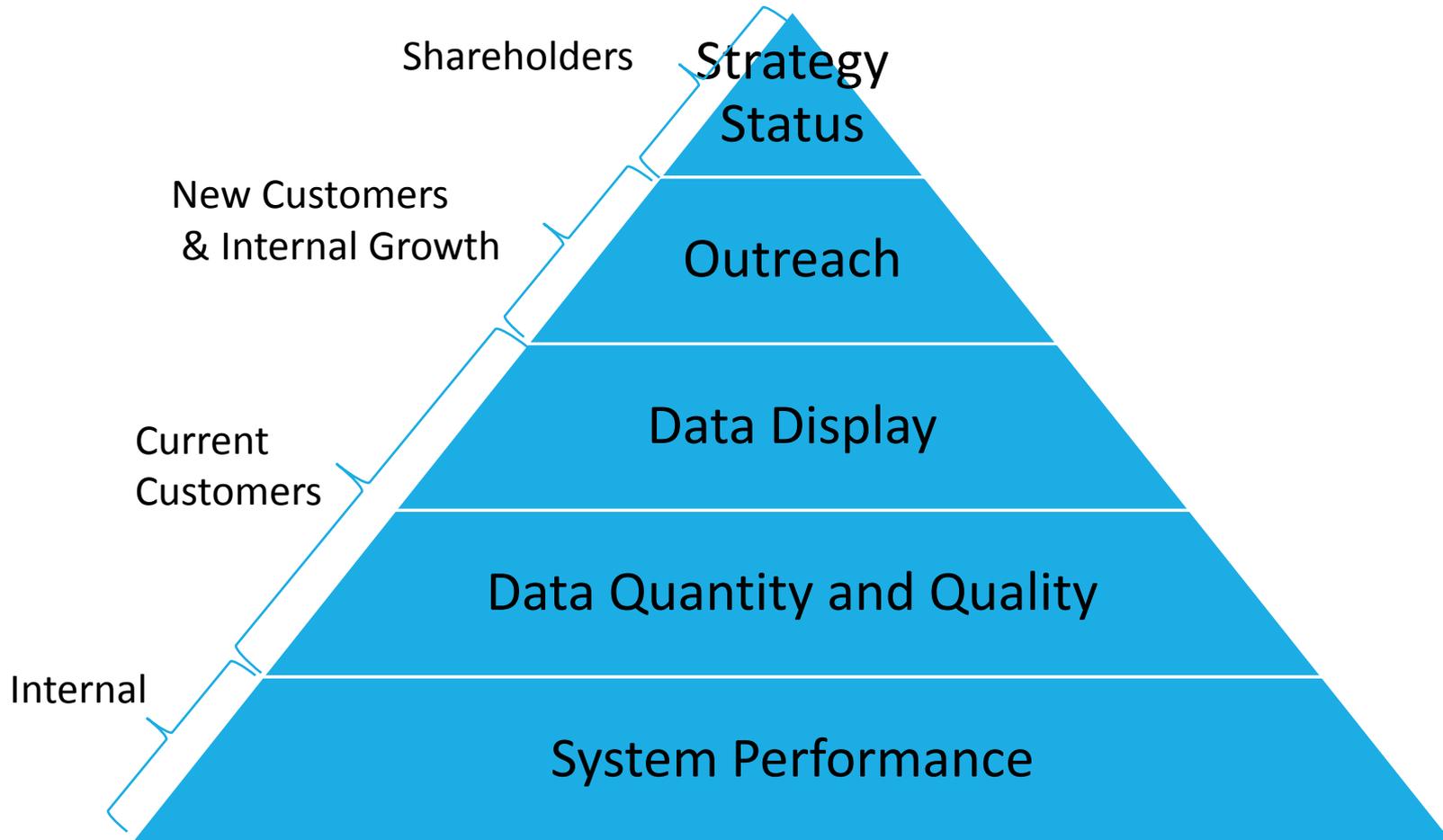
1. Maintain the institutional framework
2. Evaluate progress
3. Methods and data comparability
4. Data quality and documentation
5. Methods and data elements
6. Information management and sharing
7. Data elements, codes and reference tables
8. National assessment
9. Reporting and public education
10. Information dissemination
11. Other national water activities
12. International activities

Comments paired to Function

4. Data quality and documentation - Develop and foster the implementation of monitoring activities for which the data quality is known and the documentation is adequate to support information sharing.

- Identify ways to improve monitoring data quality, data compatibility and data reporting quality
- Identify ways to deliver better data for quality analysis
- Improve monitoring data collection management and reporting to improve water monitoring planning
 - (See document Portal_vision_042715.docx)

Water Quality Vision



Question:

How can the Water Quality Portal support the Council's efforts toward a Water Quality Vision and implement *The Strategy for Improving Water Quality Monitoring*?

Water Quality Portal Vision:1

Function	Goals	1 Year	5 Years
System Performance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Increase efficiency- Reduce operating costs- Increase system performance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Portal vision- STORET Options Analysis- Assess and plan design for STORET warehouse- Assess and design plan for Legacy STORET db- Begin USGS Biodata mapping to WQX- Assess current Portal platform options	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Developed new STORET warehouse solution- Legacy STORET db available via Portal- Biodata available via Portal- Portal in cloud environment

Barriers:

- Cost of hosting
- Increased demand to deliver data and performance

Water Quality Portal Vision:2

Function	Goals	1 Year	5 Years
Data Quantity and Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Increase data quantity- Increase data quality- Increase services	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Reduce data-in barrier with (2) training webinars- Identify (5) states to send biological data- Improve (3) data quality fields/issues- Serve biological data via web service- Explore role of continuous data	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Recognized and reliable source for high quality water data*- Increased integration to other data sets and partners

Barriers:

- Data owner decision to share data
- Steep WQX learning curve
- Data owner decision to improve data quality
- Continuous data strategy is new

Water Quality Portal Vision:3

Function	Goals	1 Year	5 Years
Data Display	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Increase tools off Portal- Reduce data search time	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Develop analytical tool off of Portal- Launch data discovery tool off of Portal	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Multiple tools available to search and display water data trends

Barriers:

- Identifying data users and uses
- Resources to design and maintain tools

Water Quality Portal Vision:4

Function	Goals	1 Year	5 Years
Outreach and Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Increase Council knowledge- Identify data users and uses- Attract new data use customers- Identify new data suppliers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Develop factsheets- Conduct (2) webinars- Profile (2) use cases- Identify (1) new federal partner- Identify (3) new state data suppliers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Informed water partners- Knowledgeable Council members- Educated data owners and users- Improved community

Barriers:

- Priorities for outreach and communication
- Quantifying and selling the value of the Portal to existing and new members
- How to engage and educate Council members

Water Quality Portal Vision:5

Function	Goals	1 Year	5 Years
Strategy Status	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Identify status of monitoring data/programs- Identify new collaboration opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Display water monitoring data holdings- Display partners- Display coordinated efforts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- More water monitoring information available- More water monitoring information supporting prioritizing and decision making

Barriers:

- Revisit Strategy and identify goals with ACWI

Water Quality Portal Vision - Barriers

Function	Barrier	
Strategy Status	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Revisit Strategy and identify goals with ACWI	
Outreach and Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Priorities for outreach and communication- Quantifying and selling the value of the Portal to existing and new members- How to engage and educate Council members	
Data Display	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Identifying data users and uses- Resources to design and maintain tools	
Data Quantity and Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Data owner decision to share data- Steep WQX learning curve- Data owner decision to improve data quality- Continuous data strategy is new	
System Performance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Cost of hosting- Increased demand of data and performance	

Questions for Members

1. What suggestions do you have for resolving the roadblocks?
2. What should the Portal be - A tool to deliver data, a tool to tell a story, a tool to support the Strategy, or other?
3. How could the Portal relate to state and interstate strategies?
4. Which is more important to you, data quality or data quantity?
5. What data should we prioritize or pursue?
6. What are Council Communication Plan and Priorities?
7. Who would you suggest we include on an outreach plan?
8. Other – comments or questions on “what’s missing”?

Next Steps

May 6 ,2015 – WIS Review

May 14, 2015 – Present to Council

June/July 2015 – Engage workgroups

- Council members send feedback by June 1 to Kovatch.Charles@epa.gov
- Regroup on a call in July

August 2015 – Finalize with Council

- Set FY2016 Portal development and spending priorities

Summer/Fall 2015 – Present to ACWI

Fall 2015/Winter 2016 – Scope 3-5 yr plan

May 2016 – Announce accomplishments and plans at Tampa, FL meeting

Questions?
