



National Water Quality Monitoring Council

Working together for clean water



Meeting Notes – National Water Quality Monitoring Council (Council) October 17, 2016

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

Actions, Decisions and other Information

1. **Decision:** Upon a motion duly made (Jim Dorsch), seconded (Danielle Donkersloot), and carried, the July 25, 2016 Council Meeting minutes were approved and will be posted on the website.
2. **Council Membership Updates:** New Members introduced themselves and gave a bit of information on their backgrounds. The Council welcomed Andrew Ross (EPA Region 8 Representative) and Marie DeLorenzo (NOAA Representative).
3. **Future Council meetings:** Future web meetings will be regularly scheduled to increase attendance and allow for a more consistent agenda. Regularly scheduled web meetings will take place every other month, on the second Monday of the month. The first regularly-scheduled web meeting will take place on February 13, 2017. Our next in-person meeting will take place November 29-Dec 1, 2016 in Indianapolis, IN.
 - **Action:** Council members are encouraged to provide feedback to meeting layout to Candice Hopkins (chopkins@usgs.gov).
4. **Suggestion Box:** Candice Hopkins and Gary Rowe reported on the newly-released suggestion box feature on the Council website homepage (<https://acwi.gov/monitoring/>). The suggestion box is open to the public and is intended to be an avenue for suggesting ideas for webinars, newsletter topics, or issues the Council may need to address. The layout of the suggestion box was discussed by the entire Council.
 - **Action:** Dan Sullivan will add text to this feature indicating that personal information is needed in order to follow-up with the suggestion.
5. **Collaboration and Outreach Work Group:** Candice Hopkins and Danielle Donkersloot gave a quick presentation on goals that the work group has set for the next two years. The largest goal of the work group is to invigorate the collaboration aspect of the group's work, and try to reinstate relationships with state, regional, and tribal councils or partners in monitoring (see presentation "C&O_Oct17"). Danielle noted that collaboration transcends all work groups, and all members of the Council should be helping with collaboration efforts.
6. **Volunteer Monitoring Work Group Report Out** – Danielle Donkersloot reported on the activities of the Volunteer Monitoring (VM) Work Group. The co-chairs have established very clear job descriptions for the group and have included both active (5-6 hours/month) and passive membership roles that the Council can fill. These job descriptions will be shared with the NWQMC soon, and are planning to get others from the Volunteer Monitoring Community connected and engaged soon.
7. **National Network of Reference Watersheds** – Mike McHale updated the Council on the progress of the National Network of Reference Watersheds (NNRW). Mike has been working to incorporate sites into the database, and some concerns have come up from states who do not want to share georeferenced data and Mike is working with them on this issue. It is also likely that the NNRW will be linked with the USGS Gages3 when it is developed and released, and Mike is in discussions at this time.
8. **Sensors Work Group:** Dan Sullivan presented on recent activities of the Sensors Work Group. The group is working on the illustrated deployment guide for sensors and is currently looking for more examples to include. The Sensors Work Group is starting a new webinar series and is looking to host one outside speaker per month; the latest speaker was Nicole Halsey and she spoke to over 30 people. The group is working on a few other projects, including alternatives to telemetry systems, a guide for people using timeseries data, and a questionnaire about what type of training is available and needed in the sensors field. Other issues the group is looking to address is the decontamination of sensors issue and guidance for data and metadata standards. This group is currently looking for members; anyone interested in joining can contact Dan Sullivan (djsullivan@usgs.gov).
9. **Water Information Strategies Work Group:** Mary Skopec reviewed recent initiatives of the WIS group and encouraged new members to participate in this group. WIS is currently working to integrate more data into the Water Quality Portal and is reaching out to several states to help them incorporate legacy data. The group will be working on updating the MOU (memorandum of understanding) for the Water Quality Portal. In addition, the WIS group will focus on a new suggestion from Larry Willis about turning data into information and will hopefully present this idea at the December in-person meeting. The next WIS call is open to all and is scheduled for November 2nd at 3:00 pm ET.

10. Presentations

- Bruce Lindsey (USGS) presented on the USGS Decadal Trends Mapper: Evaluating and communicating decadal-scale changes in the nation's groundwater quality (see presentation "[NWQMC WebMeeting OCT 2016](#)"). Bruce outlined the visual tool that was built as a result of decades of groundwater sampling as part of the NAWQA program; this tool can quickly and easily show changes in groundwater changes that have taken place nation-wide on the decadal scale.
- Elin Bentanzo (Northeast-Midwest Institute) gave a presentation on the Availability of Existing Data to Assess Impacts of Shale Gas Development in the Susquehanna River Basin (see presentation "[NEMWI Shale Presentation NWQMC Oct 2016](#)"). This case study identified the Susquehanna a watershed that may be vulnerable to water contamination from gas development activities. Elin identified existing monitoring data gaps and outlined the monitoring design for a proposed groundwater network.
- Pete McMahon (USGS) gave a presentation on Impacts of Unconventional Oil and Gas Development on Groundwater Quality. This effort outlined results of both water and gas sampling that was conducted as part of the NAWQA program and highlighted potential indicators of contaminated groundwater.

11. Round Robin: EPA Regional Representatives: EPA Regional representatives were asked to give a 3-5 minute highlight efforts or accomplishments and identify emerging issues in their EPA region.

- Region 1 (Dave Neils, via email): There is a drought condition in the Northeast (Region1), especially the southeastern areas. Most rivers in southeastern New Hampshire/Massachusetts are at or below the 10th percentile of historic flows. From Vermont, new WQS are being adopted that include more stringent tiered aquatic life use categories and fine scale watershed management planning as part of the Lake Champlain TMDL. From Rhode Island, ¼ of a rotational monitoring effort for Wadeable Stream was completed in 2016, Hg in fish data gaps are being filled, also looking to tackle large river biomonitoring efforts. In New Hampshire, we continue implementation of our revised monitoring strategy with a focus on lakes and rivers, completed National Wetlands Condition Assessment, state is receiving scrutiny of dissolved oxygen saturation criteria (should it be included in WQS), road salt applicator certification is part of strategy to reduce road salt use in watersheds that are part of large highway expansion.
- Region 4 (Dave Chestnut): Kentucky conducted a study and established a large river fish community index and also conducted a mussel study. Kentucky has been sampling for microcystins at reported algal bloom sites. The Florida DEP is coordinating a special issue of the Florida Scientist magazine that focuses on groundwater resources. The Georgia adopt-a-stream program is going to be adopted by South Carolina and they hope to get this volunteer monitoring program up and running by May of 2017. Meanwhile, all of the states are recovering from flooding associated with Hurricane Matthew.
- Region 7 (Mary Skopec): Iowa has been dealing with quite a few harmful algal blooms over the season and has a new active HAB group. They formed a new response document for the possibility of a HAB on the Mississippi River. Iowa is looking at public water supplies and the presence of microcystin; they did see it in the finished water supply in one instance. There has also been record flooding in September in both Iowa and Wisconsin.
- Region 9 (Kristopher Jones, in place of Jon Marshack): California has made progress updating tools for accessing and visualizing data. California is doing more outreach to identify the needs of stakeholders who will be accessing and using data.
- Region 10 (Aaron Borisenko): Alaska has been conducting freshwater and coastal surveys in the arctic area and will continue this work in the southeastern part of the state. 4 dams on the Klamath are slated to be removed by 2020. Oregon is planning to do study 50 lakes as part of the National Lakes Assessment in 2017. Idaho is focused on water-quality associated with recharge along the Snake River Plain and is investigating how to reduce water temperature discharging from the Hells Canyon Complex along the Snake River.

MEETING AGENDA

Monday, October 17th, 2016 – Eastern Daylight Time

- 1:00 pm – Welcome and Roll Call (Susan Holdsworth)
- 1:05 pm – Council Business - Approval of July 2016 Minutes (Candice Hopkins)
- 1:10 pm – Introduction of New Members (Marie DeLorenzo, Andrew Ross)
- 1:15 pm – Introduction of Suggestion Box (Candice Hopkins, Gary Rowe, Susan Holdsworth)
- 1:30 pm – Collaboration and Outreach Workgroup Update (Candice Hopkins, Danielle Donkersloot)
- 1:40 pm – WIS Workgroup Update (Mary Skopec)
- 1:55 pm – Sensors Workgroup and Methods Board Update (Dan Sullivan)
- 2:10 pm – National Network of Reference Watersheds Update (Mike McHale)
- 2:25 pm – Volunteer Monitoring Workgroup Update (Danielle Donkersloot)
- 2:30 pm – Break
- 2:50 pm – USGS Decadal Trends Mapper (Bruce Lindsey, USGS)

3:10 pm – Use of Existing Data to Assess Impacts of Shale Gas Development in the Susquehanna River Basin (Elin Betanzo)
 3:30 pm – Impacts of UOG Development on Groundwater Quality (Pete McMahon, USGS)
 3:50 pm – Questions for Technical Speakers (all)
 4:05 pm – Round Robin: State Rep Highlights (EPA Regional Representatives)
 4:35 pm – Review of Draft agenda for Nov 29-Dec 1 Indianapolis Council meeting (Candice Hopkins, Martha Clark Mettler)
 4:50 pm – Adjourn

Participants:

Aaron Borisenko	borisenko.aaron@deq.state.or.us
Alice Mayo	mayio.alice@epa.gov
Amy Kathman	akathman@wef.org
Andrew Ross	andrew.ross@state.co.us
Barb Horn	barb.horn@state.co.us
Bruce Lindsey	blindsey@usgs.gov
Candice Hopkins	chopkins@usgs.gov
Chris Greene	christopher.greene@state.mn.us
Dan Sullivan	djsulliv@usgs.gov
Danielle Donkersloot	ddonkersloot@iwla.org
Dave Neils	david.neils@des.nh.gov
David Chestnut	chestnde@dhec.sc.gov
Doug McLaughlin	dmclaughlin@ncasi.org
Dwane Young	young.dwane@epa.gov
Elin Betanzo	ebetanzo@nemw.org
Gary Rowe	glrowe@usgs.gov
James Dorsch	jdorsch@mwrddst.co.us
Jane Caffrey	jcaffrey@uwf.edu
John Metesh	jmetesh@mtech.edu
Ken Belitz	kbelitz@usgs.gov
Kim Martz	kimmartz@usgs.gov
Kristopher Jones	kristopher.jones@water.ca.gov
Marie DeLorenzo	marie.delorenzo@noaa.gov
Martha Clark Mettler	mclark@idem.in.gov
Mary Skopec	mary.skopec@dnr.iowa.gov
Michele Wheeler	michele.wheeler@wisconsin.gov
Mike Eberle	mbeberle@fs.fed.us
Mike Higgins	mike_j_higgins@fws.gov
Mike McDonald	mcdonald.michael@epa.gov
Mike McHale	mmchale@usgs.gov
Nancy Schuldt	nancyschuldt@fdlrez.com
Nichole Halsey	nhalsey@seabird.com
Pete McMahon	pmcmahon@usgs.gov
Susan Holdsworth	holdsworth.susan@epa.gov
Wendy Norton	wenorton@usgs.gov