This session is a facilitated, interactive panel discussion, focusing on forming, building, and sustaining successful water monitoring councils, whether at the State, Regional, or Tribal level. Panelists will contribute case study examples from various types of councils as well as alternatives to formal monitoring councils (e.g. partnerships and alliances). We will explore various ways in stakeholders organize to share water monitoring information (e.g. an annual or water quality issue-oriented meeting). In addition to case study presentations, the session will include substantial time for questions and discussion among all the participants. We look forward to your suggestions as to how the National Water Quality Monitoring Council might assist with the formation and growth of monitoring councils, such as facilitating communication and collaboration among councils in various phases of development and discussion.