

Florida Water Resources Monitoring Council

Florida Department of Environmental Protection
September 2, 2009

FWRMC 2006-2008

- Council established with State and Regional Water Resource agencies to address 4 objectives set by the DEP Secretary
- 4 objectives:
 - Develop water-quality data and metadata standards for adoption by state agencies.
 - Support development of a replacement for STORET for sharing WQ data
 - Mesh ongoing fresh water monitoring with new coastal monitoring network.
 - Coordinate Florida's monitoring efforts with federal programs.

Existing Challenges

- Data Challenges
 - Provide data/information that can be shared with others
 - Collect data that can be combined with that from other programs
 - Adopt means to distinguish data that is appropriate for the users purposes (metadata)
- Program Challenges
 - Identify and describe present monitoring programs
 - Identify whether monitoring goals are sufficiently similar to allow coordination of efforts
 - Determine if monitoring programs are sufficiently similar that coordination offers a cost benefit
 - Fill gaps in monitoring and determine where expansion of existing programs is more cost effective than adding new programs

Work Products of FWRMC

- Monitoring-Coordination Action Plan
 - Provides consensus of participating monitoring agencies on how to address the overarching issues common to all agencies
- Recommendations for the Oversight structure to implement the Monitoring-Coordination Action Plan
 - Tiered approach – Statewide Council appointed/coordinated by FDEP Secretary
 - Regional councils to engage monitoring stakeholders at a local level

Future Plans

- FDEP is preparing invitation letters to establish the statewide council
- Statewide council will be instrumental in developing region councils; State council member will participate in respective regional council to facilitate information exchange
- For additional information on background and accomplishments of FWRMC:

<http://www.dep.state.fl.us/coastal/WaterMonitoringCouncil/default.htm>