Barb Horn, Mary Skopec, and Peggy Compton
National Water Quality Monitoring Council
Webinar Series
Agenda:

• Introductions
• National Monitoring Conference
  – VM opportunities
  – Features and presentation types
• Writing a successful abstract
• Q & A
Introductions

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NWQMC & VM Opportunities at the NMC

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1997 formed to bring together the diverse expertise needed to develop collaborative, comparable and cost-effective approaches for monitoring and assessing our Nation’s water quality
NWQMC – Monitoring Framework

Understand, protect, restore our waters

- Develop monitoring objectives
- Design monitoring program
- Collect field and lab data
- Assess and interpret data
- Compile and manage data
- Convey results and findings

Collaborate

Coordinate

Communicate
NWQMC - Resources

- Water Quality Portal
- National Environmental Methods Index (NEMI) & Sensors Guide
- National Monitoring Network & National Network of Reference Watersheds
- Bi-annual conference, newsletter & webinars
- Volunteer Monitoring Map, resources, success stories
- Focused workgroups – including Volunteer Monitoring
National Monitoring Conference - VM

- Booth
- Meeting
- Networking
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The Council provides a *national forum* for coordination of comparable and scientifically defensible methods and strategies to improve water quality monitoring, assessment and reporting, and promotes partnerships to foster collaboration, advance the science, and improve management within all elements of the water quality monitoring community.
11th National Water Monitoring Conference

March 25-29, 2019
Denver, Colorado

Goals of the conference:
1. Exchange information
2. Build community/network
3. Be inspired!!

Conference Themes

- Water Quality Prediction: State of the Art and Future Directions
- Emerging Risks in Water Quality
- Monitoring Water Across a Changing Hydrologic Cycle
- Tools to Mine, Share, and Visualize Water Quality Data
- Innovative Designs and Technology for Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment
- Holistic Water Quality Monitoring: Exploring Chemical, Physical and Biological Integrity
- Effective Monitoring Collaborations and Partnerships
- Measuring Effectiveness of Management Actions, Improvement, and Restoration Activities
- Monitoring and Assessment to Protect Human and Ecosystem Health
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*Nowhere* does it say “Volunteer Monitoring” or “Citizen Science”

The goal is to have practitioners of all types integrated in sessions.
Presentation Formats

• Presentations
  – Oral 15-minute
  – Poster

• Extended Session (90 minutes)
  – Panel Discussion
  – Workshops
  – Facilitated Roundtables

• Opportunities
  – Networking
  – Field Trips
Deadline for Abstract Submission
August 15, 2018

For more information on conference abstract submission, including instructions, visit:

Abstract Review Process

1. Author selects “theme(s)” when submitting the abstract.
2. Abstracts are given to “theme” review teams.
3. Automated tool lumps abstracts within a theme based on **key words**.
4. Abstracts that don’t fit within the identified theme may be moved to a different theme.
5. Theme teams read and review abstracts:
   - Reject any abstracts that are selling a product (these need to be exhibitors).
   - Review championed sessions.
   - Prioritize abstracts based on quality (more on that later....)
   - Develop sessions with abstracts that are cohesive and compliment each other.
   - Every effort is made to find a place in the conference for high quality abstracts; but abstracts without a place in the oral presentation slots may be asked to give a poster instead.
   - Notify presenters of acceptance and Voila an awesome conference ensues...
Notified by January 15, 2019* regarding acceptance into the conference

* Some abstracts may be selected as alternates. Alternates may be asked to fill a space in the conference
Writing a Quality Abstract: Getting Started

- Know the audience
- Know the conference themes/topics
- Consider the best format for your work

https://www.nalms.org/2019nmc/call-for-abstracts/
Writing a Quality Abstract: Getting Started

• Determining what to submit
  – Completed work
  – Innovative, new ideas
  – Has a take-home message
Writing a Quality Abstract: Crafting Your Abstract

• The purpose of the abstract
  – Conference presentation accepted!
  – Conference program/schedule
  – It’s short. Make it impactful!
Writing a Quality Abstract: Crafting Your Abstract

• The abstract title
  – 50 word limit!?!? Whoa, that’s A LOT!
  – Specific style guidelines “Title Case”
  – Descriptive and interesting with audience in mind

Example: Role of Evaluation in Decision Making and Program Improvement: Case Study of a Volunteer Stream Monitoring Program
Writing a Quality Abstract: Crafting Your Abstract

- Communicate content and intent
- State audience engagement/learner outcomes
- Describe the body of work – tell your story
  - What was done?
  - What did you learn?
  - What does this mean to your audience? What will they learn? What will they “take away” from your presentation?
Integrating Volunteer Monitoring into Extension Programs

As Extension is entering a new era, changing in size and scope, it is more important than ever to understand the strengths that exist within UW-Extension and how our programs can be synergistic with one another. For 20 years, the Water Action Volunteers (WAV) Stream Monitoring Program has been training and empowering citizens...

Many volunteers also share their data and knowledge in local communities, helping to improve management of water resources.

This session will include:
A brief overview of the WAV program and the local partnering organizations that make it so successful.
A review of a recent 5-state North Central Region Water Network funded effort to integrate volunteer monitoring into Extension Programs.
A discussion of the potential future of volunteer monitoring and how WAV could be an integral part of programming in counties and regions.
Writing a Quality Abstract: Submitting Your Abstract

• Review the abstract instructions:

Corresponding Author First and Last Name

Corresponding Author Email Address

Abstract Title: Enter the full title of your submission in Title Case. This will be used for printing in the final program.

Key Words: Provide one or two word ‘keywords’

Abstract Subject: (Choose from 9 themes)

Volunteer Monitoring Affiliation*: Does your submission include product, data, results, examples, etc. from a volunteer monitoring effort? Yes/No

Championed Sessions*: Are you submitting as part of championed session? Yes/No

Championed Session Organizer: Who is the championed session organizer?

Please choose your preferred means of presentation.* Oral/Poster/Either Oral or Poster

Presenting Author’s First and Last Name*

Presenting Author’s Affiliation*, City, State/Province and Country

Abstract Authors* Please list ALL authors in the order you wish them to appear in your abstract. List authors in the following format with one (1) author per line: Author First and Last Name, Affiliation, City, State/Province, Country.

Please enter the filename of your abstract file.* Submit your abstract in Word format. The next screen will include a link for you to upload your abstract. Abstracts must not exceed 350 words. Abstracts in excess of 350 words may be truncated.
Writing a Quality Abstract: Ingredients for Success

- Write your story with a beginning, middle and end
- Tailor to audience and themes
- Adhere to guidelines
- Consider the review process or scoring criteria – if available
- Don’t doubt the importance of a good title
- Keep language simple and understandable
- Be concise
- Proofread, proofread, proofread – and then have someone else proof it!
Writing a Quality Abstract: Things to Avoid

- Product marketing and program advertising
- A project not yet developed or incomplete
- Recycling an abstract with disregard to this conference’s audience and guidelines
- Poor grammar, typos, incomplete sentences
Writing a Quality Abstract: Helpful Resources

• Purdue Online Writing Lab
  https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/purdue_owl.html

• The Writing Center, University of Wisconsin-Madison
  https://writing.wisc.edu/Handbook/Style.html
General VM Resources

• National Water Quality Monitoring Council
  – https://acwi.gov/monitoring/vm/resources.html

• USA Volunteer Water Monitoring Network
  – http://volunteermonitoring.org/

• Listserves:
  – The EPA volunteer monitoring listserve: To subscribe, send a blank email message to volmonitor-subscribe@lists.epa.gov
  – The extension listserve: https://list.uvm.edu/cgi-bin/wa?SUBED1=EXTVOLMONNETWORK&A=1
  – Citizen Science Association: http://citizenscience.org/elist/
Questions?