



# NATIONAL WATER QUALITY MONITORING COUNCIL

*Working Together for Clean Water*

National Water Quality Monitoring Council  
Water Information Strategies Workgroup Meeting  
Salt Lake City, UT  
November 17, 2011

## **Attendees:**

Peter Tennant, Mary Skopec, Jeff Ostermiller, Leslie McGeorge, Tony Shaw, Greg Pettit, Gary Kohlhepp, Derric Iles, Steve Wolfe, Tyler Baker, Dave Chestnut, Dennis, Susan Holdsworth, Warren Kimball, Jim Dorsch, Doug McLaughlin, Jason Jones, Rick Hooper, Mike Yurewicz, Dan Sullivan.

1. List of Topics for WIS Calls or Webinars
  - a. To be determined.
2. Reporting Water Quality Info
  - a. **Action Items** Held Over from May 2011 meeting:
    - i. Compile Tool Examples
      1. State Tools (examples – Iowa, California)
      2. Beach Act Example
      3. EPA’s “My Environment” information.
    - ii. What Your Boss Needs to Know (Gary K.). Gary will send this out for review – by ???.
3. Pathogens
  - a. **Action Items** Held Over from May 2011 meeting:
    - i. Steve – write an article for the Newsletter updating the status.
    - ii. All members send info if your state/region is doing qPCR or pilot studies to Mary.
4. Monitoring for Effectiveness of BMPs
  - a. **Action Items** Held Over From May 2011 meeting
    - i. More Active Participation of NRCS. Mike Y. and Susan follow-up per Steering Committee Discussion.
    - ii. Future WIS Call.
      1. Nancy Mesner University of Utah (?) – Manual for Monitoring for BMP Effectiveness
      2. State Models of 319 Monitoring (Webinar – Gary, Neil and Jeff).
    - iii. Work more closely with National Nonpoint Source Monitoring Program.
5. Monitoring for Spills & Natural Disasters (Mary, Susan, Jeff O., and Chris Piehler)

- a. Defer until Chris Piehler can be present.
  - b. **Action Item** Held Over from May 2011 meeting.
    - i. Monitoring Spill White Paper
6. Water Quality Statistics and Assessments
- a. Doug shared the Draft WQSA NEMI entry form
  - b. Form characterizes tools (statistics and assessment) to include in NEMI so that they may be shared. Draft form has gone to WIS group previously for review. WQSA in need of responses and filled out spreadsheets with what works and doesn't.
  - c. Tony has put in three probabilistic methods
  - d. **Action Items:**
    - i. Demonstrate WQSA NEMI at May 2012 Conference
    - ii. Webinar on NEMI for Council
    - iii. Doug will circulate the spreadsheet to the Council by Dec 1; Council will send submission intention to Doug by Dec 9<sup>th</sup>. Deadline to send links and barebones information to Dan/Doug by Dec 25<sup>th</sup>
    - iv. Dan will create on-line form by Dec 10<sup>th</sup>
7. Standards for Data Sharing – Rick Hooper
- a. CUAHSI HydroDesktop – data standards kicked off as part of CUAHSI, but expanded since.
    - i. Using WaterML
    - ii. Open Source GIS map
    - iii. Choose a defined area, time frame, and keywords for parameters (key words consistent across agencies/orgs).
    - iv. Will search all the data services on the web (catalogue of webservice, standards for these services are forthcoming, data always resides with the service).
    - v. Can select sites for data download from the original service and download metadata (as defined by the data standards).
    - vi. Consider a link between Sensor Workgroup and this effort.
    - vii. **Action Items:**
      - 1. Set up a future Webinar to demo HydroDesktop
      - 2. Rick will write a Fact Sheet by May 2012 (in preparation for Portland Conference)
      - 3. Rick is willing to work with States to make our data “discoverable”. Pilot a State (IA and SD – borehole data)
8. Capacity Building for WIS
- a. Keep past Council members involved in workgroup activities.
  - b. Utilize staff and other state partners in workgroups as a way to build for succession planning and building capacity for workgroup activities.

- c. **Action Item:** Create list of contacts (former membership).
  - d. **Action Item:** Identify Priorities and Workplan for WIS
- 9. Draft Water Quality Indices Questionnaire
  - a. Leslie shared the New Jersey Questionnaire on Development of Water Quality Indices.
  - b. Link to the WQSA NEMI (enter indices into NEMI).
  - c. **Action Items:**
    - i. Leslie will send the questionnaire WIS via email.
    - ii. Comments due back to Leslie by Dec 1<sup>st</sup>.
- 10. Communicating Your Message and/or Connecting Monitoring to Policy
  - a. Defer due to lack of time.
- 11. Peter Tennant will be stepping down as Co-Chair of WIS after the May 2012 conference.
  - a. **Action Item:** Council Steering Committee will identify a new co-chair.
- 12. Program and Monitoring Integration
  - a. Update on -- “Toward an Integrated Approach to Assessing our Nation’s Waters Discussion Draft for the Water Information Strategies Workgroup Meeting February, 2011”. From discussions regarding the NARS, NAWQA, and state monitoring programs. This document includes “key concepts” that helps to define what is meant by various monitoring program activities. Goal is to put this on the websites of USGS, EPA.
    - i. Finalize the above described white paper (Susan Holdsworth, Neil Kamman, Aaron Borisenko, Mary Skopec, Terry Fleming, Leslie McGeorge, Gary Kohlhepp, Jeff Schloss, Dave Chestnut, Mike Yurewicz). Simplify the language.
      - 1. Toward an Integrated Approach to Assessing Our Nation’s Waters
      - 2. Highlight some examples of this integration at other scales (state and volunteers/others).
      - 3. Capacity Building – extend our technical capacity to other groups to integrate with other groups (WWTP, volunteers, agriculture groups).