



Water Information Strategies Workgroup Meeting
New Orleans, LA
May 5, 2011

Attendees:

Peter Tennant, Mary Skopec, Gary Rowe, Jeff Ostermiller, Leslie McGeorge, Tony Shaw, Greg Pettit, Gary Kohlhepp, Gary Rosenlieb, Barb Horn, Chris Pielher, Derric Iles, Steve Wolfe, Jeff Schloss, Tyler, Dave Chestnut, Neil Kamman, Gunnar Lauenstein, Susan Holdsworth, Jane Caffrey, Cathy Tate.

1. Use of Volunteer Monitoring Data Survey – Dave Chestnut
 - a. South Carolina report of graduate student project:
 - i. Varying framework structures
 - ii. NC – NPDES requires in-stream monitoring. Saves permittees money and data are important to permittees.
 - iii. Citizen monitoring – various groups.
 - iv. States with programs and States that use the data.
 - v. Data Tiering – existing structures and proposed.

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2. List of Topics for WIS Calls or Webinars
 - a. June – Chris Piehler: Monitoring for Spills
 - b. July -- ?: Pathogen Monitoring (Peter will talk with Sherry Barish?). Jane will also talk with Rachel Nobel (her alternate) that does this work. ((Mary send our small pilot Epi study)).
 - c. August – Aaron Borsienko, Oregon Gov Space
 - d. September – Nancy Messner, States: Monitoring for BMP Effectiveness
 - e. October – Rick Hooper: Web Services.
 - f. November – Mary Skopec, Reporting Tools.

- g. December
- 3. Reporting Water Quality Info
 - a. State Tools (examples – Iowa, California)
 - b. Beach Act Example
 - c. EPA’s “My Environment” information.
 - d. What Your Boss Needs to Know (Gary K.). Gary will send this out for review – by August 15th.
- 4. Pathogens (EPA under a court order to do something).....
 - a. www.werf.org/pathogens
 - b. www.werf.org/pathoverview
 - c. July Webinar
 - d. EPA will propose Enterococci with qPCR soon.
 - e. Some discussion of keeping both (E. coli and qPCR) as options.
 - f. Steve – write an article for the Newsletter updating the status.
 - g. Action Item – All, send info if your state/region is doing qPCR or pilot studies to Mary.
- 5. Monitoring for Effectiveness of BMPs
 - a. Monitoring of MRBI projects (don’t limit the discussion to MRBI only, there are other NRCS monitoring projects elsewhere in the country) – sharing of data and QA oversight.
 - b. Can we get more active participation by NRCS on Council (Peter will follow up).
 - c. Set up a call – Peter, Jane (Region 6), Chris, etc.
 - d. Nancy Messner University of Utah (?) – Manual for Monitoring for BMP Effectiveness (perhaps another webinar -- September)
 - e. State Models of 319 Monitoring (Webinar – Gary, Neil and Jeff).
 - f. Follow-up discussion at another call.
 - g. Action Item – work more closely with National Nonpoint Source Monitoring Program.
- 6. Monitoring for Spills & Natural Disasters (Mary, Susan, Jeff O., and Chris Piehler)
 - a. Devote a conference call to this topic.
 - b. Lessons Learned Document (Fact Sheet & Case Studies, NJ – the role of volunteers, baseline) – scale issues (local, regional, national).
 - c. Susan – Library of QAPPs, Parameters, Detection limits, labs, etc.
 - i. Response (distinction between emergency response and emergency monitoring response).
 - ii. Damage Assessment
 - d. Suggestion – presentation about NRDA at next NWQMC meeting.
 - e. Chris’s presentation for a webinar (June 8th?). Perhaps pull in the role of routine monitoring to help?

7. Water Quality Statistics and Assessments

- a. Defer to later.
- 8. 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. Ready to review by full Council in Nov.
 - b. Mary will send the documents to the WIS group.
 - i. Finalize the above described white paper (Susan, Neil, Aaron, Mary, Terry, Leslie, Gary, Jeff Schloss). Simplify the language.
 - 1. Monitoring Vision – Calling Card
 - 2. Toward an Integrated Approach to Assessing Our Nation’s Waters
 - ii. Can we highlight some examples of this integration at other scales (state and volunteers/others).
 - iii. Capacity Building – extend our technical capacity to other groups to integrate with other groups (WWTP, volunteers, agriculture groups).
 - iv. Oregon Gov Space – building tool for people to share information and collaborate.