

WIS objectives as previously stated and with some proposed modifications:

The workgroup's purpose is to define and promote goal-oriented monitoring in all aquatic environments by proposing strategies for program development and network design, ~~sampling~~, data storage and retrieval management and access, data analysis and interpretation, and reporting in support of the evolving information needs of water-quality management.

The objectives of the workgroup are to:

- Examine the evolving nature of water quality management in the United States and the changing expectations for monitoring information
- Create and communicate monitoring design guidance that connects the information produced by monitoring efforts to long-term and current questions of management

The workgroup is a product-focused organization whose activities are designed to promote and support the key elements of its purpose statement. The workgroup will maintain a perspective representing monitoring needs throughout the hydrologic cycle. The workgroup will accomplish its work through the establishment of standing teams with a specific focus and ad hoc project teams developed as needed with coordination provided by the workgroup as a whole.

Specifically, the workgroup will:

- ~~Define and specify water information goals~~
- ~~Benchmark current monitoring system design efforts~~
- Develop and/or promote specific guidance for the monitoring community
- Coordinate with ~~other~~ and facilitate partnerships between groups working toward similar objectives both nationally and internationally
- Provide technical expertise to other Council workgroups, including:
 - Technical support to the National Monitoring Network Steering Committee and Teams
 - Program and content support to the Communications & Outreach workgroup and its Conference Planning team
 - Coordination of product development with the Methods and Data Comparability Board