

Subcommittee on Ground Water

Monday, March 20, 2017

Draft Minutes

Conference Call

USGS Headquarters, Reston VA

Attachment 1 – Draft Agenda for Monday, March 20, 2017

Attachment 2 – Draft SOGW Minutes –February 21, 2017

Attachment 3 – December 2016 Face to Face Meeting Notes

Attachment 4—Terms of Reference

Time	Topic	Discussion Leader
Noon	<p>Welcome and Attendance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bill Cunningham, federal co-chair, USGS representative* • Bob Schreiber, non-federal co-chair, ASCE representative* • Lauren Schapker, executive secretary, NGWA • Brandon Kernen, ASDWA representative, Darrel Osterhoudt, alternate* • Cary Betz, State Representative* • Chris Carlson, Forest Service* • Dave Langseth, NGWA representative* • Kara Goodwin, EPA representative* • Mary Musick, GWPC representative* • Dave Wunsch, AASG representative* • Jeffrey Davis, LBG Guyton • Janice Hiller, In-Situ • John Yellich, Michigan Geological Survey • Pat Lambert, federal liaison to WSWC • Jessica Lucido, USGS • Treasure Bailley, EPA Region 8 • Tim Parker, Parker Groundwater • Tom Patton, Montana Bureau of Mines & Geology • Daryll Pope, USGS • Mike Wireman, Granite Ridge Groundwater • Dave Larson, Retired • Joe Fillingham, Wellntel • Marian Singer, Wellntel • Kathleen Fultz, Water Quality Association • Chuck Job, NGWA • Rick Copeland, FL DEP • Doug Yeskis, USGS • Johanna Kovarik, Forest Service • Candice Hopkins, USGS • Tom Nicholson, NRC • Lori Huntoon, ASTM <p>*Those names in bold indicate attendees on the call.</p>	Bob

* Voting organization representative/alternate per Terms of Reference

12:05	<p>Call Purpose</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Status Report: Cooperative Agreements 2. Status Report: NGWMN Portal 3. Update: ACWI Annual Meeting 4. Update: Revisiting Task Groups 5. Thought Exercise: New Directions with TOR 6. NWQMC Newsletter Article 7. Outreach Report 	Bob
Business Portion		
12:07 P	<p>Approval of agenda – additions/deletions (Attachment #1)</p> <p>The agenda was approved without revision.</p>	Bob
12:09 P	<p>Approval of previous minutes (Attachment #2)</p> <p>Approval of December Face to Face Meeting minutes (Attachment #3)</p> <p>Both sets of minutes were approved with minor typographical changes.</p> <p>Expected Outcome: Approve minutes</p>	Bob
SOGW Work Items		
12:12 P	<p>Status Report: Cooperative Agreements</p> <p>Status of ongoing work</p> <p>Program Board update</p> <p>The Program Board meeting was held in March in Denver with 8 members in attendance. Two new members to the Program Board were in attendance: Kara Goodwin with EPA and Alex Butler. While in Colorado, they also received a tour of the EPA lab. The meeting was productive and they completed the proposal write-ups.</p> <p>Daryll will be letting agencies know about their applications, but awards will be delayed until FY2017 funding is resolved. The cover letters that Daryll sends to the agencies will explain the contingency with federal funding. As a result, project start dates will be later than originally proposed.</p> <p>Daryll will work with the Program Board to revise the program announcement for FY 2018 over the next few months. Daryll will discuss changes to the Program Announcement with the SOGW around the end of July.</p> <p>There was little activity occurring with existing data providers, but Daryll plans to set up conference calls with providers in April.</p> <p>Bob asked for a reminder about Program Board composition and turnover of members. Daryll said they're going to work on coming up with a rotating cycle for new members and want to be sure they have a good mix of veterans, as well as new members. Some vacancies will likely open up this summer, but the next formal meeting won't be until next proposal review.</p> <p>Bob asked Lauren about the outlook for funding opportunities for the rest</p>	Daryll

	<p>of the year. Lauren says it's anyone's guess at this point, but a CR would be best bet for stability, given potential divisiveness around unrelated issues.</p> <p>Bill asked about Program Board composition and where vacancies might come from. Daryll says the board is made of 6 data providers (2 from each region), plus some federal agency representation. Potential retirements could create some openings, including Tom Patton who is planning to retire and step down from the Board.</p> <p>Expected Outcome: Status Report</p>	
12:17 P	<p>Status Report: NGWMN Portal Status on ongoing development Upcoming work</p> <p>Jessica provided an update on portal activities over the past month. Her team pushed out NE WL data, as well as Lithology/well construction data for Alaska. Jessica and Candice also worked on mapping services for Alaska and water level service from the OK Water Resources Board and Washington state.</p> <p>Daryll has been working with Jessica on creating data provider pages. The pages are still under development and are being tested.</p> <p>Jessica is making progress on the bulk upload feature and hopes to have it available by beginning of summer. She also noted she completed work on handling unknown values in WL records, an issue that was initially discovered in NC. She will have fix in place to be pushed out soon. She also started tracking usage of web service for WL to gain a better understanding of how community is using information.</p> <p>Up next: Jessica will be looking at service parsers for OK and WA and will be available for working with any other data providers.</p> <p>Bill noted that data provider pages stemmed from a face to face breakout session and commends group for acting so quickly.</p> <p>Expected Outcome: Status Report</p>	Jessica
12:22 P	<p>Update: ACWI Annual Meeting</p> <p>Bill gave a report on the ACWI Annual Meeting that happened in late February, serving as the 2016 meeting that was delayed. SOGW presented its proposed revisions to the Terms of Reference at the meeting.</p> <p>Bill gave an overview of the SOGW presentation given by Bob, Daryll, Bill, Dave Langseth, and Dave Wunsch. The presentation was well-received, and the TOR was approved as written. ACWI notes from the meeting have not yet been posted, but the SOGW presentation is available on the ACWI website.</p>	Bill

	<p>Tom Nicholson from the URC noted that he was interested in the SOGW's involvement with various river commissions, specifically the Susequehanna River Basin Commission. He is interested because of the water requirements of nuclear facilities and what can happen in times of drought.</p> <p>Mary Musick asked about SOGW being able to participate in other ACWI subcommittees for groundwater-related issues, but Bill reported no feedback on that issue was received. Bill noted that Candice's new involvement with the SOGW could be a good sign for increased involvement with NWQMC group.</p> <p>Expected Outcome: Information Exchange</p>	
12:30	<p>Update: Revisiting Task Groups and Action Items from December Meeting</p> <p>Bill suggested the SOGW regularly revisit the list of action items from December for updates on progress made.</p> <p>In terms of progress made, Daryll noted the data provider pages and TOR are already underway/complete.</p> <p>Bill noted work groups are needed for WQ frequency discussion, serving of non- NGWMN data through the portal, revising the SOGW website, and PWS data.</p> <p>Tom Nicholson volunteered radionuclide presence as an area of interest. Bill says there could be an opening within WQ frequency group. Mary volunteers PWS could also be a spot for it.</p> <p>Mary asked for initiative taken on a PWS work group.</p> <p>Dave Larson volunteered to assist in the SOGW website task group.</p> <p>Expected outcome: Status Report</p>	Bob
12:40	<p>Thought Exercise: New Directions within Expanded TOR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GW quantity/usage • GW modeling • Infrastructure rehab and enhancement • Recorder data/Time series • Data preservation from well logs • Innovative monitoring techniques • PWS wells <p>Bill noted that the expanded TOR allows for us to focus in different areas and initiated a discussion on where should we go within the expanded TOR.</p> <p>Bob suggested we start the discussion on this and carry forward either after this call or on a future agenda. He asked for feedback from group</p>	Bill

	<p>on what appeals most.</p> <p>Rick suggested quantity/usage and recorder/time series are the most critical. Dave Larson reemphasizes the quantity point make by Rick.</p> <p>Dave Langseth says that quantity is important, but suggested impact could be limited, since it's primarily dealt with at the state level. Dave also noted innovative monitoring techniques would produce a lot of useful information.</p> <p>Mary followed up on Dave's point by suggesting remote sensing and how that type of data could be incorporated into other monitoring.</p> <p>Jeff Davis discussed work underway in NGWA's groundwater modeling advisory panels. He described each subgroup, which are developing white papers that will be presented at Groundwater Week in December. Volunteers to provide any info on modeling from the GMAP effort.</p> <p>Tom Patton commented on GW quantity/usage, noting he agrees this could be a tough nut to crack due to state involvement and exempt wells make the conversation more difficult despite the need.</p> <p>Tom Nicholson discussed a recent NRC conference session on gw monitoring and remediation around nuclear plant sites. He noted a lot of people are interested in knowing how you integrate gw modeling and monitoring, as well as if/when to remediate. Tom will send a section on the conference to the co-chairs to circulate to the group.</p> <p><i>Other ideas and notes on new direction from conversation occurring after SOGW call concluded:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrastructure rehab and enhancement ASCE – ISI (Institute of sustainable infrastructure). Hydrogeo aspects of this issue. • Recorder data/Time series <p>Some support for this topic. Continuous water quality – is it needed, and what value in GW?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data preservation from well logs Should the SOGW become involved in the issue of public availability of driller's logs? • Innovative monitoring techniques Some support for this, (a) inexpensive, but perhaps less robust (accurate/precise) data; (b) Satellite groundwater data. Interaction with NASA. • PWS wells F2F recommendation for WG on this topic. ASDWA may have some thoughts. AWWA is an important organization here also. 	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional agencies like the Delaware River Basin Commission • Transboundary theme <p>This topic came up in December too. Range of topics within the theme due to different scales, international vs. interstate vs. intrastate, and the management of the resource.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spring boundaries (and their transient nature). <p>It is a 4-dimensional issue making spring-protection programs difficult. FL, TX, KY, others. Quantity and quality issue (N loading). TMDL, Endangered species....</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GW/SW Interactions – <p>Could foster interactions with other ACWI groups or state/regional councils within/collaborating with the NWQMC. FRTR, SOH are other options.</p> <p>Additional brainstorming discussion on these topics was held for any willing participants for 30 minutes after the SOGW business call. Notes are included at the end of this document.</p> <p>Expected Outcome: Information Exchange</p>	
12:50 P	Outreach Report	
	<p>Upcoming Outreach:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GWPC/UIC conference (Feb 21-23, 2017 in Austin, TX) <p>Mary reported that GWPC had an interesting meeting, focused on Class I and Class II injection, and also discussed issues like aquifer exemptions, induced seismicity and shallow groundwater contamination. She also noted GWPC will have a special series on stormwater and shallow injection in Boston in September.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AASG Washington Visits (March 6-7, Washington DC) <p>Bill was not able to attend the AASG, but he provided some information for Don Cline (USGS Assoc Director, Water) presented to group.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NGWA Groundwater Fly-In (March 7-8, Washington, DC) <p>Lauren reported that 61 meetings were held on NGWMN and infrastructure, including the idea of “natural” infrastructure. The meeting was held in collaboration with Washington Fly-Ins held by Water Quality Association and the Irrigation Association.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NGWA GW Week – GW Summit incorporated <p>The meeting takes place week of December 5th in Nashville. The deadline for abstracts is 4/28. The Groundwater Summit will be held in conjunction with the event, and the Groundwater Modeling Advisory Panels will also be presented in Nashville. Bill noted very preliminary conversations have begun on possibly holding another face to face meeting at the same time.</p>	<p>Lauren, Mary, Dave, and Bob</p>

	• Other events?	
	Adjourn	
1:00 P	Next Meeting—Monday, April 17 th	Bob

Further Thought Exercise Time: Rick Copeland, Tom Nicholson, Lori Huntoon, Tom Patton, Mary Musick, Dave Larson

Mary wants to be sure we can integrate the NGWMN in the various other areas we may be focusing on. Also had concerns that the scale of data offered by the network might not be large enough to get to challenges that Tom Nicholson is looking for.

Bob asks that we look to getting to talk with regional agencies, as well as other federal agencies like NOAA

Mary also mentioned PWS importance, but isn't sure where we go beyond the network. Should we try to get ASDWA more involved? Bob suggests AWWA could also get more engaged with us on this issue. ICWP

Infrastructure rehab and enhancement: notes NGWA Fly-In on "Natural infrastructure" Tom Nicholson notes that yellow line had groundwater inflow at L'Enfant Plaza and how there's a big disconnect... notes hydrogeological aspects
ASCE could also be an option ... check out Institute of Sustainable Infrastructure for data collection.

Dave Larson highlights transboundary aquifers and the issue of data and decision-making. Rick notes spring boundaries/spring sheds or basins. Bob notes special protections that might be legislated. Mary notes TMDLs and endangered species issues.

GW/SW interaction