

Subcommittee on Ground Water

Draft Minutes

USGS Headquarters

Monday, April 17, 2017

Noon Eastern, 11 Central, 10 Mountain and 9 am Pacific

Attachment 1 – Draft Agenda for Monday, April 17, 2017

Attachment 2 – Draft SOGW Minutes –March 20, 2017

Attachment 3 – List of New Directions for SOGW

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 Bailey, 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 • Lori Huntoon, ASTM • Tom Nicholson, NRC • Joe Gurrieri, USFS <p>*Those names in bold indicate participants 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. NGWMN and Tribe Eligibility. 4. Potential new Federal NGWMN Data Provider 5. New Directions with TOR 6. 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> <p>Expected Outcome: Approve agenda</p>	Bob
12:09 P	<p>Approval of previous minutes (Attachment #2)</p> <p>The minutes were approved without revision.</p> <p>Expected Outcome: Approve minutes</p>	Bob
SOGW Work Items		
12:12 P	<p>Status Report: Cooperative Agreements</p> <p>Daryll reported on the status of ongoing work, noting decisions have been made to accept proposals for the next round of funding and the paperwork is now in the hands of staff to make awards. Until there is resolution of FY2017 funding, they are in a holding pattern.</p> <p>Daryll also reported on progress in creating data provider pages. He is working to put final reports from data providers into a template and onto the data provider pages.</p> <p>The data provider pages contain a lot of metadata from various data providers, so they are currently being tested and the data providers will then be asked to provide feedback on their pages.</p> <p>The 2018 program announcement is being revised and presented to the Program Board soon for their comments. The announcement will hopefully go to the SOGW for feedback and revision some time this summer.</p> <p>Expected Outcome: Status Report</p>	Daryll
12:17 P	<p>Status Report: NGWMN Portal</p> <p>Jessica has made progress on parsers and new data provider services since the last call. OK Water Resources Board WL service is hooked up, as is the AK DNR WQ service. Both should be released to production soon.</p> <p>A bug that was first identified in NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources water level data has been fixed.</p>	Jessica

	<p>Next up, Jessica and her team is working on MS Department of Environmental Quality service parsers for WL, lithology & well construction; WA State Department of Ecology WL parsers and University of Nebraska-Lincoln lithology & well construction parsers.</p> <p>She's working with Daryll on the data provider page development.</p> <p>Her team will also get started on AK DNR WL services. The NH Geological Survey and ME Geological Survey web services should be ready in next couple of months.</p> <p>Luke Buckley with MT Bureau of Mines & Geology notified Jessica of a bug on WL data for some sites, so her team will also be working to troubleshoot that.</p> <p>Expected Outcome: Status Report</p>	
12:22 P	<p>NGWMN and Tribe Eligibility</p> <p>Bill discussed the effort to expand funding eligibility to tribes who may be interested. Tribes are able to contribute data to the network, but are not able to receive funds due to how appropriations language was written.</p> <p>Bill has been working internally at USGS to determine a way to get the language modified to include tribes, whether that's through the annual appropriations process or through modification of the SECURE Water Act.</p> <p>Lauren mentioned the outreach NGWA did on the issue during its NGWA Fly-In in March. She said the issue was discussed in meetings with 60 congressional offices and that there was no pushback on having the language modified.</p> <p>John Yellich discussed the issue of mapping and tribal coordination, and how he has experience seeking grant funding to get training for tribal participants on sampling because that has been a challenge in the past.</p> <p>Mary asks about whether there is any industry eligibility that could be expanded in the language, and Daryll clarified that while industry can provide data, industry is not eligible for funding.</p> <p>David Wunsch discussed the challenge of modifying language in the SECURE Water Act versus including appropriations language, noting that sometimes opening the SECURE Water Act can cause more problems than it may solve.</p> <p>Daryll Pope confirms that the NGWMN portion of SECURE Water Act expires in 2023. Appropriations language is where the issue is, not the SECURE Water Act. The SECURE Water Act is completely silent on tribes.</p> <p>Expected Outcome: Information Exchange</p>	Bill
12:28	<p>New Business:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential new Federal NGWMN Data Provider 	Bill

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upcoming NGWMN presentation to the ACWI “Streamflow Information Collaborative” <p>Bill noted he’s been talking with Los Alamos on becoming a data provider to the NGWMN. While nothing formal has been outlined, it would be positive to get some DOE participation. It’s unclear how much WL or WQ information they have available because DOE databases are pretty disparate between labs.</p> <p>Given the disparity, Mary asked whether there would be a challenge with getting duplicate data, which Bill said was unlikely.</p> <p>Bill also informed the Subcommittee that there will be a presentation of the NGWMN with the ACWI Streamflow Collaborative. Doug Yeskis discussed the purpose of the Collaborative, which is a subgroup of the Subcommittee on Hydrology. He noted the group focuses on how to move forward on streamgaging network, and how to work better together beyond USGS. Yeskis is using SOGW as a model. Bill said the upcoming presentation will help the SOGW reach its goal of increased collaboration between subgroups of the ACWI.</p> <p>Bob asks about springs are viewed in the Collaborative. Yeskis said springs fall in the gray area, but most measurements are within the groundwater program, while the methodology is more in line with surface water.</p> <p>Expected Outcome: Information Exchange</p>	
12:35	<p>New Directions with TOR (Attachment #3)</p> <p>Bob advised the SOGW to review the circulated list of potential new directions and see what might need to be given the approval of Terms of Reference to expand the SOGW.</p> <p>Lauren will put together a survey for the group to see what they prefer to focus on, in addition to what might be missing. The survey will also allow the entire SOGW to discuss options, rather than just those on the call today.</p> <p>Dave Wunsch suggests a tangential relationship to the NGWMN be maintained, possibly including hydrostratagraphic issues, as well as look for ways to compare “apples to apples” when looking at different aquifers across the country.</p> <p>John Yellich reinforced that its important to look at geology in the space. PWS data is all fairly available, but GW quantity and usage could raise some FOIA concerns.</p> <p>Rick Copeland said that most PWS data is almost always water that’s already been treated, and noted regional issues are also important to keep an eye on, reinforcing the importance of transboundary issues.</p> <p>Tom Patton reinforced Rick’s comments on transboundary and regional issues.</p>	Bob

	<p>Daryll reminded the SOGW to keep the framework document in mind and the questions that the SOGW has set out to answer.</p> <p>Mary would like to see focus on PWS wells and making sure the correct data—raw data—is what’s being received. She also suggested data preservation and well logs as a focus. Bob suggested Tim Parker could be a resource on the issue of well logs and making old information more easily accessible. Dave Wunsch noted that state geological surveys often have the well logs and the USGS has a program with cost-share to preserve the data. The program gets roughly \$1 million per year</p> <p>Lauren will put together a survey for feedback and will revisit next month.</p> <p>Expected outcome: Status Report</p>	
12:50 P	Outreach Report	
	<p>Upcoming Outreach:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NWQMC Newsletter Article – The article currently in layout, the article is in there, and the newsletter should be going out this month • USGS Brackish Groundwater Congressional Briefing (Lauren): Lauren noted a briefing being held on Capitol Hill regarding the recent USGS report on brackish groundwater. • U.S. Water Partnership (3/22) and South African WRC (3/31) (Bill) --will be covered on the next call. • NGWA GW Week – GW Summit incorporated (Bill) <p>Bob discussed opportunities at GW Week since the deadline is coming up on 4/28. Daryll discussed his abstract he’s submitting with other data providers on how to use the network to analyze data. An additional abstract will be submitted on funding for the NGWMN.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other events? • 	Lauren & Bill
	Adjourn	
1:00 P	Next Meeting—Monday, May 15	Bob