

Meeting Minutes
Subcommittee on Ground Water Meeting/Teleconference
Monday, August 17, 2015
12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston VA 20192.

Participants: Bill Cunningham, Bob Schreiber, Lauren Schapker, Cary Betz, Mary Musick, Dave Wunsch, Pat Lambert, Daryll Pope, Jessica Lucido, Tim Parker, Tom Patton, Mike Wireman, Adrienne Bartlewitz, Liz Burger, Melinda Chapman

Agenda: Agenda was approved without revision.

Previous Minutes: Minutes from the July 20th meeting were approved without revision.

Announcements: Tim Parker announced that well logs are now public in the state of California.

Status Report NGWMN Cooperative Agreement: Daryll provided a progress report on the status of creating the competitive grant program, which has been the focus over July in order to have an RFP ready for release by the end of September. The RFP is undergoing its second thirty-day comment period and White House Office of Management & Budget (OMB) review prior to release. Daryll also highlighted his meeting with the OMB's grants and acquisition staff, where he received an overview of procedure once the RFP is ready for release.

Looking ahead, the SOGW discussed ways to publicize the release of the RFP, in order to ensure interested applicants are made aware. Several organizations on the SOGW agreed to issue a news release in order to raise awareness of the RFP, including NGWA, GWPC, WSWC, and NWQMC. Daryll will prepare a draft release, which each association can modify.

Daryll also made sure the group was aware that any publicity surrounding the release of the SOGW is permitted and encouraged, but SOGW members should refrain from assisting potential applicants in preparing responses.

Status Report NGWMN Portal: Jessica highlighted a series of upgrades made to the portal in a recent release. More construction information, complete lithology data, and water level data with respect to altitude will now be provided on the portal.

Jessica also noted the portal was upgraded to Oracle 12, and as a result, performance may be slow. Jessica and her team are working to remedy any adverse impacts of the upgrade.

A web services tip sheet is in the process of being finalized. Once final, the tip sheet will be a resource upgraded regularly as more feedback on using the portal is received.

She also reported that a routine review of system security identified vulnerabilities in the portal, which are being addressed. These consist primarily of upgrades and preventative measures, rather than security issues.

Looking ahead, Jessica reported August will be spent prioritizing web services for new data providers and for existing data providers, who may be contributing new data as a result of the non-competitive funding agreements.

The issue of metadata changes will be added to the parking lot for discussion on a future call.

ACWI Annual Meeting & SOGW In-Person Meeting: Bill reported that the ACWI Annual Meeting has been tentatively planned for the last week of October. SOGW will hold its meeting the same week. Bill is intending to have meetings scheduled Tuesday through Thursday of that week, keeping Friday open if needed.

He hopes to have a finalized schedule to report by the September meeting of the SOGW.

NGWMN “Technical Evaluation Plan” for cooperative funding proposals: Daryll reported on the development of a Technical Evaluation Plan (TEP) for consideration of responses to the pending RFP. The TEP is required as a part of USGS funding procedures, in order to ensure an unbiased review of each proposal. The TEP will also be used in communication with the applicants throughout the review.

Daryll outlined a number of criteria for evaluating proposals, including the priority given maintenance funding, water availability, and compatibility with the NGWMN framework document.

The SOGW debated whether each proposal should be ranked with one grade, or whether a range of grades should be used across different metrics, which would then be calculated into a weighted average. SOGW members noted that merits of weighting scores, removing high and low scores for each proposal, and providing histograms of scores to applicants.

Daryll will arrange a call for interested SOGW members to participate in the development of the TEP.

Formation of Program Board Daryll provided an overview of the development to the Program Board, which will be tasked with evaluating proposals. The Program Board will review each proposal and make recommendations, with one Board member serving as the lead on each submission. Each Board member will be responsible for providing a summary of the proposal to the Program Board and lead the evaluation process.

Daryll has put together a draft terms of reference and would like this finalized by the face-to-face meeting. He will arrange a series of calls with interested volunteers to discuss details of the Program Board’s formation.

Outreach Report:

GWPC Annual Forum: Mary reported that the agenda for the GWPC Annual Forum is final, and the agenda will have a distinct focus on oil and gas-related issues. Daryll will be providing an overview of the NGWMN to attendees, and Mary expects a strong presences from state officials who could be potential data providers.

NGWA Summit: Lauren reported that the deadline for submitting abstracts for the NGWA Summit is September 13th, and Lauren will work with Bob and Bill to ensure that abstracts on the NGWMN are submitted in time for consideration by Summit organizers.

NWQMC Meeting: Bill has not yet learned whether or not the panel on the NGWMN has been accepted by the meeting organizers.

AASG Washington Visit: Dave Wunsch reported that a group of AASG will be making a visit to Washington at the end of September to meet with Capitol Hill officials.

Other Activities: Bill asked that the SOGW provide any feedback on additional parking lot items

Adjournment: The SOGW adjourned with the next meeting scheduled via teleconference on September 21st, 2015.