

Meeting Minutes
Subcommittee on Ground Water Teleconference
Tuesday, January 19, 2016
12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston VA 20192

Participants: Bill Cunningham, Bob Schreiber, Lauren Schapker, Cary Betz, Chris Carlson, Mary Musick, Dave Wunsch, Jeff Davis, Pat Lambert, Tom Patton, Daryll Pope, Mike Wireman, Adrienne Bartlewitz

Agenda: Agenda was approved without revision.

Previous Minutes: Minutes from December 21 teleconference were approved without revision.

Status Report: Cooperative Agreements: Daryll reported that the Program Announcement closed on January 19th at 6pm ET. He has fielded questions from several applicants and potential applicants, and will begin preparing for the proposal review process once he receives the list of responses. He has also been busy preparing the evaluation materials for Program Board consideration.

On the non-competitive cooperative agreements, Daryll has received status reports from all six—Texas, Utah, Oregon, Illinois, Montana, and South Carolina. He has fielded questions on issues like well classification and web services and has been working with each states IT departments to resolve issues and get new data uploaded to the portal.

Daryll will also be arranging status update calls with remaining cooperative agreement states, including Kansas, Mississippi, Delaware, and Oklahoma.

SOGW participants inquired as to the number of respondents to the program announcement and type of respondent, but Daryll is unable to provide specifics. He referred to the attendance on the webinar about the program announcement as the best indicator. He did note that a few states opted not to submit an application due to timing challenges with database upgrades. Daryll will keep in touch with those states who were unable or opted not to participate in the program announcement to keep them informed of future opportunities to apply.

Update on Program Board: The Program Board will have a face-to-face meeting in February to review the proposals, but a lot of the details depend on the number of proposals they receive. Daryll is preparing forms and guidance for the Program Board to use throughout the review process and is working to set up a SharePoint site for communication with the Program Board that will house the proposals and be confidential.

Status Report NGWMN Portal: Daryll provided an update on portal activities in Jessica's absence. Several changes to the portal have been completed and released including a fixed bug on water level measurements. The precision of the measurement, as submitted by the data provider, has been preserved. A bug was also fixed in well log information and information on cooperative agreements and an FAQ document were placed on the portal.

Several other changes are underway and currently being tested, including working on calculations of basic water level statistics for a sites and basic monthly water level statistics. Also being test are added method and accuracy fields for new and existing sites on the portal. CIDA is also working on enhanced web analytics to provide data on which portions of the portal are being utilized the most.

The number one priority will be getting new data provider connections online, and Daryll noted Texas' water quality web service is at the top of the list.

When not working on adding new data providers to the portal, Jessica and her team will continue making improvements to the portal and continuing to clean up issues with well construction, web services, data display, and incorporating summary tables.

Bob asked whether Jessica could present at a monthly meeting or webinar on some of the portal's new features. Daryll offered to talk to Jessica and determine a time when enough changes have been made to necessitate a presentation. Mary suggested opening up this presentation to data users, in addition to data providers, to highlight various aspects of the portal. She also noted Daryll's webinar he gave to potential applicants as a possible option for future trainings.

SOGW participants discussed possible outside venues for holding workshops or webinars including NGWA's Expo and the Geological Society of America's annual meeting.

Lauren offered to check internally at NGWA about scheduling a webinar and will also add this item to the agenda for future calls.

Update: Task Groups from Face to Face Meeting: Bill discussed follow-up from the ACWI Face to Face meeting and noted that Lauren will circulate the minutes for your edits and review after the call. He also discussed the task groups that were outlined at the meeting on continuous data, GRACE and water use. Bill provided a recap of who volunteered for which option and solicited participation from those on the call to fill in the remaining task groups. Bill also solicited "lead" for each task group.

Continuous Data Task Group: Mary Musick, Daryll Pope, Scott Harder, Cary Betz

GRACE Task Group: George Roadcap, Mike Wireman, Jessica Lucido, Jeff Davis

Water Use Task Group: Daryll Pope, Dave Wunsch, Tim Parker, Mary Musick

Task groups will be asked to discuss different approaches on each issue and how to tackle or incorporate these topics into the NGWMN or to not include them at all.

Mary suggested also opening up the task groups to the data providers in attendance at the face to face meeting, who may be interested in participating.

Status Report: FY2017 Appropriations: Lauren gave an update on the current budget process, noting the Obama Administration's budget will be released on February 9th. As in year's past, Lauren will arrange a separate call with non-federal employee participants to discuss the advocacy process.

Outreach Report: Lauren reported that NGWA's Kevin McCray will be giving a presentation on the NGWMN to a group of local municipal officials, seeking ways to use data to drive innovation.

Pat Lambert informed the SOGW that the Western States Water Council will be holding its meeting in March in conjunction with the ICWP meeting. Pat will brief the Council on evolution and status of the network.

Mary noted the GWPC UIC meeting set for February 23-25. Though nothing is on the agenda specific to the network, she brought it up to remind participants that these types of meetings could also serve as good outreach opportunities, like the September GWPC Forum.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will take place on Tuesday, February 16th.