

Minutes
Subcommittee on Ground Water Meeting/Teleconference
Monday, April 20th, 2015

Participants: Bill Cunningham, Bob Schreiber, Lauren Schapker, Cary Betz, Chris Carlson, Chuck Job, Mary Musick, Dave Wunsch, Jeff Davis, Pat Lambert, Dave Larson, Jessica Lucido, Tim Parker, Tom Patton, Gary Rowe, John Yellich, Pat Summers, Rick Copeland, Kevin Frederick, Carolyn Emmanuelli

Agenda: Agenda was approved without revision.

Previous Minutes: Minutes from March 16th conference call were approved with revisions provided by John Yellich.

Announcements: Wendy Norton will be contacted regarding an ACWI Annual Meeting.

System Security for NGWMN Data Systems: Jessica Lucido and Carolyn Emmanuelli provided an overview of the summary document circulated to the ACWI SOGW on system security for the NGWMN, noting the portal is in full compliance with required security measures. Carolyn explained that the NGWMN is currently classified as a low to moderate potential for security risks and that once a year a security self-assessment is conducted. In addition to annual requirements, once a month the NGWMN is scanned by an IT security team. Carolyn also highlighted that security requirements are also in place for data providers, and all data provided must contain no personally identifiable information and be read-only.

Action Item: Bob and Bill will determine whether or not the security document, or a condensed version of it, should become part of the NGWMN framework document and will report back on the next call.

Action Item: CIDA will put together a glossary of terms in the document to increase its readability.

Status Report Water Quality Pilots: Since the last call, no new developments were reported.

Status Report NGWMN Portal: Jessica provided an update on recent modifications underway to improve the portal. She reported that reorganization of the mediator is complete, so there will be easier transformations for new data provides. The portal is also now able to associate agencies contributing data on a record by record basis for both water level and water quality, so that appropriate credit will be given. This means that when different agencies provide lithology and construction information, data sets will be labeled accordingly.

Daryll and Jessica have also been working to add new fields in the portal to accommodate springs and notations for confined/unconfined aquifers. These new fields are currently in the testing phase. The team is also making improvements to the performance of maps and filters and is comparing the water quality fields to those used by the NWQMC portal.

Tip Sheets for NGWMN Data Providers: Daryll circulated the water level tip sheet draft to volunteers and is in the process of soliciting feedback. Though feedback thus far has been limited, volunteers on the call reasserted their willingness to assist. Bill also noted that a new tip sheet on water quality site selection has been developed and is ready for comment. Volunteers to provide comments were solicited.

Action Item: Daryll will send out the water quality tip sheet to the volunteer reviewers. Comments are requested by May 8.

Status Report NGWMN Cooperative Agreement

Bill reported on major steps forward for the USGS to begin funding NGWMN activities funds through an existing authority. USGS can begin working with a limited number of states operating WL and WQ networks--currently the pilot states--to identify possible needs and scopes of work this fiscal year. While many details are still being worked out for expansion beyond the pilot states, this will ensure appropriate progress is made before the deadline for obligating funds is reached. With regard to the RFP for cooperative agreements, slow but sure progress is being made, but Paperwork Reduction Act and an OMB review/approval are still forthcoming. Current plan for work with the pilots and the RFP, will be for agreements to span a two-year period.

Better Acronym for NGWMN

Bob introduced the idea of coming up with a new name for the NGWMN and suggested the SOGW think it over for a possible discussion on a future call and to send any potential ideas to Bob, Bill and Lauren.

Action Item: SOGW will consider alternative names/acronyms for the NGWMN and will send any possibilities to Bob, Bill and Lauren.

Outreach Report

Bob outlined a series of upcoming meetings that may be of interest to SOGW members. Gary Rowe provided an overview and additional details for the upcoming NAWQA National Liaison Committee meeting on May 8th in Washington, D.C. and he offered to do a follow-up report about the meeting on a future call. Mary Musick provided details on GWPC's annual forum and abstract submission deadlines. Dave Wunsch told the SOGW about AASG's forthcoming annual meeting in Arizona, and Tim Parker brought up the Groundwater Biennial Conference in Sacramento this October.

Bob provided more details about the NGWA annual awards and asked SOGW members to consider nominations for several awards, all of which are due June 1st.ⁱ

Action: Lauren agreed to send out information about all the meetings and NGWA award discussed by email to the SOGW.

Adjournment: The SOGW adjourned at 1:00pm ET with the next meeting scheduled via teleconference on May 18, 2015.

ⁱ Potential awards to consider include the Groundwater Protector Award, Outstanding Groundwater Project Awardⁱ, and the John Hem Award for Excellence in Science and Engineering. The Outstanding Groundwater Project Award can be given in the areas of Groundwater Protection, Groundwater Remediation, and Groundwater Management.