

Minutes
Subcommittee on Groundwater Teleconference

Tuesday, January 20, 2015

Participants: Bill Cunningham, Cary Betz, Chris Carlson, Chuck Job, Jeffrey Davis, Mary Musick, Dave Wunsch, Pat Lambert, Dave Larson, Jessica Lucido, Tim Parker, Tom Patton, Daryll Pope, Gary Rowe, Lauren Schapker, Mike Wireman,

Agenda: Agenda was approved without revision.

Previous Minutes: Minutes from December 15th teleconference were approved without revision.

Introduction of new participant:

This topic was postponed until the next call.

Announcements

Bill Cunningham announced that Lauren Schapker of NGWA will serve as Executive Secretary to the SOGW, filling the role that Chris Reimer with NGWA held initially and which was then held by Miranda Robinson of USGS.

Bill Cunningham introduced Pat Lambert to the group. Lambert introduced himself noting he is a hydrologist and USGS employee who is currently serving as a federal liaison to the Western States Water Council's Federal Advocacy Support Team. He will be serving as liaison for two years, working to facilitate collaboration and cooperation on the NGWMN and help western states gain universal access to water data.

Approval of SOGW Face to Face Meeting Minutes

Bill Cunningham provided an overview of the last round of changes made to the minutes from the face to face meeting of the SOGW. He noted the final minutes will be made public on the ACWI SOGW website. **Please direct any final changes or comments to him.**

Status Report—Water Quality Pilots

Daryll Pope gave the Subcommittee an update on New England's pilot project, noting he participated on a recent conference call with the sampling team, and they are on schedule to begin sampling the week of March 16th. There was some concern over procedure year over year, but Cunningham noted the SOGW will provide reminders and updates to the team to ensure sampling is underway each year.

Mike Wireman provided feedback from Wyoming, noting the Wyoming Water Quality Steering Committee has an upcoming meeting, and that joining the NGWMN is on the agenda.

Wireman also discussed the Utah pilot, noting plans for 2015 sampling should be set. **Wireman will arrange a call with the Utah pilot team to answer remaining questions about sampling plan and completion of the well registry.**

The Subcommittee discussed the status of appropriated funds for the network, and Cunningham reported funds have not yet been received and it will likely be several months before funds will go to the states.

Report on NGWMN Portal

Jessica Lucido provided an update on the portal, noting that operational improvements continue to be made. In particular, staff is currently testing efforts to remove duplicative inputs from the NWIS database to the portal. The Subcommittee discussed the issue of serving additional water quality data via the portal, given an interest by Janie Hopkins in Texas to include that data.

Report from Presentation to WQMC Workgroup

Bill Cunningham and Daryll Pope provided an overview of the presentation given to the National Water Quality Monitoring Council (NWQMC) Workgroup. They, along with Bob Schreiber, presented to the group and provided a demonstration of the portal and addressed concerns that the NWQMC Water Quality Portal and the NGWMN could be seen as duplicative efforts. The presentation yielded a productive conversation about common elements between the water quality portal and the network.

Gary Rowe provided comments from the NWQMC perspective, noting the NGWMN could do more in terms of educational outreach to raise awareness of the network. The subcommittee discussed ways to raise awareness, acknowledging the WQ portal's focus on surface water and confusion between the definitions of "portal" versus "network" add to the challenge. This led to a discussion about the use of EPA granting authorities in support of ground-water monitoring.

The Subcommittee discussed the desire for existing EPA grant authorities under the Clean Water Act to be used more widely for ground-water monitoring. This is done in a few states, but not widely. The Subcommittee would like to expand this, while acknowledging that EPA has a limited pool of funds for these programs, and that the programs have historically focused on surface water. Chuck Job agreed to reach out to EPA to help raise the priority of funding for ground water.

Outreach Report

Bill Cunningham highlighted several forthcoming outreach efforts, including the NGWA Summit during which multiple members of the SOGW will have presentations related to monitoring. These presentations are tentatively scheduled for Wednesday. He also noted an upcoming article being run by National Driller magazine on the NGWMN (based on interviews with Lauren Schapker, Bob Schreiber, and himself) and an editorial by Mike Wireman in the spring edition of GWMR. Mike Wireman also arranged for the GWMR editorial to be run in a February edition of the IAH Newsletter.

Gary Rowe announced the 2016 NWQMC Conference in Tampa Bay in May 2016.

Next meeting TUESDAY, February 17th.

