

The Collaboration and Outreach Workgroup supports partnerships that foster collaboration among the water monitoring community, including State, Regional, and Tribal councils, as well as watershed groups, partnerships, and alliances.

Major Products and Outreach Activities

- Web seminars for water community
- Online newsletter “*National Water Monitoring News*”
- Council Webpage updates
- Online “How-To Tool Kit” for creating and sustaining partnerships and councils
- National Monitoring Conferences

The National Council currently interacts with more than 17 Councils and partnerships across the Nation, including many other Tribal and Volunteer Monitoring organizations. Currently Utah and North Dakota are developing state councils.

Web Seminars

Past presentations included:

- Sept. 2009: Kickoff Webinar
 - Updates on the California, Florida, and Lake Michigan Monitoring Councils
 - Ideas to facilitate use of data and data sharing among the National and individuals councils
 - Status of Tribal monitoring groups
- Nov. 2009: Integration of citizen monitoring data into Virginia’s state assessment report and an online database tool managed by the Virginia Monitoring Council
- Feb. 2010: New web technologies and social media tools for the water monitoring community by reps from Fed Gov, Trade Org, and Citizen/Vol Mon Group
- May/June 2010: An Introduction to Aquatic Sensors and the Aquatic Sensor Workgroup

Web Seminars - Goals

- Small packaged webinar (1 hr long, offer 2x)
- Promote charge of council
- Encourage formation and sustaining of other councils and monitoring groups
- Share success and challenges of other Councils
- Provide products of the Council and other tools for water practioners (e.g.NEMI, stats, WQX)
- Keep Newsletter as PR with updates and overviews (Gulf Oil spill, Reference sites) – these may be facilitated discussions on panels at NMCs
- Council may help facilitate panels, workshops, and specialty conferences for hot topics (which need to occur sooner than NMCs)
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Web Seminars - Some Suggestions for Future Topics

- NMC: hot talks, panels, and workshops
- NMN: updates and success stories
- More on web technologies and social media tools
- Other Councils: successes and challenges
- Methods Board & NEMI– overview – what it can do for you

- Surface Water Quality guidance and training, panel to consider developing standardized methods (Peter Evans)
- Data Exchanges (examples of or demos and requests for review and testing)
- WIS Stats tool box (when they have a product or need to solicit testing)
 - Clearinghouse of state & EPA data
 - Collaboration between states/feds/academics
 - WaterSMART Program (Evenson), grant program, implementation plan for review, products
 - EPA Monitoring Assessment Partnership (MAP)
 - Ancillary/supporting data to water quality, programs such as stream stats
 - Request suggestions for topics during WebEx sign-in process and ask verbally during teleconf calls

“National Water Monitoring News” - an Online Newsletter for the Water Monitoring Community

- ✓ Launched in April 2010 at National Conference
- ✓ Selected Topics:
 - Success stories/challenges with State & Regional Councils
 - Data integration
 - Announcements (conferences, meetings, grants, projects)
 - Monitoring (volunteer, Tribal, national, coastal, groundwater)
 - Water Information Strategies (assessment tools)
 - Methods
 - Sensors
- ✓ **Newsletter Spotlights on Councils**
 - State Council: CO’s data sharing network on effective info exchange at watershed level through SWAPs
 - Volunteer Monitoring: VA Integration of Citizen Monitoring Data into State Assessment Report and On-line Database Tool
 - Tribal Monitoring Councils: National, Yukon, and Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission

Newsletter Articles - Suggestions for Fall 2010 issue (need by Sept 15)

- National Conference: (Jeff Schloss)
 - In review, who attended...
 - Announce power pts location
 - Promo for 2010 NMC
- Tribes: (Dave Fuller)
 - Columbia Intertribal Fisheries Commission (CRITFC) – coordinated monitoring or
 - Alaska Villages, protecting salmon streams and Pebble Mine Issue
- Vol Mons: (Barb Horn, Julie Vastine, Alice Mayo)
 - Marc. Shale
 - GA Adopt a stream database
- State and Regional Council highlight (need a story)
- SOGW update (Dave Wunsch)
- NMN updates and Ocean Policy Task Force (Pixie Hamilton & Jawed Hameedi)
- Methods Board (Dan Sullivan)
- WIS and/or Statistics Tool Box (Peter Tennant & Doug McLaughlin)
- Data Exchanges (Pixie Hamilton; Nate Booth)

- Highlight Council Member: Gunnar and Gulf Oil Spill (Tracy Hancock or Pixie Hamilton)
- General Announcements:
 - EPA Healthy Watershed Initiatives
 - National Surveys for Lakes and Rivers/Streams
 - USGS Climate Effects Network
 - WaterSMART
 - NAWQA Cycle III planning efforts
 - New Council Members
 - World Water Monitoring Day (WEF)
 - Other Council meetings and announcements
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Online “How-To Tool Kit” for creating and sustaining Councils

- Factsheet on “Accomplishing More Together”
- Power Point presentations for creating and sustaining partnerships and councils
- Examples of water quality monitoring collaborative efforts
- Power point presentations from Web Seminars

Action Items

- Consider student intern help to do the following:
 - Add presentations from NMC panel
 - Review and check links
 - Review timeliness of ideas
 - Product a model analysis (or matrix) of Councils including, organization/design and other features.
 - Review old matrix and create new (Alice Mayo to check with Abby Markowitz and EPA site & Kathy Tate to check with Robert Ward ‘s student work).
 - Consider EPA report on the status of state, tribal and regional councils (produced ~8 years ago) which provides analysis of challenges and approaches.
- Update successful collaborations (get from latest Newsletter)
- Create updated power point slide show which any Council member can take on the road from presentation Chuck gave to NH (Jeff S. to find) and from one Hancock gave to ND

National Council website update

- Estimated release: Aug. 1, 2010
- Current status:
 - Design complete
 - Undergoing browser compatibility testing
 - Some updates still to be done
- Added vertical link for webinars.
- The organization is different from our current homepage in that all the links from the current homepage are now arranged in the sidebar (click for arrow).
- In the center of the page we will highlight new items of interest to the Council and its membership. We hope that this part of the page will be fairly dynamic and include frequent updates. (click for 2nd arrow) Most everything that is here will reside long-term under one of the categories in the left-side navbar as well, so when it goes away from the highlights it will still be on the site.

- Secondary pages have the same left-side navigation. Updates are being made to many of the secondary pages to make them better organized and more visually appealing.

8th Biennial National Conference in 2012

- CPC: Jeff Schloss, Greg Pettit, Doug Glysson, and Kathy Tate
- Location: Portland (check Double tree)
 - Backup: FL: Ft. Lauderdale, Tampa
- Local Planning Committee to start in January 2011
- Include side meetings:
 - Fed: USGS, EPA, NPS, FWS
 - Greater involvement of other Feds: NOAA, Army Corp
 - States
 - Others: Vol Mons, Tribes
- Date: April or May (Note: Easter is April 15, 2012)
- Mon: Plenary with breakfast first thing in morning; at least 6 concurrent sessions in afternoon, evening session with posters with food & drinks
- Tues: concurrent sessions all day, with time in evening for small group meetings
- Wed: concurrent sessions with offsite social activity
- Thrs: half day of concurrent sessions, afternoon could be field trips and/or post meetings
- Extended Breaks for posters - networking with heavy snacks (instead of dinner time reception)
- Dinner (or lunch meetings) for small groups (Sensors, SOGW, Vol Mons) – don't schedule at same time as posters
- Dinner Cruise ship – pay a small fee
- 6 concurrent sessions
- 1-2 workshops/short course or 1 workshop and 1 interactive panel discussions
- Charge for workshops and courses; do not charge for interactive panel discussions

We welcome new members to the workgroup. Also, we want your ideas for web seminars and articles for the newsletter! Please contact: Tracy Hancock, Co-Chair, Collaboration and Outreach Workgroup.
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