

Communication and Collaboration Workgroup

Co-Chairs: Dave Tucker, NACWA and Tracy Hancock, USGS

Executive Secretary: Kim Martz, USGS

Members:

Jawed Hameedi, NOAA

Jeff Schloss, NALMS

Barry Long, NPS

Rob Schweinfurth, WEF

Sheri Hazelhurst, USFS

Edith Stevens, LWV

Doug Glysson, USGS

Gary Rowe and Cathy Tate, USGS

Linda Greene (adjunct)

Sub-committees:

Local Denver Conference Planning Committee:

Gary Rowe, Cathy Tate, Barry Long, Local Forest Service contact

Conference Budget Committee:

Jeff Schloss, USGS Co-Chairs, Rob Schweinfurth, David Tucker:

Newsletter and State and Regional Councils

Tracy Hancock, Sherry Hazelhurst, Rob Schweinfurth

1. 2010 National Conference Topics (Champions – Dave Tucker, Jeff Schloss)

- Room Block Needs – EPA state meeting 100 people Thursday afternoon; NOAA limited needs (20 staff); Park Service limited needs (20 staff); USGS water quality meeting 200 people, USGS business meeting Thursday 150 people; 400-450 peak night estimate
- Conference Facilities Discussion – Vendors setup inside and outside downstairs ballroom, buffet lines in hallway; 8 concurrent venues; upstairs ballroom for plenary; contact Linda on volunteer monitoring needs (need local reps); Cathy local USGS rep
- Sponsorship Discussion – Potential sponsors include WEF (Rob to check on seed monies), DOI-NPS, YSI support for volunteer, NACWA, Denver Metro Wastewater, Denver Water, USGS potential to prepay block; Microbrew sponsorship; In situ; Coors; WEB layout needed – NALMS to prepare; Council Members to brainstorm potential sponsors. **Champion:** NALMS (Jeff Schloss) to prepare draft for CPC review, **Milestone:** Get sponsorship page up in Feb 2009 timeframe
- Conference Theme Discussion - climate change; water quantity and quality; Monitoring in a changing world; Collaborative monitoring in a changing world; Linking water quantity and quality in a changing world; From Data to Information – A Critical Transformation; Resource Monitoring in a changing world; Monitoring: Gateway to Resource Management; Monitoring from the summit to the sea.
- **Action:** Council Members to brainstorm potential titles.
- **Action: SAVE THE DATE!** – evaluate themes from the 21 elements; check past notices for topics; **Champion:** NALMS to prepare draft for CPC review, **Milestone:** get Save the Date out in Feb 2009 timeframe
 - Results of national and regional assessments
 - Climate change on water resources
 - State and regional monitoring councils
 - Emerging monitoring technologies
 - Emerging contaminants
 - Indicators for monitoring
 - Integration of water quality data
 - National monitoring network

- Groundwater theme
 - Volunteer monitoring
 - Watershed condition assessment
 - Ecological services
 - Messaging and communication
 - Water conservation and reuse
 - Evasive species
 - Analysis of monitoring data
 - Water quality partnerships
- Conference Timeline – Chuck to get TT update of timeline, Jeff to review from NALMS perspective and revise and send to co-chairs for distribution
 - Conference budget – NALMS to draft for Budget Committee (Jeff, Doug, Chairs) review
 - Structured Themes – agencies encouraged to submit session topics; perhaps special focus on council themes and/or directions; national experts; **Action:** request council committees for theme recommendations
 - **Action:** Nail down structured themes in Spring 2009 Council meeting so that “Call for Abstracts” goes out May 2009
 - Vendors - NALMS to prepare, WEF to provide 2008 information. **Champion:** NALMS to prepare draft for CPC review, **Milestone:** Get vendor page up in Feb 2009 timeframe
 - Conference chairs – Recommended: Barry Long (Checking), Pixie Hamilton; Chuck Spooner; (Gary Rowe – Local Host),
 - Workshops Brainstorm – Data Exchange, How to sustain a monitoring council; SPARROW tool; Statistics; trend assessment analysis; environmental flow; wetland monitoring; Messaging and PR (communication)
 - Field Trip Brainstorm - USGS Water quality laboratory - 15 minutes away; Golden CO – Coors Tour, USGS Field Methods Workshop at local stream; NCAR Boulder – 30 minutes away; contact Colorado monitoring council for ideas; contact other volunteer groups; Rocky Mountain National Park; snow shoe trip; Rocky Mountain Institute; USFS Experimental forest;
 - Receptions – locals asked to make recommendations
 - Plenary – begin thinking of venues, Hickenlooper – Denver Mayor
 - **Action: Monthly meetings** – co-chairs to set up reoccurring time beginning Jan 2009;
 - **Action:** If interested in conference planning, please send email to Dave Tucker and Tracy Hancock

2. Support for State and Regional Monitoring Councils (Champion: Tracy Hancock)

- State and regional monitoring council tool kit – presentations; tools on WEB site; this task has languished for some time and has changed champions several times; committee first needs to ask what the councils need (direct contact by committee members, newsletter requests, 2010 conference process) **Champion:** Committee Co-chairs;
- **Action:** Doug Glysson to update contact list – January 2009 and provide to workgroup
- **Action:** Make State Council contacts – March 2009 (before next council meeting); encourage State Councils to attend meeting, if possible
- **Action:** Send Tracy updates if you attend any State/Regional Council meeting
- **Action:** Develop work plan and next steps – Mar 2009 (Dave Tucker and Tracy Hancock)
 - Conference workshop, special session (successes, not!) - topic for discussion over coming months
 - Reach out to state councils (co-chairs to assign contacts) – obtain council needs and wants, make direct committee contacts
 - Committee members to attend state monitoring councils (members to contact current councils, send summary to Tracy with contacts and updated information)
 - Creation of revised council contact list – Doug to revise and distribute, USGS to update council WEB page as needed

3. Improve Communication

- **Actions:** Review and re-evaluate communications strategy (Tracy, Dave, Dec 2008-Jan 2009); obtain review by council co-chairs (Jan – Feb 2009); Out to full council for review (before Mar 2009 meeting); update WEB addresses and contacts (Doug, Jan 2009); update committee fact sheets (committee co-chairs, before Mar 2009 meeting), initiate WEBEX communication exchange with local councils (co-chairs & Chuck, before Mar 2009 meeting)

- **Action:** Develop revised email distribution list (USGS, WEF, conference lists) (Doug and Wendy)
- **Action:** Evaluate and update WEB site (Tracy, Dave, Carol Lewis); evaluate and make recommendations, early 2009)

4. Newsletter – **Champions** - Tracy, Rob, Sherry); twice yearly (April-May, October-November); general council updates, workgroup communications, call to councils to contact us with needs, conference save the date, communicate council highlights, links to subcommittees, showcase success stories; relevant topics for monitoring, pre and post conference editions, council and other announcements, upcoming events, grant timelines; MONITORING NEWS; *Milestone – first edition in Apr-May 2009*

- **Action:** Newsletter outline – champions to prepare, early 2009 (consider possible invited articles, such as by IOOS, Chesapeake Bay)
- **Action:** Check USGS support – graphics, layout, etc. (Tracy, Doug, Sherri, USFS, Rob (WEF)