



National Water Quality Monitoring Council (Council) Minutes May 3 - 5, 2011, New Orleans, Louisiana (Agenda and list of participants on pages 3 - 6)

Actions, Decisions and other Information (not in any particular order) (Detailed notes on workgroup discussions are posted on the website)

1. **Decision:** Upon a motion duly made, seconded, and carried, the **February 3, 2011 Council Meeting minutes** were approved and will be posted on website (Kim Martz)
2. **Decision:** Upon a motion duly made (Neil Kamman), seconded (Mike McDonald) and carried, the **Reference Site Network Resolution** was approved by the Council, and Wendy Norton will forward it to ACWI for their review and approval.
3. **Decision: Next Council Meeting** – November 15-17, Salt Lake City, Utah – please hold the dates. Focus of meeting will be on 2012 National Monitoring Conference Program.
4. **Announcement: Mike Yurewicz is the new USGS Council Co-chair.** Mike's contact information is mcyurewi@usgs.gov, Office phone: 703-648-5811, Cell phone: 703-286-9368.
5. **Action:** Thank you notes will be sent to presenters/meeting organizers (leads: Gary Rowe, Susan Holdsworth, Cathy Tate, Wendy Norton).
6. **Decision: Filling in gaps in Council membership** – Need to pursue
 - Replacing USDA representative on Council with an active USDA-NRCS member (leads: Susan H., Peter T.).
 - Replacing current US Forest Service representative with Tracy Hancock but have Tracy speak directly to current USFS representative, Mike Eberle, regarding his desire to stay on the Council (lead: Mike Yurewicz).
 - Do we need to replace Dave Tucker (NACWA) with another NACWA member? What are the Council by-laws and where are we with respect to membership limit? (Lead: Wendy Norton).
 - Regional EPA auxiliary member (e.g. Terry Fleming); Discussed option of inviting EPA rep from host Region (great to have Jane Watson at New Orleans) (lead: Susan H.).
7. **Decision:** Mike McDonald will circulate EPA-ORD's Safe and Sustainable Water Resources Science Plan for Council members to provide individual feedback (lead: Mike MacDonald).
8. **Action:** Forward information regarding National Monitoring Network to Alyssa Dausman (Done by Susan Holdsworth).
9. **Decision:** Arrange for selected members of Council to review Gulf of Mexico Restoration Task Force Science Plan, specifically the monitoring recommendations, when it is ready (leads: Gary Rowe/Mike Yurewicz).
10. **Decision:** Council approved using the NWQMC Volunteer Monitoring page as a home for the now defunct Volunteer Monitoring Newsletter. Council approved the proposed content for that page. A Volunteer Monitoring subgroup will populate the site, overseen by the NWQMC Volunteer Monitoring Position. (lead: Dan Sullivan will work on webpage once Barb Horn and volunteer monitoring group develop the basic content).
11. **Decision:** Council expressed interest in following up on "Lessons Learned" from Gulf oil spill and other disasters to be better prepared from a monitoring perspective for future events.
Action: WIS workgroup will look into this by (leads: Mary Skopec and Peter Tennant):
 - Inventory other agency "lessons learned" documents, particularly from Gulf Oil Spill.
 - First step would be to have webinar and have scheduled Chris Piehler.
 - Also suggestion to get webinar on NRDA process.

12. **Decision:** Develop mechanism for providing regular status updates on past action items (add to Council meeting agenda or put on website). Discussion was to revisit past Council achievements that are relevant to current discussions, e.g. review list of NWQMC Data Elements. (lead: Susan H., Cathy T., Wendy N.)
13. **Decision:** Develop web-statistics for NWQMC web pages (suggestion by Rick Hooper) (lead: Cathy Tate, Wendy Norton, Dan Sullivan).
14. **Decision:** Formally recognize Pixie for her tenure as co-chairs (leads: Gary Rowe, Susan Holdsworth, Cathy Tate).
15. **Decision:** Highlight Neil Kaman's SW Management strategy (See www.vtwaterquality.org) on NWQMC website (lead: C&O Workgroup).
16. **Action:** Reporting Water Quality Data –
 - **Webinar on Iowa** “mini-reports” by Mary Skopec scheduled in fall. Add link to Iowa DNR site (lead: Mary Skopec and WIS workgroup).
 - **“What Your Boss Needs to Know”** (lead: Gary Kohlhepp). Gary will send this out for review by August 15th.
17. **Actions:** Pathogens discussion
 - Schedule a Webinar in July (leads: Peter Tennant, Mary Skopec, Jane Caffrey)
 - Write an article for the Newsletter updating the status (lead: Steve Wolfe)
 - **Send information on if your state/region is doing qPCR or pilot studies** to Mary Skopec (ALL).
18. **Action: Monitoring for Effectiveness of BMPs**
 - Schedule a webinar in September maybe have Nancy Messner as speaker (lead: Peter Tennant)
 - Work more closely with National Nonpoint Source Monitoring Program (WIS workgroup).
19. **Action: Program and Monitoring Integration** – “Toward an Integrated Approach to Assessing our Nation's Waters” was a white paper drafted by WIS in February 2011. This white paper will be worked on with a goal of having a version for the November 2011 Council meeting. Simplify the language and present a monitoring vision. (leads: Susan, Neil, Aaron, Mary, Terry, Leslie, Gary, Jeff Schloss).
20. **Council Calendar** – Please submit workgroup and subcommittee meeting dates and conference calls to Dan Sullivan or Cathy Tate
21. **Action: Council blogs** will be continue to be pursued by the C&O workgroup (leads: Wendy, Dan, and Cathy)
22. **FYI: SharePoint** site is set up for internal Council use by workgroups or for Council activities such as the 2012 Conference.
 - Site url: <https://xcollaboration.usgs.gov/wg/wiWSC/NWQMC/>
 - Remember to add "PARTNERS\I" in front of your user ID
23. **Action: Comments/new ideas on webinars are welcome** (leads: Cathy Tate and Barb Horn)
24. **Newsletter** – 3rd edition was released April 29, 2011
 - **Action:** Articles and photos for 4th Edition in the Fall 2011 are being accepted; please “spread the word” to your colleagues and staff about this opportunity to communicate. (ALL)
25. **Decision - Calling card** – No action needed by Council members at this point; C&O workgroup will modify current version based on discussions and input received at the meeting. (lead: Barb Horn)
26. **Action:** Council inventory of State, Regional, and Tribal Councils is available. Council members associated with State, Regional or Tribal Councils, please fill out or encourage appropriate person to fill in the inventory. (lead: Barb Horn)
27. **2012 National Conference, Portland, Oregon, April 30 - May 4** (overlap day with River Rally, Friday, May 4) (lead: C&O workgroup and Council)
 - **Action:** “Call For Abstracts” will go out mid-May (lead: Dave Mueller, Cathy Tate).
 - **Action:** Dave Mueller and Cathy Tate will finalize 10 questions for abstract submittal and Web site for abstract submission will be active in mid-May (lead: Dave Mueller, Cathy Tate, Philip Forsberg, Jeff Schloss).
 - **Action:** Comments on Council awards (E.J. Fellows, Barry Long, Vision) to Gary Rosenleib by May 20th.
 - **Action:** Finalize session description, proposal application for workshops/short courses and panels for launch of web site (leads: Cathy Tate, Dave Mueller, and others).

- **Action: CHARGE to Council** – to market, create a buzz, encourage and where (if) appropriate require folks to attend the last day of the NWQMC Conference, first day of the River Rally also referred to as the “bridge” day. Editable handout available if helps effort, contact Barb Horn. (ALL).
 - **Action: CHARGE to Council** – Contact Council **groups that did panel discussions** and see if want to do again, need to complete panel form this time, this has been done for USGS, needs to be done for other entities? (ALL)
 - **Action: CHARGE TO COUNCIL:** Is there **Council work or product** we want to present, get feedback on, like tools that exist, tools thinking of, etc. WIS? NEMI? Monitoring Network? Stats tools? AWS group? ACWI? etc., (ALL)
 - **Action: CHARGE TO COUNCIL** – Think about **how your own entity can leverage training**, sessions with Bridge Day that either add to the day or extend it (trainings, etc.) and contact program committee. (ALL)
 - **REMINDER:** Plan for any traditional extra meetings (e.g., EPA, USGS, etc.) need to stay away from Friday afternoon on the Bridge day (should occur earlier in the week). (ALL)
28. **Action:** Update new members on past Council achievements: Set up webinar on data services and use that as platform to update members on NWQMC data elements (lead: Susan Holdsworth).
 29. **FYI:** An edited PowerPoint prepared by Dave Chestnut’s student on use of volunteer monitoring data by State Agencies will be posted on the website with meeting presentations (lead: Wendy Norton).
 30. **FYI:** The Council has developed a Data Elements List for the NMN, Coastal Monitoring. (See <http://acwi.gov/monitoring/network/design/> and has a technical publication on “Water Quality Data Elements: A users guide” at <http://acwi.gov/monitoring/pubs/index.html> (at bottom of page) or contact Susan Holdsworth).
 31. **FYI:** NPS conference (Susan Holdsworth will forward information)
 32. **FYI: ACWI meetings** – ACWI webinar is on June 14, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. ET. ACWI meeting is July 12-13, 2011 in Herndon, VA; contact Wendy Norton for more information.
 33. **FYI: NALMS** conference in Spokane, WA, October 24-26, 2011 (contact: **Jeff Schloss**)
 34. **FYI: NARS** meeting October 12-14 (contact: Susan Holdsworth)
 35. **FYI: Forest Service activities related to climate change listserv** (sign up at <http://www.fs.fed.us/climatechange/climate-update.shtml>); FS Climate Change website: <http://www.fs.fed.us/climatechange/index.shtml> -- contact Tracy Hancock (tchancock@fs.fed.us)
 36. **Action:** Meeting presentations to be placed on web (leads: Cathy Tate and Wendy Norton will work with Kim Martz)
 37. **Action:** Please pass on any other notes and links of interest for inclusion in FINAL minutes of the meeting.
 38. **THANK YOU to our Council members that presented in New Orleans:**
 - **Chris Piehler** for serving as our local host AND for giving a presentation on “Gulf Hypoxia and Clean Water Act Implementation in Louisiana”
 - **Mike McDonald** for updating the Council on the EPA-ORD’s Safe and Sustainable Resources Science Plan.
 - Our State representatives – **Greg Pettit, Derric Iles, and Neil Kamman** – for giving updates on activities of the State Representatives on the Council and presentations on what’s going on in your state!
 - **Gunnar Lauenstein** for updating us on NOAA’s Deep Water Horizon Sampling Results.
 - **Steve Wolfe** for stepping in for Bill Hogarth to present the Florida Consortium information.

MEETING AGENDA-- May 3 - 5, 2011, New Orleans, Louisiana

Tuesday, May 3, 2011

7:30 a.m. – Meet & Greet in **Room: International Ballroom**

8:00 a.m. – Welcome & Introductions (Co-Chairs Susan Holdsworth and Gary Rowe) **Room: International Ballroom**

- Housekeeping and logistics
- Introductions

- Member updates – Wendy Norton

8:15 – 9:45 a.m. – Updates on selected Council activities and priorities

- 8:15 a.m. – Collaboration and Outreach
 - Webinars, blog, newsletter, Council Matrix, Calling card – Cathy Tate and Barb Horn
 - 2012 Conference Updates – Cathy Tate, Jeff Schloss and Greg Pettit
- 8:45 a.m. – Water Information Strategies Updates – Peter Tennant, Mary Skopec
 - Water Quality Statistics and Assessment (WQSA) workgroup – Doug McLaughlin – (teleconference)
- 9:00 a.m. – USGS updates, Status of Reference Site Monitoring Network Resolution – Gary Rowe
- 9:15 a.m. *Overview of ORD Safe and Sustainable Water Resources Research Program with feedback and discussion on areas for collaboration* – Mike McDonald, EPA

9:45 – 10:00 a.m. – BREAK

10:00 - 11:30 a.m. State Monitoring Programs

- 10:00 a.m. – *NWQMC State Representatives – discussion on implementing and building better monitoring programs* – Greg Pettit
- 10:30 a.m. – *Overview of AASG and State groundwater monitoring in South Dakota* – Derric Iles
- 11:00 a.m. – *Vermont's new Surface Water Management Strategy* www.vtwaterquality.org – Neil Kamman

11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. – LUNCH

Room: International Ballroom

1:00 – 5:00 p.m. – Technical Session – Mississippi River Basin Initiative (MRBI) – Focus on Lower Basin

- 1:30 p.m. – Overview of session (Susan Holdsworth)
- 1:40 pm – *Gulf Hypoxia and Clean Water Act Implementation in Louisiana* – Chris Piehler, Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality
- 2:10 p.m. – *Mississippi River Basin Initiative -- identifying priority watersheds in Louisiana* -- Scott Edwards State Resource Conservationist, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- 2:40 p.m. – *Louisiana's Department of Environmental Quality -- monitoring activities in support of MRBI* -- Jan Boydston, LA Department of Environmental Quality

3:10 – 3:25 p.m. – BREAK

- 3:25 p.m. – *EPA nutrient reduction framework -- role of monitoring in implementation and tracking state nutrient strategies*-- overview Jane Watson, EPA Region 6
- 3:55 p.m. – Discussion and wrap up (Susan Holdsworth)
- 4:15 p.m. – 5:15 Roundtable (5 min updates from members)

5:15 p.m. – ADJOURN

Wednesday, May 4, 2011

Room: International Ballroom

7:30 a.m. – Meet & Greet in Room: International Ballroom

8:00 – 8:45 a.m. – Recap of first day – Group thoughts and Roundtable continued (Susan Holdsworth and Gary Rowe)

8:45 – 9:45 a.m. Federal Updates on Gulf of Mexico Post Oil Spill Monitoring (Moderators Susan Holdsworth and Steve Wolfe)

- 8:45 a.m. – Overview of session (Susan Holdsworth and Steve Wolf)
- 8:50 a.m. -- **Deep Water Horizon Sampling Results** – Gunnar Lauenstein, Coastal Ocean Assessments and Status & Trends Branch, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- 9:15 a.m. – **Gulf Restoration Task Force -- Update on recommendations for monitoring** -- Alyssa Dausman, Gulf Coast Science Coordination Office, Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Task Force

9:45 – 10:00 – BREAK

10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. – Technical Session – Gulf of Mexico Post Oil Spill Monitoring: Perspectives from Academic Community and OSAT (Moderators Susan Holdsworth and Steve Wolfe)

- 10:00 a.m. – **Passive samplers for detecting low level concentrations of oil Contaminants: National Aquarium, Johns Hopkins, Mote Marine Lab pilot study using SPMD** – Erik Rifkin, National Aquarium Conservation Center
- 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. – **Update from Consortiums Receiving BP Funds to Monitor Gulf of Mexico.** Each will address question of **“What monitoring have they been doing and what is their long-term vision for coordinated monitoring?”**
 - 10:30 a.m. **Florida** (consortium led by Florida Institute of Oceanography (FIO)) – Steve Wolfe for Dr. Bill Hogarth, Director Florida Institute of Oceanography (teleconference)
 - 10:50 a.m. – **Alabama** (Marine Environmental Sciences Consortium (MESC) – Dr. John Valentine, Professor of Marine Sciences, Dauphin Island Sea Lab, Univ. of South Alabama (teleconference)
 - 11:10 a.m. – **Mississippi** (Northern Gulf Institute) – Dr. John Harding, Chief Scientist, Northern Gulf Institute
 - 11:30 a.m. – **Louisiana** (Louisiana State University) – Dr. Eugene Turner, Department of Oceanography and Coastal Sciences, Louisiana State University
- 11:50 a.m. – **DWH MC-252 Operational Science Advisory Team (OSAT): Final Report Summary** – Gary Petrae, NOAA
- 12:20 p.m. – **Operational Science Advisory Team (OSAT-2): Summary Report for Fate and Effects of Remnant Oil in the Beach Environment** – Bill Starkel, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
- 12:50 p.m. – **Pulling the pieces together** – brainstorming on implementing a monitoring collaborative for the Gulf of Mexico. (Facilitated by Susan Holdsworth)

12:30 – 1:30 p.m. – Working LUNCH

1:30 p.m. – 5:00 pm Council regroup and Joint WIS and C&O Workgroup Breakout Session

NAME	AGENDA ITEMS	PLACE
Joint: Collaboration & Outreach and Water Information Strategies Work Group Breakout Room: International Ballroom	-- Calling Card --Volunteer Monitoring (SC update, data integration, Volunteer monitoring web page) --2012 Conference Planning (Call for abstracts, Awards, Workgroup sessions sponsored by Council, etc..)	Webex: https://usgs.webex.com/ Choose “NWQMC C&O workgroup” and click on Join Teleconference: 1-866-299-3188, passcode: 5661187#

5:00 p.m. – ADJOURN

Thursday, May 5, 2011

8:00 a.m. – Meet & Greet in Room: International Ballroom

8:30 a.m. – Recap of Wednesday

8:45 – 11:30 a.m. – Workgroup Breakout Sessions

NAME	AGENDA ITEMS	PLACE
<p>Collaboration and Outreach Workgroup Room: Rosedown A</p>	<p>2012 Conference planning Finalize -- Call for abstracts Finalize – Information for Conference web site C&O workgroup sessions/workshops/etc., ideas Other topics: Webinars, Fall newsletters, other?</p>	<p>Webex: http://usgs.webex.com Choose "NWQMC C&O workgroup" and click on "Join"</p> <p>Teleconference: 1-866-299-3188, passcode: 5661187#</p>
<p>Water Information Strategies Workgroup Room: International Ballroom</p>	<p>Bacterial/pathogen indicators – monitoring implications Reporting Water Quality Information WOSA workgroup?</p>	<p>Webex: http://usgs.webex.com Choose "NWQMC WIS workgroup" and click on "Join"</p> <p>Teleconference: 1-866-299-3188, passcode: 202-566-1187</p>

11:30 – 1:00 p.m. – LUNCH

Room: International Ballroom

1:00 – 3:30 p.m. – Council Business, Report outs by Workgroups, and closing comments; next steps; and actions with full Council (led by Susan Holdsworth and Gary Rowe with Workgroup chairs: Cathy Tate, Barb Horn and Peter Tennant, Mary Skopec)

3:30 p.m. – ADJOURN

Friday, May 6, 2011

8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. – State Representatives and MAP team (Room: Rosedown B)

Listing of Attendees and Participants:

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