



United States Department of the Interior

U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
Reston, Virginia 20192

December 5, 2019

To: Subcommittee and Workgroup Co-Chairs, Members, Volunteers, and Friends
From: Donald W. Cline, Associate Director for Water Resources
Subject: Advisory Committee for Water Information Membership Update

As you are aware, Advisory Committee for Water Information (ACWI) membership expired on April 16, 2018. Since that time, subcommittees, and associated workgroups have not been authorized under the [Federal Advisory Committee Act](#) (FACA; Public Law 92-463 and amendments, 41 CFR Parts 101-6 and 102-3) to work on any new activities, but they have been allowed to meet to complete pending tasks that were approved by ACWI members at the last ACWI Annual meeting January 17-18, 2018. After nearly two years of expired membership, the ACWI must now be moved to an administratively inactive status until further notice. As of Thursday, December 5, 2019, all ACWI related activities should cease. The ACWI Designated Federal Officer will send additional guidance to subcommittee and workgroup co-chairs by Friday, December 12, 2019 regarding an orderly shutdown plan to finalize ACWI work including any required documentation and archival materials.

The Department of Interior (DOI) and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) have been in discussions on the future of ACWI. Because FACAs are required to operate within strict guidelines, there may be other options for continuing the important and valued work done by ACWI subcommittees and associated workgroups. In early 2020, subcommittee co-chairs will be contacted to discuss other options.

The DOI and the USGS greatly appreciate all that the subcommittees and workgroups have contributed to ACWI's success. You can take great pride in the acclaim that the ACWI's accomplishments have generated throughout DOI, USGS, and in both the public and private sectors. The body of work produced by the ACWI subcommittees and workgroups has helped make a significant contribution toward our goal of leveraging greater public and private resources to improve Federal water information programs to meet the Nation's water information needs of our diverse nation.

The DOI Assistant Secretary for Water and Science, Tim Petty, joins me in offering sincere thanks for the time and energy you have dedicated to ACWI's work.