

Minutes from the Indiana Water Monitoring Council General Membership meeting (5/6/2009)

Attendees (26 total)

Meeting called to order by InWMC President Jody Arthur at 9:05AM

Jody Arthur: welcome and introductions

Detailed review of existing content and priorities

Elizabeth Trybula: overview of Council's progress to date, summary of previous "visioning" discussions for Council, results from Using Water Monitoring Data to Show Change conference breakout sessions, and presentation of potential project survey results (project importance, implementation difficulty, and urgency)

Content development and committee work plan drafting for projects that survey participants identified as most important

1) Education work plan discussion

Points discussed:

- **Before creating education/outreach materials, an inventory needs to be done of existing water monitoring educational fact sheets, pamphlets, and Web sites that are already available from various organizations (e.g., EPA, IDEM, USGS)**
- **Before finalizing a work plan, the target audience for the Council's outreach efforts needs to be identified. Some individuals feel that basic water resource concepts and justification for monitoring need to be better communicated to the general public while others feel that the target audience should be those watershed planners, volunteers, agency workers, and professionals that are already undertaking monitoring efforts should be the intended audience.**
- **How will the Council's outreach/education efforts be different from what is already available? How can we fill-in-the-blanks to bring more awareness to the general public and those in the monitoring community? Is it plausible to make the Council's website the primary "portal" where the general public goes for water resource information?**

Flip chart notes:

- Statewide Educational Materials
 - Look like?
 - Fact Sheets (Bill, Gwen, Greg)
 - Online
 - Pamphlet (ET develop)
 - General
 - Detection Limits
 - TMDLs
 - MCLs
 - Monitoring Agencies
 - Roles
 - What we all do
 - Protocols
 - Main Issues for State
 - Flood forecast
 - Quality
 - Audience
 - Related to coordination
 - Home/landowners impacted by sampling
 - What's happening
 - Local leaders
 - Commissioners
 - SWCDs
 - Legislators (Government/State Leadership)
 - K-12
 - Research Existing Resources (Sara, Laura, Discovery team)
 - Survey
 - Inventory
 - Include:
 - IDEM, IDNR, Extension
 - National WQM Council
 - Utilities
- Education Materials – Niches / Audience
 - System to address different needs
 - Audience needs
 - Clearly separate existing agency resources from products of the council
 - Separate unique message
 - Need for collaboration
 - Roles of agencies in monitoring
 - Potential delivery issue
 - How monitoring fits into other important issues
 - Land use change
 - Industry
 - Awareness
 - Information not yet packaged efficiently or effectively
 - Sheets on limnology 101 / Nitrate effects on streams
 - Specific landowner needs
 - Urban
 - Rural
 - Agricultural
 - Web clearinghouse of resources
 - Distinguish resources for water resource community specifically
- Statewide Education Materials
 - Benefits of monitoring not always approached
 - Stories
 - How monitoring makes things better
 - Case studies

2) Data interpretation, synthesis, and communication work plan discussion

Points discussed:

- **There is a need for communicating case studies that demonstrate how monitoring data are synthesized and analyzed to solve water resource problems (Stu Shipman gave the example of a study that Sara Peel was involved with on the Wabash River).**
- **Several individuals suggested an inventory of case studies. For instance, all studies funded by IDEMs 319 program could be posted on the Web site.**
- **It was noted that the Council should develop a list of names for the public to contact for specific questions regarding water quality and monitoring.**

Flip chart notes:

- Synthesis, Interpretation of data
 - 303d may not address all sides of story
 - Need to tell the whole story, both positive as well as problems
 - Trend analysis – What it means
 - Interpreted into a successful product
 - Look at existing successes
 - Improve communication between agencies
 - Wabash example
 - “Stuff that Works- Stuff that doesn’t”
 - Interpretation of based studies (Kathleen, Jane, Elizabeth)
 - Inventory of
 - Remove disconnection
 - Invitations
 - Grouped by watershed
 - Questionnaire
 - Identify what exists
 - Companion piece for water monitoring inventory
- Synthesis of data
 - Having projects posted on web/online
 - Searchable
 - List of contacts
 - Council potentially create searchable database
 - Protocol must be stated
 - Create library
 - Bring in details
 - State libraries
 - Synthesize holes
 - Annotated bibliography
 - Knowing datasets
 - First stop
 - INWMC as portal
 - Funding sources should be considered
 - Connect resources
 - Investigate web development options (Scott and Communications)
 - Find study in the
 - Provide training opportunities
 - Based on synthesis and interpretation
 - Comparability between studies
 - Answering the difficult questions
 - “What’s the quality of White River?”
 - “What does it mean?”

- Workshop on how they do it
 - “Ask the experts” webpage
 - Talk about final product
 - Bring agencies together

3) Annual coordinated plan and meetings (improving interagency communication) work plan discussion

Points discussed:

- **It was recommended that the Council take responsibility for organizing interagency meetings. What would these entail and how would they be coordinated?**
- **There is a need to identify the monitoring networks that are currently running and optimize these networks by improving collaboration so that the state can be better prepared to answer certain questions. As an example, the USGS will soon begin to decommission a number of monitoring wells in Indiana, but these wells could be used by other researchers – the Council could potentially provide a medium to announce this opportunity for resource sharing.**
- **Interagency meetings could be targeted toward certain subjects so that only those parties interested in these topics would need to attend.**

Flip chart notes:

- Annual Coordinated Plan and Meetings
 - Look at inventorying monitoring networks (Gage Well)
 - Surface and ground
 - Quality and quantity
 - Who’s doing what, where?
 - What would it take to integrate monitoring networks
 - Where are we in a given year
 - Positioning
 - Adjustments needed?
 - USGS has money!
 - Networks
 - Points of sampling across state
 - What is, what was, what will be?
 - Small working group gathers info- returns to larger group (Bill G, GRG, Jody, Stu [IDNR], Becky, Jerry)
 - MD Example
 - Value of networks
 - Sell better
 - WQ additions to gages
 - Conversation on how tweaks can make goals happen
 - Sponsored, facilitated meetings, summarize
 - Groundwork and facilitation of role
 - Homework
 - Hosting
 - Who’s using it for what?
 - DNR fisheries used to host
 - Efficient March meeting
 - Invited all scientific collector’s
 - Permit universities, agencies, local, etc
 - Fixed interagency meetings
 - Key agencies for subject
 - Subject based / hot issues
 - Small group
 - Facilitated by council

- Gaging stations
- Protocols
- Stimulus issues
- Well networks
- Coordinate with INAFSM / IWRA / Silver Jackets
- Hot issues
 - Contaminants
 - Fish data / toxicity
 - Lakes and fisheries
- Local
 - Getting to know you
- Recommendations
 - Suggest action based on void
- Limited resources – not reinvent the wheel
 - Watchdog ourselves
- Encourage field level staff to participate
- Strategy
- Some face-to-face web meeting
 - Call in
- Make it clear to supervisors
- Shared calendar
 - Sampling
 - Planning session
 - Multiple benefits (craigslist)
 - IWOD mitigation
 - Water quality

4) Training opportunities and workshops work plan discussion

Points discussed:

- **It was suggested that the InWMC could possibly exist as an umbrella organization that sponsors and communicates training when agencies or specialists present opportunities.**
- **Several individuals have stressed the need for assistance in planning water resource studies. What are these study planning needs and are they internal or external to government agencies?**
- **It was suggested that QA/QC, health and safety, and metadata (documentation of data) guidance were three priorities that should be addressed.**

Flip chart notes:

- Training opportunities workshop
 - Offering linking expert with training needs
 - Idea of umbrella
 - Identify need
 - NWQMA – national resource
 - Speaker's Bureau list of what's available
 - USGS – statistical
 - Inventory- check off specialties
 - External need
 - Watershed coordinators
 - Grantees
 - Agencies bound by protocol
 - Question value of training
 - Currently participate

- Training requirements (hours)
 - IAFS
 - Anything that doesn't involve training or travel fees
- Watershed academy
- Outside needs
- Overview of training available
 - Ohio certification model
- QA / QC
- Health and safety (Emergency response)
 - IDEM does for field
- Calibration bay
- Habitat evaluation
- Comparability study
 - Develop dataset
 - Help pool data
- National research on comparability

Volunteer search

Task / project: research current InWMC Web site host (Wild Apricot) to see if a resource clearinghouse and professional rolodex can be posted

- Scott Morlock
- Shawn Naylor

Task / project: interagency coordinated plan

- Bill Guertal
- Becky Travis
- Greg Overtoom
- Jody Arthur
- Stu Shipman
- Jerry Unterreiner

Task / project: compile available technical resources and case studies

- Sara Peel
- Kathleen Hagan
- Gwen White

Task / project: synthesize existing education and outreach resources

- Bill Guertal
- Gwen White
- Greg Overtoom

Bylaws amendment

Jody Arthur: gave an overview of changes made to the bylaws since they were initially approved by the General Membership on December 3, 2008 (with contingencies set that lingering concerns would be addressed)

An opportunity for comments and suggestions was given with no response.

Stu Shipman: motioned to accept the changes made to the bylaws

Siavash Beik: seconds the motion

All voted in favor with no opposition.

General announcements

Linda Schmidt: September 18, 2008 will be World Water Monitoring Day