



NJ Water Monitoring Coordinating Council

Measuring What Counts for Clean & Plentiful Water

June 11, 2008
MEETING MINUTES

Attendees

Leslie McGeorge, Alena Baldwin-Brown, Randy Braun, Gary Buchanan, Bob Connell, Tom Fikslin, Lisa Galloway Evrard (for Chris Obropta), Jack Gibs, Jawed Hameedi, Nancy Immesberger, Ed Konsevick, Al Korndoerfer, MaryAnne Kuserk, John Kushwara, Judy Louis, Karl Muessig, Manisha Patel, Nick Procopio, Bob Reiser, Boris Rukovets (for Howard Golub), Mike Serfes, Bob Tudor, Paula Zevin

Absent

Kirk Barrett, Becky Cosgrove (for Bill Simmons), Danielle Donkersloot, Mike Kennish, Todd Kratzer, Rick Kropp, Diana Morgan (for Joan Ehrenfeld), Steve Nieswand, Ed Santoro, Eric Vowinkel, Mike Weinstein

Guest Speakers/Discussion Leaders

Debra Hammond – NJDEP/WM&S
Mike Matsko – NJDEP/OIRM
Paul Morton – NJDEP/WM&S
Eileen Murphy – NJDEP/DSRT
Jon Scott – USGS OK Water Science Center
Dwane Young – EPA HQ

Guests

Greg Cavello - DRBC
Harry Chen – NJDEP/OIRM
Ron MacGillivray – DRBC
Eric Sillardorf - DRBC
Larry Thornton – NJDEP/OIRM
Angela Witcher – NJDEP/OIRM

➤ **Council Business**

- Minutes from the 1/23/08 Council meeting were approved as amended.
- Manisha Patel, Lab Director at the Rutgers EcoComplex, officially joined the Council as a member.
- September Meeting Technical Session Topics: It was decided to continue **Water Quality Data Management** as one of the technical topics for the September Council meeting, as there are additional agencies who have information that may be of interest to the Council. Several Council members agreed to contact potential speakers/organizations including: Jawed Hameedi - a NOAA speaker, Bob Connell - Mike Kennish for a Rutgers/IMCS speaker, and Bob Tudor - U. of Delaware for a speaker on DEOS. Ed Konsevick also offered to present MERI's interactive web-based data dissemination system. The other technical topic that was decided for discussion was

Continuous Monitoring. A questionnaire, designed to ascertain what continuous monitoring activities are currently being performed by Council member organizations, has been developed and shared with Council members. Completed questionnaires are to be submitted to Alena prior to the Sept Council meeting.

- DRBC Federal-State Monitoring Workshop: Bob Tudor reported out on the DRBC-hosted Federal-State Monitoring Workshop that was held on May 15. Several Council member orgs were in attendance including NJDEP, USGS, and EPA Region 2. Part of the workshop included a report out on potential monitoring enhancements including the NWQM Network Pilot in the Delaware Bay/Estuary, as well as participation on the National Water Quality Monitoring Council and the NJ Water Monitoring Council. A summary of the DE Estuary Pilot of the National Network was presented as well as identified gaps and potential uses for the \$100K from USGS to fill these gaps.
- Emerging Contaminants Update: Eileen Murphy (NJDEP/DSRT) provided the Council with information on emerging contaminant work in which she is involved. Currently the focus is on finished drinking water and human health. Some focus is still needed on surface water, ecological and wastewater. During the discussion, the Council agreed that a subcommittee should be formed to investigate emerging contaminants of concern. Areas that the subcommittee might focus on include: research strategies, risk assessment, methods/QC, cost analyses, contaminant list development/enhancement, sediment/tissue, and data management. Eileen agreed to coordinate this subcommittee. Volunteers for members of the subcommittee included: Jack Gibs (USGS), Ron MacGillivray (DRBC), Ray Bousenberry (DEP/NJGS), Keith Loftin (USGS KS), EPA Rep, Boris Rukovets/Caitlyn Nichols (IEC), Tom Vernam (DEP/WM&S) and, possibly, Lee Lippincott (DEP/DSRT). The subcommittee will develop a charter, containing an objective/charge for the group. Eileen will try to organize an initial meeting of the subcommittee prior to the next full Council meeting in September.
- NJ's Surface Water Quality Standards Amendments: Debra Hammond (DEP/WM&S) provided an update on the latest amendments to NJ's Surface Water Quality Standards. Her presentation is available on the Council's webpage.
- NJ's Participation in EPA's Large Rivers & Streams Survey: Al Korndoerfer provided a summary of NJ's participation in this latest of EPA's national surveys. His presentation is available on the Council's webpage.
- National Water Monitoring Conference: Council members who attended and/or presented at the 2008 National Water Monitoring Conference, May 19-22 in Atlantic City, provided feedback on their experiences. In addition, Alena brought the NJ Water Monitoring Inventory poster that was presented at the conference.

➤ **Technical Presentations** (Copies of all of the following presentations have been posted to the Council's webpage - <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/wms/wmccmeetinginfo.html>)

The Council heard technical presentations on the following related to Water Quality Data Management/Data Exchange:

A. *EPA's & USGS' Efforts at the National Level in WQ Data Management Issues* – Dwane Young (EPA HQ) & Jon Scott (USGS OK)

Dwane Young & Jon Scott (via phone) detailed EPA's & USGS' efforts, at the national level, to develop a common suite of web services. The focus here is sharing of water monitoring data via a common format and common technology. Both Dwane & Jon explained the needs to accomplish this task - the changing from STORET to WQX at EPA, as well as the need to integrated EPA and USGS data. EPA's initial web services are currently available. USGS' web services are in final testing for initial services. The benefits of such a collaboration include providing efficiencies (doing more with less), providing new capabilities such as data mining and reporting to other systems, providing support for monitoring networks, as well as shared data and applications. Part of this effort is also to explore what web services and catalogues/inventories should look like – EPA and USGS may ask for

some assistance in the future, from the NJ Council, in these areas, especially as NJ is in the process of developing its own water monitoring inventory.

B. NJDEP's Enterprise Data Management System & Use of Exchange Network – Mike Matsko (DEP/OIRM)

Mike Matsko provided an overview of DEP's existing IT framework (NJEMS and E-government) as well as DEP's involvement with the Exchange network to date. He explained the differences between how DEP has traditionally done data exchange as well as how, using a network node, data exchange will be achieved in the future. In addition to sharing the current DEP data exchanges that are ongoing, he also explained a bit about the DEP data exchange projects that are active – with emphasis on the Water Quality Data Exchange Project (of which the NJ Water Monitoring Inventory is a component). Mike also detailed the differences in the mechanisms for data display that are available from DEP (e.g., Data Miner providing a tabular display of data vs. NJGeoWeb providing a spatial display).

C. NJ's Water Quality Data Exchange Grant – Paul Morton (NJDEP/WM&S)

Paul Morton provided an update on the latest activities with respect to NJ's Water Quality Data Exchange Project. In addition to reviewing the need for, benefits of, anticipated products/functionalities and current progress of the project (including the NJ Water Monitoring Inventory), Paul requested assistance from the Council with the upcoming testing phase of the data exchange system. Testing will take place in 2 phases: data entry (“data in”) and data/information retrieval (“data out”). Paul will investigate whether or not testing may be done remotely or if testers must come to the DEP campus in Trenton [NOTE: remote testing is possible]. The data entry portion is slated to begin late-July-early August while the data retrieval phase is scheduled for October [NOTE: testing has been delayed. It is expected that testing for the data entry portion will now occur in Sept. The data retrieval testing has not yet been scheduled]. Council members/organizations who volunteered to be part of the testing include: Alena, Nick Procopio (Pinelands Commission), Ed Konsevick (MERI), USGS, EPA Region 2, DRBC (Greg Cavallo), IEC (Nick Protopsaltis), Rutgers, DEP/DSRT. Additional Council members/organizations wishing to volunteer should contact either Paul or Alena.

- **Technical Topics for Next Meeting**
 - Water Quality Data Management (continued)
 - Continuous Monitoring

- **Next Meeting**
 - September 12, 2008 at NJDEP HQ