



NJ Water Monitoring Coordinating Council

Measuring What Counts for Clean & Plentiful Water

May 25, 2005
MEETING MINUTES

Attendees

Leslie McGeorge, Rick Kropp, Alena Baldwin-Brown, Lisa Barno, Kirk Barrett, Randy Braun, Bob Connell, Becky Cosgrove, Jeannine Der Bedrosian, Danielle Donkersloot, Lisa Galloway Evrard (for Chris Obropta), Jack Gibs, Jawed Hameedi, Nancy Immesburger, Al Korndorfer, MaryAnne Kuserk, John Kushwara, Karl Muessig, Nick Procopio, Bob Reiser, Pete Rowe (for Mike Weinstein), Bill Simmons, Dave Stedfast, Bob Tudor, Paula Zevin

Absent

Mike Kennish, Ed Konsevick, Steve Nieswand, Boris Rukovets, Ed Santoro, Mike Serfes, Amy Shallcross

Guests

Linda Green – University of Rhode Island/Watershed Watch
Mary Siller – NJDEP/CEHA
Larry Baier – NJDEP/DWM
Ernie Hofer – Sussex County MUA
Doug Vornlocker – Somerset County Health Department

➤ **EPA Grant for Council Support**

The \$15,000 grant from EPA HQ has been received. Funds from the grant will be used for some basic Council operations, to support development of an electronic NJ water monitoring inventory, as well as to host a 1-day technical workshop, in Spring 2006, similar to that held by the MD Water Monitoring Council. An ad-hoc subcommittee to coordinate development of the workshop has been formed (see 2/2/05 meeting minutes for subcommittee volunteers) and planning for the workshop will begin shortly. Additional Council members wishing to volunteer for the subcommittee should let Alena know.

➤ **NJ Water Monitoring & Assessment Strategy**

Hard copies of the strategy document will be provided to all Council members.

➤ **National Water Monitoring Framework**

- A. *National Network Design* – Al Korndorfer provided an update on efforts to design a National Water Monitoring Network. The workgroup has been charged with providing a draft design to the Network Steering Committee as well as the National Water Monitoring Council by July, with the final design due to ACWI in September.
- B. *MACOORA-sponsored IOOS/National Monitoring Network Workshop* – Jawed Hameedi presented a brief history of the origin of the workshop (how it had stemmed from a recommendation in the US Commission on Ocean Policy report to link the National Monitoring Network (being developed under the National Water Monitoring Council) with IOOS) as well as the proposed design for the workshop.

In summary, the workshop is planned for September in Delaware, will include resource managers and academics, will address water quality issues in the mid-Atlantic region, will explore how current assets can be used to address these issues, as well as explore linkages between IOOS and the National Monitoring Network. Jawed indicated that NOAA can pay for attendance at the workshop. At this point, he is seeking candidates for attendance. If Council members wish to attend (or wish to offer a candidate), they should contact either Jawed or Alena. (**NOTE:** the full version of this presentation is available on the Council's website)

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

The Council heard technical presentations on the following areas:

- **County/Local Monitoring**

- A. *County Environmental Health Act Program (CEHA)* – Mary Siller, NJDEP

Mary Siller provided an overview of NJDEP's CEHA program, including water-monitoring-related work with the various counties. Mary also spoke about a few other county-related projects, sponsored by CEHA, including the migrant farm worker potable well inspection project and the compliance assistance at marinas project.

- B. *Monmouth County Health Department's Water Monitoring Activities* – Becky Cosgrove, MCHD

Monmouth County is regarded as very active in the area of ambient surface water monitoring, and this county's monitoring data are used in NJDEP's Integrated Water Monitoring and Assessment Report. As such, Becky Cosgrove presented the various monitoring-related activities of the Monmouth County Health Department, including biological, physical/chemical and bacterial monitoring, data uses, ongoing projects (including participation in the CCMP program), as well as monitoring gaps (e.g., phytoplankton ID and counts). Becky also presented the results of an informal survey she conducted of water monitoring activities in the other NJ counties.

- C. *Low Impact Development in Monmouth County* – Bill Simmons, MCHD

Bill Simmons gave a brief presentation on how water monitoring data are used to advocate for low impact development in Monmouth County (**NOTE:** due to inadequate time to fully cover this topic, Bill's presentation will be revisited at a subsequent meeting).

- **Volunteer Monitoring**

- A. *Successes and Challenges of Volunteer Monitoring* – Linda Green, U. of RI Coop. Extension
Linda Green, who represents Volunteer Monitoring on the National Water Monitoring Council, spoke to the Council about the successes and challenges of volunteer monitoring based on her extensive experience in Rhode Island. She outlined the various types of volunteer monitoring programs that exist, length of time they've been in existence, types of data that are collected, uses of that data, as well as challenges facing a successful volunteer monitoring program. Linda also provided information regarding the special expanded forum for Volunteer Monitoring that will take place at the upcoming National Water Monitoring Conference (San Jose, May '06).

- B. *NJDEP's Volunteer Monitoring Program* – Danielle Donkersloot

Danielle Donkersloot provided an overview of NJDEP's Volunteer Monitoring Program, including the 4-tier organizational structure which sorts the various volunteer programs according to the purpose of their monitoring program, intended uses of their data, and intended data users. Danielle also highlighted the various advisory committees (internal and external) which provide advice and direction to the program, as well as upcoming training (Volunteer RBP training, Stream School) and events (Volunteer Monitoring Summit). In addition, she also highlighted a new volunteer lakes monitoring effort which is designed to provide long-term trends at a variety of lakes throughout the state. It was agreed that, as Danielle is searching for lakes needing volunteers or volunteer organizations for monitoring, the list of these lakes could be posted on the Council's webpage.

- C. *Volunteer Monitoring at EPA Region 2* – Paula Zevin

Paula Zevin took the Council on a virtual tour of the volunteer monitoring activities, including grant opportunities, available via the Region 2 webpage.

➤ **Subcommittees**

Subcommittee Webpage

A new section on the “Meeting Information” portion of the Council’s webpage will be developed for the subcommittees. In this section, subcommittee charters, meeting minutes, as well as other pertinent information will be posted.

Data Management/Data Exchange

Dave Stedfast (USGS) provided a summary of the activities of the Data Management/Data Exchange subcommittee. The Subcommittee’s Charter is final. Kirk Barrett has agreed to take the lead in pulling together existing monitoring information for development of an electronic inventory of water monitoring activities in NJ. There are also ongoing discussions regarding development of an Access database to use (via a web portal) for data exchange. This activity may also be folded into the EPA Information Exchange Challenge Grant, if received; the application has been submitted to EPA and a response is awaited. Rick Winfield has been appointed to serve as the EPA Region 2 rep for this subcommittee.

Monitoring Methods Subcommittee

It has been suggested that a new Monitoring Methods subcommittee be formed. Karl Muessig (NJDEP/NJGS) volunteered to serve as a Co-Chair. Eric Volwinkel (USGS) is to be asked to serve as the other Co-Chair. Jack Gibs (USGS) volunteered to serve on the subcommittee. Any other volunteers for this subcommittee should communicate their interest to Alena.

Growing the Monitoring Infrastructure

This subcommittee has suspended activities at this time.

➤ **Topic for Next Meeting**

- Biological Information and Indicators of Water Quality Monitoring
 - Possible presenters: NJDEP (WM&S, DFW), EPA Region 2, Pinelands, NOAA

➤ **Next Meeting**

September 26, 2005 at NJDEP.