



NJ Water Monitoring Coordinating Council

Measuring What Counts for Clean & Plentiful Water

September 24, 2004
MEETING MINUTES

Attendees

Leslie McGeorge, Rick Kropp, Alena Baldwin-Brown, Randy Braun, Bob Connell, Becky Cosgrove (for Bill Simmons), Danielle Donkersloot, Lisa Galloway Evrard (for Chris Obropta), Jack Gibs, Jawed Hameedi, Nancy Immesburger, Mike Kennish, Ed Konsevick, Al Korndoerfer, MaryAnne Kuserk, Karl Muessig, Bob Reiser, Boris Rukovets (for Howard Golub), Ed Santoro, Mike Serfes, Dave Stedfast, Bob Tudor, Mike Weinstein,

Absent

Lisa Barno, Kirk Barrett, Jeannine Der Bedrosian, Steve Nieswand, Nick Procopio, Amy Shallcross, Paula Zevin

Guests

Oscar Schofield – Institute for Marine & Coastal Sciences, Rutgers University
Danielle Kreeger – Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia

➤ **EPA Grant for Council Support**

The Council has received notification of award of a \$15,000 grant from EPA HQ to support some of its activities, including hosting a 1-day technical workshop similar to that held by the MD Water Monitoring Council and for data exchange activities. Any additional ideas for use of the funds should be shared with Leslie, Rick or Alena. The grant is for a 2-year period.

➤ **World Water Monitoring Day Celebration**

DEP, USGS and the Pinelands Commission are partnering for the 2004 celebration of World Water Monitoring Day at Batsto Lake in Historic Batsto Village, Wharton State Forest (Burlington County). Area Middle School students are being invited to participate. Other Council members are also welcome to attend. (NOTE: a slide show of some of the activities from the event is available on the NJDEP Water Monitoring & Standards webpage: www.state.nj.us/dep/wmm/) IEC also reported that, as part of WWMD, they would be sampling 9 stations in the Long Island Sound. EPA Region 2 also reported that they were planning an event in celebration of WWMD.

➤ **Technical Presentations**

The Council heard technical presentations on the following 2 topics:

- New Tools for Ocean Monitoring & Development of Integrated Ocean Observing Systems (Bob Connell – NJDEP, Bob Tudor – DRBC, Oscar Schofield – IMCS/Rutgers)
- Ground Water Quality in NJ (Mike Serfes – NJDEP/NJGS)

Copies of both presentations have been posted to the Council's webpage

➤ **NJ Long Term Water Monitoring Strategy**

Leslie McGeorge presented a summary of NJDEP's development of the draft NJ Long Term Water Monitoring and Assessment Strategy, which is required by EPA in order to continue receipt of federal 106 funds. EPA's Guidance Document (*Elements of a State Water Monitoring and Assessment Program* – March 2003) details that the Strategy needs to include long term monitoring and assessment plans for all waters of the state including rivers, streams, lakes, reservoirs, estuaries, coastal areas, ground water and wetlands. NJDEP has developed a draft strategy document for the years FY2005-2014, including monitoring gaps and resource/information needs, that is currently undergoing NJDEP senior management review. There is a section within the "Coordination, Communication, and Collaboration" portion of the document that describes the NJ Water Monitoring Coordinating Council; the Council's Charter is also included as an Appendix.

➤ **National Water Monitoring Council**

Karl Muessig provided a summary of important information/presentations from the July National Water Monitoring Council meeting. Topics discussed included: the results from the GAO report on watershed management which determined that better coordination of data collection efforts are needed; the EPA/USGS collective strategy for monitoring and modeling; and the results from the External Task Force's review of the USGS Cooperative Water Program. The most significant outstanding recommendation from the review is the need for increased federal funding for the program. Comments or suggestions regarding ways in which this could be accomplished should go to Karl. It was also suggested that the NJ Congressional Delegation could be lobbied, through the Growing the Monitoring Infrastructure subcommittee. Karl also informed the Council that Proceedings from the May National Water Monitoring Conference are now available on the NWQMC webpage (<http://water.usgs.gov/wicp/acwi/monitoring/>).

➤ **Subcommittees**

Data Management/Data Exchange

Al Korndoerfer (NJDEP/WM&S) provided a summary of the 2 meetings that the Data Management/Data Exchange subcommittee has held. The Subcommittee has developed a draft Charter and a recommended list of activities for pursuit. Topping the list is a recommendation for development of a standardized MS-ACCESS template for water monitoring data entry/retrieval that would be compatible with EPA's STORET and future XML schemas. There was a suggestion that perhaps a small amount of the recently awarded EPA grant could be used to fund development of this template. There was also a suggestion that several IT-related staff members from a few Council member agencies might be able to develop the template. A representative from EPA Region 2 is needed for this subcommittee.

➤ **Upcoming Events**

- Delaware Estuary Science Conference – Danielle Kreeger (Academy of Natural Sciences – Philadelphia) spoke to the Council about this upcoming conference, which will be held in Cape May, Jan 10-12, 2005. Speakers and agency sponsors for the Conference are being sought. Interested Council members should contact Danielle directly (kreeger@acnatsci.org or 215-299-1079).

➤ **Possible Agenda Items/Topics for Next Meeting**

- Coastal Eutrophic Conditions (Suzanne Bricker, NOAA)
- NEMI & Data Standards (Eric Volwinkel, USGS)
- EPA Source Identification Methods
- NJ Consortium for Homeland Security (Mike Weinstein)

➤ **Next Meeting**

To be scheduled for January or February 2005 at DRBC.