

Florida Water Resources Monitoring Council

Inaugural meeting
October 11, 2006

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Longterm, Ongoing Issues:

- Lack of interagency monitoring coordination
- Data/information sharing difficult if not impossible
- Many program elements unplanned and under-funded
- Linkage between fresh and marine waters

Florida Water Resources Monitoring Council

Desired future state:

- Coordinated state and federal monitoring
- Improved fresh-marine linkage
- Monitoring programs well planned and funded – comprehensive strategies
- Cost-effective monitoring
- Awareness of other programs/opportunities

History of Efforts to Coordinate Monitoring

- National water quality monitoring council
- Original efforts to develop a Florida council

Before the Council

- Previous efforts based on need for mutually agreed-upon standards. No one had authority to set statewide standards and require adoption.
- Complete agreement on anything is very difficult to achieve.

Existing monitoring

- County and local monitoring
- DOH beach monitoring
- DACS shellfish monitoring
- WMD monitoring – networks & projects
- FWC - IMAP coastal/ocean monitoring
- DEP IWRM freshwater monitoring and developing coastal/ocean monitoring
- Ocean Observing Systems

Council Genesis

- Legislature charged DEP with responsibility and authority to establish 'standards'
- 373 F.S. language

Council Genesis

- Monitoring Council created to advise DEP in setting data and monitoring standards.

Council Genesis

- Monitoring Council created to help link existing monitoring programs with expanded coastal and ocean monitoring to form a comprehensive, integrated monitoring program

Council Genesis

- Bottom line: DEP is seeking advice and general agreement from council on best ways to proceed.

Existing Data Challenges

- Provide data/information that can be shared with others.
- Collect data that can be combined with that from other programs.
- Adopt means to distinguish data that is appropriate for the users purposes (metadata)

Existing Program Challenges

- Identify and describe present monitoring programs
- Identify where monitoring goals are sufficiently similar to allow coordination of efforts
- Identify if monitoring programs are sufficiently similar that coordination offers a cost benefit

Existing Program Challenges

- To fill gaps in monitoring, determine where expansion of existing programs is more cost effective than adding new programs

Charges to the Council

- Advise DEP on issues to consider in establishing standards
- Provide technical input to aid developing and implementing standards
- Assist with coordination of efforts

Council structure and function

- Ellen McCarron – Chair, ex-officio, non-voting, provides guidance and advice to Council

Council structure and function

- Ten voting members, consisting of:
 - One representative from each state agency with significant WQ monitoring responsibilities (4 state agencies)
 - One representative from each WMD
 - One representative from FLERA representing county/local governments

Council structure and function

- Liaison – Steve Wolfe; coordinates Council activities
 - Members can talk freely with Liaison outside of publicly noticed meetings about Monitoring Council business.
- Facilitator – Janice Fleischer, J.D.; FLASH Resolutions
 - *Facilitator runs meetings to maximize outcomes*