

By: Daniel Dourte
Checked by: Carolyn Volyes
Meeting Date: August 24, 2018
Subject: Florida Water Resources Monitoring Council
Workshop Meeting Minutes



Florida Water Resources Monitoring Council – August 2018 Meeting Minutes

When: 24 August, 2018; Friday 1:00-3:30 PM
Where: USGS - 7920 NW 71 St, Gainesville, FL 32653
GoToWebinar:
Audio: 1-888-670-3525; PIN: 511-706-2548#
Registration: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2027896757689456385>

Meeting Objectives:

- Make progress on action items in the annual work plan
 - Make any necessary revisions / updates to current work plan
-

The following 33 people participated (19 in-person, 14 by webinar):

Participant	Email	Agency	Location	Member/ Alternate
Alex Blankenship	awhann@alachuacounty.us	Alachua County	In-person	
Jim Hatchitt	jhatchitt@alachuacounty.us	Alachua County	In-person	Alternate
David Polk	David.Polk@flhealth.gov	DOH	In-person	Member
Carolyn Voyles	Carolyn.Voyles@dep.state.fl.us	FDEP	In-person	Staff Liaison
Denise Miller	denise.miller@dep.state.fl.us	FDEP	In-person	
Jay Silvanima	James.Silvanima@dep.state.fl.us	FDEP	In-person	



Rick Copeland	Rick.Copeland@dep.state.fl.us	FDEP	In-person	Alternate
Sean McGlynn	mcglynnlabs@gmail.com	FL Lake Management Society	In-person	Member
Linda Crean	lcrean@sfwmd.gov	SFWMD	In-person	Member
Christine Mundy	cmundy@sjrwmd.com	SJRWMD	In-person	Member
Margaret Guyette	mguyette@sjrwmd.com	SJRWMD	In-person	Alternate
Connie Woodward	Connie.Woodward@srwmd.org	SRWMD	In-person	
Darlene Velez	darlene.velez@srwmd.org	SRWMD	In-person	Member
Fay Baird	fay.baird@srwmd.org	SRWMD	In-person	Alternate
Catherine Wolden	catherine.wolden@swfwmd.state.fl.us	SWFWMD	In-person	Member
Sandie Will	sandie.will@watermatters.org	SWFWMD	In-person	Alternate
Craig Diamond	cdiamond@balmoralgroup.us	The Balmoral Group	In-person	Chair - consultant
Dan Dourte	ddourte@balmoralgroup.us	The Balmoral Group	In-person	Chair - consultant
Jan Allyn	janallyn@usf.edu	USF	In-person	
Chris McArthur	mcarthur.christopher@epa.gov	EPA	Webinar	Alternate
Chips Kirshenfeld	jtkirsche@myescambia.com	Escambia County	Webinar	Alternate
Angela Chelette	angela.chelette@freshfromflorida.com	FDACS	Webinar	
Maddie Hart	madeline.hart@freshfromflorida.com	FDACS	Webinar	
Debra Harrington	Debra.Harrington@dep.state.fl.us	FDEP	Webinar	
Julie Espy	Julie.Espy@dep.state.fl.us	FDEP	Webinar	
Rob Brown	rob.brown@mymanatee.org	FLERA - Southwest Region	Webinar	Member
Alyse Howell	AHowell@volusia.org	FLERA St. Johns River Region	Webinar	
Siobhan Gorham	Siobhan.Gorham@myfwc.com	Florida Fish & Wildlife CC	Webinar	Alternate
Edward Chelette	Edward.Chelette@nfwwater.com	NWFWMD	Webinar	Member
Kelli Levy	klevy@co.pinellas.fl.us	Pinellas County	Webinar	Alternate
Julianne LaRock	jlarock@sfwmd.gov	SFWMD	Webinar	Alternate
Granville Kinsman	Granville.Kinsman@swfwmd.state.fl.us	SWFWMD	Webinar	
Amanda Booth	acbooth@usgs.gov	USGS	Webinar	

Meeting minutes

- Welcome and Introductions

Roll call was completed for each agency represented. Dan Dourte reviewed the objectives of the meeting and the agenda.



- Status of work plan; evolving structure/operation of Council; survey results

Dan Dourte (Council Chair) summarized the development and status of the current Council work plan, and reviewed survey results from a recent polling (see survey summary section at end). There was some discussion about the importance of training compared with importance of data and/or reports that might improve coordination. Catherine Wolden mentioned that the time investment was large for efforts to develop tools or data improvements, and that training might be more helpful and have less time/staff commitment.

- Review of short-term action items in work plan

Related to the short-term action item of “Stronger web presence; visibility and accessibility,” Carolyn Voyles (DEP) discussed Council website updates and the preparation of success stories.

For the second short-term item, “Identify and document duplication and gaps in water quality monitoring,” the capabilities of Water-CAT were discussed in the context of it being used to produce results. Jan Allyn presented slides that detailed the history, accomplishments, challenges, and proposed solutions. Web analytics were presented that showed a relatively small user base with most users in Tallahassee. This highlighted the importance of training/demonstrations of Water-CAT for Council members and for wider audiences. The importance of having quality metadata in Water-CAT was stressed. Linda Crean (SFWMD) and Margaret Guyette (SJRWMD) indicated that metadata from their Districts would soon be provided to Water-CAT. A suggestion was made that Water-CAT trainings/demos should wait until Water-CAT is sufficiently populated with metadata; the additions of SJRWMD and SFWMD metadata were decided to be a reasonable threshold for metadata sufficiency. Once the metadata from SJRWMD and SFWMD are loaded the Water-CAT will have metadata from all 5 Water Management Districts, in addition to the metadata from numerous other monitoring agencies. Jim Hatchitt (Alachua County) recommended developing a Water-CAT comment form so that Council members and others can easily provide feedback to USF. Until it is added, Jan Allyn can be contacted (janallyn@usf.edu) with input on data or other comments/questions.

- Review mid-term action items

Dan Dourte summarized the 3 medium-term action items: Coordinate best practices for large data, Improve the flow/hydrology and water quality connection, Support development and implementation of new, emerging, and enhanced technologies, indicators, and methods to improve monitoring. Merging the large data and emerging technologies action items was discussed; the group indicated these are quite different and should be separate efforts. The best ways to learn from each other about those two items was discussed: workshops or some type of training was suggested to be able to share information about emerging technologies and large data management. Darlene Velez has made some progress in evaluating large data/continuous monitoring management systems; she is a possible point person for coordinating training events on continuous monitoring (data access, analysis, etc). Linda Crean and SFWMD colleagues have explored several



emerging technologies; she or one of her colleagues could be a point person for coordinating training events on emerging technologies. Sean McGlynn (FL Lake Management Society) stressed the importance of careful evaluation of emerging technologies in the context of monitoring regulations and data quality.

- Work plan revisions – how to focus our efforts on learning from each other

Overall work plan revisions were discussed by the group. There seemed to be a preference to focus on training to improve coordination. This will require some adaptation to the work plan to reflect this. Carolyn Voyles asked if Council members would be interested in periodic teleconferences on relevant “hot topics.” Council members indicated some interest in this idea. Council members agreed that the “Improve the flow/hydrology and water quality connection” action item could be moved to long-term so we can focus on establishing some consistency in our training efforts.

- Review ongoing action items

Denise Miller (DEP) summarized the WIN implementation status. Council members suggested having a demonstration of navigating through and extracting data from WIN. Rick Copeland (DEP) provided a short overview of the current status of the Salinity Network. He indicated he will be stepping down as chair of the Salinity Network workgroup in November 2018, but he will still be involved in the work group. Anyone interested in chairing the Salinity Network workgroup should contact Rick Copeland and/or Dan Dourte.

- Summary; action items

The review of short-term and medium-term action items resulted in Council members expressing interest in putting together training programs on 1) Water-CAT (for Council and eventually for wider audiences), 2) Continuous Monitoring Data (software, analysis, visualization, etc), and 3) Emerging Technologies (for monitoring equipment, lab techniques, data analysis, etc). In addition to these training programs, a push for SJRWMD and SFWMD metadata to be provided to Water-CAT by end of 2018 was recommended.

Action Items

- *Revise annual work plan to reflect Council emphasis on training related to some of the existing work plan items. (Dan Dourte in collaboration with previous work plan work group: Rob Brown, Margaret Guyette, Darlene Velez, and Kelly Young). September 2018: work plan to be distributed to FWRMC for review/edits.*
- *SJRWMD and SFWMD to coordinate with Water-CAT personnel to get District metadata loaded into Water-CAT (Margaret Guyette, Linda Crean, Jan Allyn, Denise Miller).*



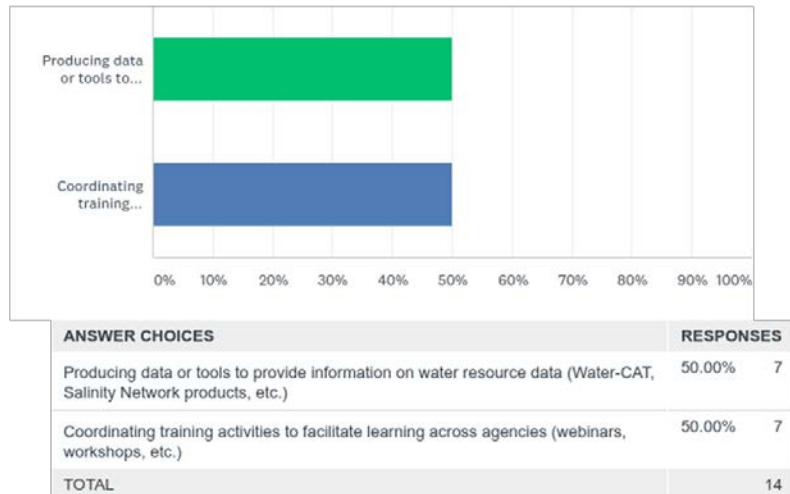
- o *Develop some structure or guidelines for training: how topics are collected/prioritized, how trainers/speakers are selected, how meetings are scheduled, what technologies used for remote meetings and recording trainings, etc. (Water Council; Dan Dourte to initiate).*
- o *Establish point people for each training focus area. Water-CAT, Continuous Monitoring Data, and Emerging Technologies (Water Council; Dan Dourte to initiate).*
- o *Develop a Water-CAT demo for initial training for Water Council before Thanksgiving (Jan Allyn and USF team; Dan Dourte to help coordinate).*
- o *Develop a WIN training that demonstrates system navigation and methods for data extraction (Denise miller).*

Survey Results

The following images summarize the input collected in an online survey of Water Council members prior to the August 24th meeting. 16 participants responded.

Q1: What is the most important work to be done by the Florida Water Resources Monitoring Council

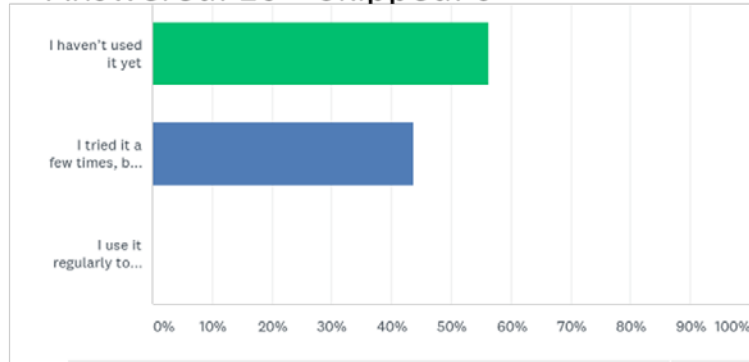
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Q2: How often have you used Water-CAT?

- Answered: 16 Skipped: 0

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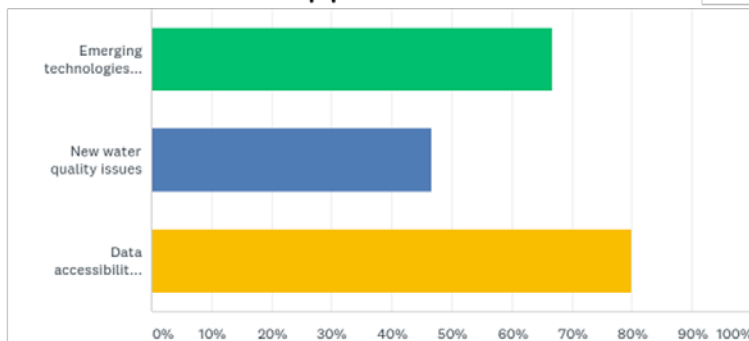


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
I haven't used it yet	56.25%	9
I tried it a few times, but don't use it regularly	43.75%	7
I use it regularly to see who/where water quality monitoring is happening	0.00%	0
TOTAL		16

Q3: If the Water Council initiated/coordinated some regular training opportunities, what would you like to learn about?

- Answered: 15 Skipped: 1

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ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Emerging technologies (new equipment, data sources, data management tools)	66.67%	10
New water quality issues	46.67%	7
Data accessibility, visualization, analysis, data gaps, etc.	80.00%	12
Total Respondents: 15		

Q4: What’s your level of interest in training efforts coordinated by the Water Council?

- Answered: 16 Skipped: 0

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