

Florida Water Resources Monitoring Council

Work Plan – 2019

October 2018

FLORIDA WATER RESOURCES MONITORING COUNCIL

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Mission

To protect, preserve, manage and restore Florida's water resources by coordinating water resource monitoring among all levels of government, improving data quality and effectiveness, and sharing information widely.

Introduction

This work plan for the Florida Water Resources Monitoring Council outlines a strategy for improving the coordination among water quality monitoring and data management personnel in order to enhance the efficiency of data collection, analysis, and visualization.

Background

The Florida Water Resources Monitoring Council (Council) is a coordinating body of multiple stakeholder organizations from many disciplines that participate in water resource monitoring and management. Water resources consist of surface waters and groundwater, and include both marine and fresh water. The Council members represent federal, state and local agencies and organizations who collect, manage, compile and disseminate information about hydrological, chemical, physical and biological properties associated with Florida's waters. The current Council (restarted in 2011) has been broadened to inform, plan and ultimately coordinate Florida water resources monitoring efforts at the state, local, and federal levels. Council authority for statewide coordination and cooperation are described in Chapter 373.026(3), Florida Statutes.

The Council develops its projects and statewide structure with the expertise of its members, partners, and workgroups. New challenges and opportunities have arisen since the Council first convened, and are being addressed by focusing on newly identified topics and challenges. The Council leverages efforts with concurrent and convergent projects of its members and partners, thereby conserving fiscal and human resources. The ultimate outcome is to improve the quality and efficiency of monitoring activities in Florida. This ensures that water resource managers have the best scientific data available to make comprehensive decisions regarding the protection and preservation of Florida's water resources in the 21st century.

This Work Plan for 2019 lays out the Action Items and Training Initiatives for the coming year to help achieve the Council mission.

Action Items

Short-term Action Items

Action Item S- 1: Provide metadata to Water-CAT

A. Timeframe

Immediate, short-term

B. Outcome(s)

- All metadata for water quality monitoring projects/programs from Water Management Districts are delivered to the Water-CAT

C. Tasks

TASK 1: Coordinate with District personnel and Water-CAT personnel to ensure the needed metadata are delivered to Water-CAT

Ongoing Action Items

Action Item O - 1: Provide oversight and guidance to Council workgroups

A. Timeframe

Ongoing

B. Outcome(s)

- Workgroups – 1) Salinity Network Workgroup and 2) Water Catalog Workgroup – are efficient and goals for each group are met in a timely manner

C. Tasks

TASK 1: Incorporate workgroup updates into Council meetings (teleconference/webinar)

TASK 2: Provide guidance to workgroups to help keep groups on task and reach goals

Action Item O - 2: Maintain Water-CAT

A. Timeframe

Ongoing

B. Outcome(s)

- A well-maintained tool that continues to provide valuable environmental monitoring information to stakeholders across Florida

C. Tasks

- TASK 1: Contribute to Water-CAT development via existing Workgroup process
- TASK 2: Manage contractors to establish metadata requirements, coordinated with WIN metadata requirements to minimize maintenance efforts of Water-CAT database. Allow for metadata gaps in Water-CAT to be filled by querying WIN.
- TASK 3: Council Members/ Representatives from members' agency provide updates of changes to their monitoring network to Water-CAT contractors.
- TASK 4: Establish a long-term Water-CAT maintenance plan for when contract period ends.

Action Item O - 3: Produce Salinity Network monitoring products

A. Timeframe

Ongoing

B. Outcome(s)

- Data visualizations to understand current and historical groundwater levels and groundwater salinity: Groundwater Percentile Ranking Index (GWPRI) and Coastal Salinity Monitoring data

C. Tasks

- TASK 1: Register groundwater monitoring locations and Representative Monthly Value data types in WIN
- TASK 2: Coordinate with Water Management Districts on providing groundwater data to WIN
- TASK 3: Develop the data management protocol for retrieval of groundwater data from WIN and processing to develop maps
- TASK 4: Develop the data management protocols for retrieving and analyzing Coastal Salinity Monitoring Network data

Training Initiatives

Training Initiative T - 1: Water-CAT training for Water Council and general audiences

A. Timeframe

Ongoing

B. Outcome(s)

- Improved utilization of Water-CAT
- Water-CAT refinements resulting from increased user base

C. Tasks

- TASK 1: Develop training program guidelines: 1) topics collection and prioritization, 2) identification of speakers/experts, 3) meeting scheduling, 4) software and equipment used to deliver, record, and post training materials.
- TASK 2: Establish contact people and leadership roles for Water-CAT training.
- TASK 3: Develop content for initial Water-CAT training for Council members
- TASK 4: Develop content for general audience Water-CAT training to be delivered at relevant conferences or technical meetings.
- TASK 5: Deliver and document (record) all Water-CAT trainings and make them web-accessible for viewing by others.
- TASK 6: Prepare short videos of Water-CAT functionality.

Training Initiative T - 2: Continuous Monitoring Training Program Development

A. Timeframe

Initiated in 2019

B. Outcome(s)

- Reusable, web-accessible webinars on continuous monitoring data
- Improved practices in use and analysis of continuous monitoring data

C. Tasks

- TASK 1: Establish contact people and leadership roles for Continuous Monitoring Training
- TASK 2: Develop a list of potential Continuous Monitoring topics based on Council member experience and/or polling/surveys of Council; prioritize the list based on interest or urgency
- TASK 3: Identify speakers/trainers for potential upcoming trainings.
- TASK 4: Coordinate with speakers/trainers on content development and delivery of training.
- TASK 5: Schedule and deliver training events.

TASK 6: Document training programs and make web-accessible.

Training Initiative T - 3: Emerging Technologies Training Program Development

A. Timeframe

Initiated in 2019

B. Outcome(s)

- Reusable, web-accessible webinars on emerging technologies for water quality data collection and analysis
- Improved practices in use and vetting of emerging technologies

C. Tasks

TASK 1: Establish contact people and leadership roles for Emerging Technologies Training

TASK 2: Develop a list of potential Emerging Technologies topics based on Council member experience and/or polling/surveys of Council; prioritize the list based on interest or urgency

TASK 3: Identify speakers/trainers for potential upcoming trainings.

TASK 4: Coordinate with speakers/trainers on content development and delivery of training.

TASK 5: Schedule and deliver training events.

TASK 6: Document training programs and make web-accessible

Training Initiative T - 4: WIN Training

A. Timeframe

Initiated in 2019

B. Outcome(s)

- Improved user knowledge of the Watershed Information Network (WIN) data access and data provision

C. Tasks

TASK 1: Identify priority WIN training topics.

TASK 2: Coordinate with speakers/trainers from the WIN team on content development and delivery of training.

TASK 3: Schedule and deliver training events.

TASK 4: Document training programs and make web-accessible.

Summary

This work plan for 2019 outlines the efforts of the Florida Water Resources Monitoring Council. The work of the Water Council in 2019 includes three ongoing efforts 1) to provide guidance and oversight to workgroups, 2) to improve and maintain the Water-CAT (through the Catalog Workgroup), and 3) to work toward the development of groundwater level ranking and groundwater salinity products (through the Salinity Network Workgroup). Additionally, the development and implementation of four training focus areas is planned for 2019. This includes training in 1) Water-CAT, 2) Continuous Monitoring, 3) Emerging Technologies, and 4) WIN.