

Florida Water Resources Monitoring Council

Work Plan – 2021

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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. The main efforts addressed in the work plan are workgroup oversight, Water-CAT maintenance and improvement, and inter-agency coordination on relevant topics.

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 is 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 2021 lays out the Action Items and Coordination Initiatives for the coming year to help achieve the Council mission.

Action Items

Short-term Action Items

Action Item S - 1: Reconvene Continuous Monitoring Workgroup

A. Timeframe

- Immediate, short-term (Jan. or Feb. 2021) – Tasks 1-3
- Timeline TBD – Tasks 4-5

B. Outcome(s)

- Establish a group of people (inside and outside Council members/alternates) that regularly meets in order to ensure lessons learned about continuous monitoring are shared widely with all who might benefit.
- Reach consensus regarding assignment of data quality and appropriate uses of continuous monitoring data based on QA/QC activities performed, data adjustments performed, and reliability of methods to accurately measure environmental parameters.
- Improve understanding of continuous monitoring practices.

C. Tasks

- TASK 1: Ask Council members/alternates who has interest in workgroup participation (invitation open, as well, to those not currently involved with the Council). Establish workgroup leader (SWFWMD volunteered a person for this).
- TASK 2: Schedule workgroup meeting.
- TASK 3: First workgroup meeting: open discussion (review of outcomes from prior workgroup meetings, QA/QC, data visualization, equipment, others), define goals of group, determine next steps and reasonable timelines.
- TASK 4: Schedule routine meetings. Prepare meeting summaries.
- TASK 5: Document workgroup consensus/findings. Discuss with WIN developers to ensure compatibility with WIN continuous monitoring protocols. Make final document web-accessible (TBD) for viewing by others.

Ongoing Action Items

Action Item O - 1: Provide Oversight and Guidance to Council Workgroups

A. Timeframe

Ongoing

B. Outcome(s)

- Workgroups – 1) Water Catalog Workgroup, 2) Continuous Monitoring Workgroup – are achieving goals 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: Council Members/ Representatives from members' agencies provide updates of changes to their monitoring network to Water-CAT contractors.

TASK 3: Establish a long-term Water-CAT maintenance plan for when contract period ends.

Coordination Initiatives

Coordination Initiative 1: Climate Change and Water Quality

A. Timeframe

Likely begin spring/summer 2021

B. Outcome(s)

- Identification of web-accessible information on climate data sources (observed and projected) and statistical approaches for analyzing potential climate effects on water quality.
- Improved capability in finding and understanding climate trend data

C. Tasks

- TASK 1: Survey Council members about data collection and planning efforts within their agencies related to potential impacts of climate change on water quality, as well as their agencies' sources for climate change information. Identify other potential information sources for climate change (e.g., federal sources, other states, research entities).
- TASK 2: Compile survey results. Prepare a summary/catalog of climate change effect evaluation efforts for the Council. Publish summary on the web (location TBD).
- TASK 3: Determine next steps, if needed.

Coordination Initiative 2: HABs – Who's Involved, How to Learn More

A. Timeframe

Spring/summer 2021

B. Outcome(s)

- Web-accessible information describing HAB response, monitoring, and coordination activities by member agencies and identifying sources of HAB information.

C. Tasks

- TASK 1: Coordinate with DEP, FWC and DOH to gather information and survey Council members about HAB efforts and information sources within their agencies.
- TASK 2: Compile collected information.
- TASK 3: Provide this information to Council members, and to DEP's Office of Environmental Accountability and Transparency.
- TASK 4: Determine the need to distribute or post more widely.

Summary

This work plan for 2021 outlines the proposed efforts of the Florida Water Resources Monitoring Council. The immediate/short-term work in the 2021 plan: reconvene a workgroup for coordinating best practices on continuous monitoring data. The work of the Water Council in 2021 includes two ongoing efforts: 1) to provide guidance and oversight to workgroups, and 2) to improve and maintain the Water-CAT (through the

Catalog Workgroup). Additionally, the Council plans to focus on two coordination initiatives, climate data and HABs, for 2021.

For more information and to stay up to date with the Water Council, visit the website:

<https://floridadep.gov/dear/watershed-monitoring-section/content/fwrmc>