

Florida Water Resources Monitoring Council

Work Plan – 2020

February 2020

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 webinar trainings 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 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 2020 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 (and local government monitoring programs where possible) are delivered to the Water-CAT

C. Tasks

TASK 1: Coordinate with District and local government 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 (pending chair) and 2) Water Catalog 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: 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' agencies 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.

Training Initiatives

Training Initiative T - 1: Water Information Systems by KISTERS (WISKI) data system and portal for storing and maintaining continuous monitoring data

A. Timeframe

Spring 2020; SWFWMD to take the lead

B. Outcome(s)

- Improved understanding of WISKI data system

C. Tasks

- TASK 1: Establish contact person(s) to lead the training
- TASK 2: Schedule the training and send invitations to the webinar
- TASK 3: Deliver and document (record) the training and make it web-accessible for viewing by others

Training Initiative T - 2: QA/QC of Continuous Monitoring Data – new methods/tools

A. Timeframe

Likely summer 2020; SJRWMD to lead

B. Outcome(s)

- Web-accessible webinar on continuous monitoring data
- Improved practices in use and analysis of continuous monitoring data

C. Tasks

TASK 1: Establish contact person(s) to lead the training

TASK 2: Schedule the training and send invitations to the webinar

TASK 3: Deliver and document (record) the training and make it web-accessible for viewing by others

Training Initiative T - 3: Project Monitoring – how to do it; lessons learned

A. Timeframe

Fall 2020; SJRWD to lead

B. Outcome(s)

- Reusable, web-accessible webinar on methods of measurement for project evaluation
- Improved practices in evaluating project impact

C. Tasks

TASK 1: Establish contact person(s) to lead the training

TASK 2: Schedule the training and send invitations to the webinar

TASK 3: Deliver and document (record) the training and make it web-accessible for viewing by others

Training Initiative T - 4: Environmental Permitting Summer School – FWRMC outreach

A. Timeframe

July 21-24, 2020 (Marco Island, FL); chair consultant to lead and/or WIN personnel and/or USF Water-CAT contractor personnel

B. Outcome(s)

- More consultants and agencies become familiar with WIN and/or Water-CAT and the overall goals of the FWRMC to improve agency coordination/efficiency
- Alternative outcome: this might not be the right venue or travel may not be authorized

C. Tasks

TASK 1: Evaluate suitability of conference for WIN or Water-CAT presentations - <http://floridaenr.com/who-should-attend/>

Task 2: Coordinate with appropriate conference session leads

TASK 3: Determine who will present and develop content

TASK 4: Register and coordinate on content and agenda

TASK 5: Travel and present at the conference

Summary

This work plan for 2020 outlines the proposed efforts of the Florida Water Resources Monitoring Council. The work of the Water Council in 2020 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 development and implementation of four training focus areas is planned for 2020. This includes training in: 1) WISKI data system, 2) QA/QC of Continuous Monitoring, 3) Project Monitoring, and 4) FWRMC outreach at Environmental Permitting Summer School.