STORET/WQX Conference Call – August 18, 2010, 12:00-1:00 PM Eastern Time

Introduction (Kristen Gunthardt)
- **The minutes from all previous conference calls are available over the web: http://www.epa.gov/storet/confcalls.html**
- **The next scheduled call will be September 2010. The exact date will be emailed via the list server when the call gets closer.**
- **Please email storet@epa.gov and let EPA know you have attended the call so that meeting rosters may be kept.**
- **If you have a special topic you'd like to lead for an upcoming call, please email Gunthardt.Kristen@epamail.epa.gov**
- **EPA would like to hear comments you have on the quality of these conference calls. Please send them to storet@epa.gov**
- **Please subscribe to the STORET automated listserver for announcements regarding conference calls: http://www.epa.gov/storet/listserv.html**

State Systems for Handling Biological and Habitat Data – Kristen Gunthardt
- **Old STORET - Population Census could go in.**
- **WQX Schema version 2 allowed input of Biological Data.**
- **States have asked the best way to model data. What are different people doing to manage Bio and Habitat data? How do you model it in a way that will be compatible with WQX in the future?**
  - o **EDAS is widely used to handle Biological and Habitat data.**
  - o **Kathy from TX – SWQMIS (Surface Water Quality Monitoring Information System) is being used to hold routine water chemistry field measurements and some biological data, only those values for our parameter or STORET codes. Will improve to handle blob files.**
  - o **Jim Hudson from WI – Macroinvertebrate data is being handled in homegrown system. Starting to get Algae data, but have a lot of habitat data but not integrated with the rest of the data, yet. Getting close to starting to report.**
  - o **Joe Gross from ND – use modified version of EDAS for habitat benthics and fish.**
  - o **Deb Soule from NH – Use EDAS, but want to move to internal database so it will be housed with chemical and physical data. Will keep EDAS to do metrics.**
  - o **Molly Pulket from PA DEP – have their own internal database that interfaces with GIS and stored in a backend database, but can download to Access where they do the metrics and related work.**
  - o **Melissa Miracle – use KY version of EDAS but want to use ALAWATER from AL or INSPIRE from MS to customize.**
  - o **Mike Whitman from WV DEP – have own database loosely based on EDAS structure. Modifying to help with WQX feed. Handles water chemistry, biology, habitat, calculating metrics, and specimen cataloging for loans.**
- **Follow-up question sounds like variety of folks customizing database. Would another call or forum to talk about overarching concepts and ways and things to consider with a part of the puzzle being submitting data to EPA be helpful? Yes from a couple of respondents (Melissa from KY and Kathy from TX).**

Organization Types in STORET – Kristen Gunthardt

- We have been talking about starting to support better ways of finding info from query application for STORET Data Warehouse.
- Regional staff counterparts thought that it would be great to be able to search by organization type. There is currently a long list of Organizations sorted by Organization ID. Difficult to find Organizations. This is part of a larger discussion for later discussion.
- Is this something that people are comfortable with and do organizations agree with categories? For instance Government-Federal, Government-State, Tribal Category, Academic Organization, etc. Posted list of Organizations on ftp site a list of different Organizations to determine whether you are comfortable with categorizations. Will follow-up on list serve. This is a draft report. Original Organizations have been preserved. Looking for feedback.
- From Regional or Management point of view when I get queries, they want to know whether they are states, volunteer, university, etc. Also can query only state data. Filters data that you don't want.
- For now this would be just an administrative assignment. May try to incorporate into application later on.
- Jimmy Bisese (RTI) asked if there is a reason not to do this as a metadata search rather than fitting everyone into one or the other category? Kevin said ORG_Type assignment is a 1 to many and facilitates a national query to isolate different kind of data. Some ORGs do not separate data out data. Some are Beach Program and Ambient data under same organization ID. Not restricted to one assignment. Assignment will be at program level as well. It will be a 1 to Many assignment.
- Kathy from TX – please include ftp link and file name that will be posted to site. ftp://ftp.epa.gov/storet/wqx/ Draft_report_organization_type_assignment.pdf

New Monitoring Location Types in WQX – Kristen Gunthardt
- Few recent request for additions to WQX Monitoring Location Types list (ex. River/Stream) to indicate type of waterbody visited during sampling. Would like to get feedback.
- Is the addition of Ocean-Coastal type something that we should do? We have Ocean and Estuary, but not Ocean-Coastal to indicate more of a coastal site. We have not worked out details of what that means, probably not open water but the coast itself.
- Craig from Lummi Tribe said okay idea. We sample in Strait of Georgia. We use Estuary, but would like more options.
- Jimmy Bisese asked why not just say "Coastal"? Answer is that the Types are based on a combination of the old STORET Primary and Secondary Types.
- Kathy from TX – Would you assume that all stations from National Coastal Condition Assessment to be Coastal? There is no available feedback yet, but are checking with National Coastal Assessment group doing this current sampling.
- Jim Hudson from WI asked if there are Great Lake Coastal Type for consistency?
- Kevin Christian commented in most cases data owner knows the station type assignment and anyone else can't tell which one they chose. Filster mostly used by data owners and only optionally by users.
- Also for Nutrient sampling studies involving adding known amount of nutrients to water from the tank. Solute Enrichment Tank operations, Monitoring Location Type of "Tank" or "Container" be useful? This would differentiate between the sample in the waterbody and a sample from the tank.

- **Jimmy Bisese commented that the word Tank has different meanings to different people.**
- **Kathy from TX suggested going back to Nutrient Enrichment people to discuss and answer later.**
- **These questions will be put out on list serve. Please provide feedback.**

STORET Warehouse Change Log – Kristen Gunthardt
- **Talked about need for something on website to alert people to items that need to be worked on. This would be a log that people could be aware that EPA is tracking and working on things that are reported.**
- **url of log is in link in June minutes and also link in STORET Warehouse Download Page.**
- **You may get the change log from http://www.epa.gov/STORET/dw_home.html then selecting the link in the Features box, or by going directly to the url of change log, which is http://www.epa.gov/STORET/Warehouse_change_log.html**
- **Pushed latest version of change log on website before this call.**
- **Had users getting multiple projects coming out of warehouse queries for results. Getting duplicates when other organization had same Project ID. This has been resolved. We have closed this issue on change log and date fixed.**
- **Late May/Early June – Station IDs getting truncated down to 15 characters. Fixed and closed.**
- **People were getting extra blank column in text file that they download.**

Q and A
Q: **Kathy from TX – Looking at Change log. Last change date is today. Is this for the log or warehouse?**
A: **Kristen answered this is the change log change date. Warehouse Refresh indicated on the dw_home page.**

Participants on call (based on who emailed storet@epa.gov)

Susan Moore	CH2M Hill
Jon Becker	EPA R4
Matt Gubitosa	EPA R10
Bill Kramer	EPA HQ
Eric Wilson	Gulf Coast STORET, LLC
Deb Soule	New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services
Joe Gross	North Dakota Department of Health
John Brumley	Kentucky Department of Environmental Protection
Lisa Hicks	Kentucky Department of Environmental Protection
Melissa Miracle	Kentucky Department of Environmental Protection
Lara Panayotoff	Kentucky Department of Environmental Protection
Molly Pulket	Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
Richard Frazier	Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe
Debbie McCubbin	Robinson Rancheria
Jimmy Bisese	RTI International
Paul Andrews	RTI International
Elizabeth A. Florom	S.C. department of Health and Environmental Control

Michael Whitman   West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection
Jim Hudson   Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources