

STORET/WQX Conference Call – May 26, 2011, 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 June 2011. 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>

Call for Papers: The National Water Quality Monitoring Council's 8th National Monitoring Conference – Kristen Gunthardt

- Announcement of National Water Quality Monitoring Council (NWQMC) 8th National Monitoring Conference will be April 30 – May 4, 2012 in Portland, Oregon.
- The url is included in the meeting announcement for this meeting, but is <http://acwi.gov/monitoring/conference/2012/index.html>
- There is a call for abstracts, which are due by September 23, 2011.
- There are usually themes such as evaluating and managing water protection and restoration activities. There is a heavy volunteer component to these conferences. The 2012 conference is being held in conjunction with the Annual River Rally, which is a citizen-based volunteer watershed group conference.
- There is a theme for managing and sharing water quality monitoring data.
- Would like to emphasize national data sharing, including state, tribal and regional.

WQX and STORET Warehouse Status and Updates – Kristen Gunthardt

- The ETL (refresh process) completed successfully this week.
- Kevin had communicated by list-serve message that the ETL refresh process running was in conflict with some WQX submissions. Any new WQX submissions go on hold during the ETL refresh process. This occurs at about 8pm eastern on Wednesday. We are trying to avoid submissions throughout that day. We have had additional issues with folks submitting data to the WQX data flow and running into a pending status. We are looking into this and setting priorities to adjust back-end processes that balance which submission to parse through.
- Kevin Christian noted that we have the STORET warehouse change log, which is tracking all issues as a consolidated STORET investment. If you reference the change log from the STORET warehouse, you will be able to reference all issues that are being tracked, including STORET warehouse, ETL, services, WQX, etc. We may not rename the link or the file. There was a recent list serve message detailing this.
- Kristen Gunthardt indicated that we have some additional fixes in the next few weeks, we will close out a variety of the change log issues.

Q and A

- Q:** Paul Koska EPA Region 6 – Any WQX Web Training this year?
- A:** Kristen Gunthardt responded: None are scheduled in the regional offices. We had a webinar in March for tribal, but are trying to get a webinar scheduled for others.
- Q:** Tracie from Seldovia Village Tribe – We keep getting a pending message for Test. Is this only for Test or will this go through for production?
- A:** Kristen Gunthardt said this has been occurring for users using Nodes and Node Clients in production. We are encouraging users to use the Test environment lightly for small submissions to validate that you can get a file through. If you are running into issues in test environment, please follow up with us. Kevin Christian also noted that the validation of submissions through the test environment is mainly for new users to ensure that you are generating the schema in its proper form and making sure that your file is compliant, and works. From then on, you should be submitting to production. Only node and node client users can submit to test. This is because they are using their own scripting to generate xml files.
- Q:** Bob Simpson from EPA Region 2 – Is there a best practices document for guiding an ambient water quality monitoring initiative that is about to kick off, for entering data into STORET? This is for NEIC to do a comprehensive baseline monitoring along a stretch of river. Want to ensure that the data does not need much reformatting or translation and can go easily into STORET.
- A:** Kristen Gunthardt responded: Back in 2007, tribal 106 guidance included grant stipulations for data submission. There were some supplemental documents created by EPA HQ in conjunction with some EPA Regions, where things like setting up a monitoring strategy was discussed. There was some outline type info in this document. It is really for a tribal audience. Also try looking at the WQX Web template on the STORET Website. Kristen will send the url for this. Charles Kovatch will look to see if there is anything else.
- Q:** Lowell Carty in AZ – Is there any database development documentation that has been used to determine what type of system that they wanted to use for data management? He also wants to look at what all the needs are for AZ, so if there are similar types of documentation, he would also like to look at those.
- A:** Kristen Gunthardt said that at the National level, we have not put a consolidated document together. We would be happy to facilitate a question on the list serve about this.
- Q:** Karla Hyde from ME – We are struggling with the biomonitoring program. What is the status of getting the taxa list up to date?
- A:** Kristen Gunthardt answered that we are attempting to standardize this list with the Integrated Taxonomic Information System (ITIS) (itis.gov) and Catalogue of Life, which was largely stewarded by the Smithsonian Institution. Additional taxa names have to be verified against this system. ITIS is fairly limited in certain areas (diatoms, etc.). We have our taxon list and we really do try to stick to this rule that if it is not in ITIS, we don't accept it. Should try to roll up taxa names to the next higher level, for example Genus or Family. All names are identified with a rank number. We have also tried on the output of data to put a characteristic description column with a link so that they can go back to the ITIS link. We also have an unidentified species identifier to put in a draft name that you are making use of. This is concatenated on the data out side to the taxa name on output, but there is a risk of different users using different names. If you want to give us a list of additional taxa or characteristics that you want us to look at, we can do that. Kevin Christian noted that you can find the ITIS

url and Catalogue of Life on the Useful Links section of the STORET Website.

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

Jim Hudson	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Bill Kramer	US EPA
Karla Hyde	Maine Department of Environmental Protection
Jonathan Burian	EPA R5
Mike Butler	Kansas Department of Health and Environment
Kathy Knowles	Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control
Lowell Carty	Arizona Department of Environmental Quality
Bob Simpson	EPA R2
Grace Hanrahan	EPA R3
Tabbatha Revas	Cherokee Nation
Sue McCarthy	EPA R10
Bruce Tuttle	Idaho Department of Water Resources
Thomas Dallaire	Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
Molly Pulket	Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
Andrea Thomas	North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Paul Koska	EPA R6
Tina Rice	CH2M HILL/Critigen
Eric Wilson	Gulf Coast STORET, LLC
Mellony Hoskinson	RTI International
Jimmy Bisese	RTI International
Paul Andrews	RTI International