

STORET Conference Call – August 2, 2007, 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 2007. The exact date will be emailed via the listserver later this month.
- 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>

2007 STORET WQX Users Conference

- We are currently requesting papers and presenters for the Users Conference. For more information, please check the web site at <http://www.epa.gov/storet/2007conf.html>.
- The 2007 STORET/WQX Users Conference will be held in Austin, TX November 27-29, 2007. Please check the web site for conference logistics, draft agenda, etc. There is some travel funding however we are still discussing the method to receive travel assistance. States, regions and headquarters will have to work together with the STORET team to determine travel assistance.

Updates to the STORET Services

- We are currently working to develop 4 core web services:
 - Watershed summary service - uses 8 digit HUICS or a list of stations to return a summary of data available by implementing the other web services.
 - Projects catalog - uses latitude and longitude or organization ranges to return summary info by projects. The summary contains high level information including types of data, projects, and the period of record for each project.
 - Station service - uses latitude and longitude ranges to return a list of stations and basic information for mapping purposes.
 - Results service - returns monitoring results. A maximum of 100 activities is returned on the first page and allows you to request the remaining activities. This is the first web service we have developed to tackle and provide large data sets. We are working with this service to make data as accessible as possible.
- The watershed summary service is now available on the STORET web site.
- We are still testing the projects, stations and results services in our deployment system as well as developing the instructional documentation. We anticipate that these draft services will be available for public testing in a few weeks.
- We hope to consider the web services final in November. For more information, please check the web site in the coming weeks for instructions on how to gain access and utilize the web services.

WQX Biological Pilot

- We are currently investigating the potential data elements, schema and transfer mechanisms for biological and habitat data. We have a draft

schema which we are evaluating against biological and habitat data collection methods.

- We are anticipating the biological pilot to conclude in late September. Final comments will then be addressed. The schema will be finalized in late December. WQX 2.0 will be released May 2008.
- Draft materials for the biological pilot program (such as draft schema and meeting minutes) have been posted on the STORET web site at http://www.epa.gov/storet/wqx_bio_pilot.html. Please feel free to review the materials and provide feedback -- even if you are not participating in the bi-monthly calls.

WQX XML Generation tool

- The XML Generation tool is similar to SIM but has additional features. The tool will work to interpret a flat file such as an Excel spreadsheet, check the file for errors and then create an XML file for WQX transfer.
- The XML tool is currently in development and will be very important for small data loaders and volunteer networks.

WQX Outreach

- Our next scheduled outreach event with states and WQX users is the STORET/WQX conference. If anyone is having difficulties or requires additional support however, please let us know.
- Next year, we will plan to hold additional meetings and trainings.

STORET Webcast

- We conducted a webcast in June to reach a larger audience. The web cast is available online at the EPA Watershed Academy web site. We will send the link the listserv.
- Next month, we would like to conduct a webcast geared toward STORET and WQX users demonstrating WQX and the web services. If you have any additional ideas, please email the STORET team. The next user community call may be web cast so that users can view the demonstrations on their computers.

National Monitoring Conference

- The 6th National Monitoring Conference, Key to Understanding our Waters, has been scheduled for Atlantic City in 2008. The deadline for abstracts is Sept 10.
- The STORET team is considering conducting a WQX training and workshop at the conference.

Exchange Network Grant Solicitation

- If you would like to submit a solicitation for an exchange network grant, please see the listserv for more information. We encourage folks to look at the draft grant notice and submit questions for comment now as once the draft solicitation period ends, EPA is unable to provide comment.

Q and A

Q: Do you have services which allow users to submit data to EPA? Is the data production quality? (MD)

A: Yes. Please check the web site for background information on the Water Quality Exchange network and the WQX system.

Q: BEACHES has modified the XML development tool to transfer BEACHES XML files and have created tutorial videos to teach individuals to use a node client. Please let the STORET team know if you are interested in learning more about this work. Additionally, New York has had a difficult

- time setting up a node client - has anyone else had difficulty with this step (EPA)?
- A:** We should stress that the BEACHES tool is designed to capture the core beach parameters and is not meant for WQX users anyone to create an XML file. In response to the difficulties setting up a node client, there are a few individuals that have been generating XML files and using the node client to submit data that they have created with which we could connect New York.
- Q:** BASINS can provide an application that uses the STORET data (OW BASINS) for comparison.
- A:** Please let us know if you have any suggestions as to how the interchange can be more seamless.
- Q:** Idaho is trying to build a node, but the Windsor node keeps looking for an older version. Is there another version that works with more current software (ID)?
- A:** Bill Kramer has worked with some draft information and nodes. We can put you in touch with him.
- Q:** According to your website, we should contact our regional coordinator for funding for the user conference, however we currently do not have one. Any suggestions (AL)?
- A:** Please send the STORET team an email.

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

Bill Kramer	EPA HQ BEACHES Program
Arne Sjodin	Colorado Dept. of Public Health & Environment
Jennifer Schimek	RTI International
Deb Soule	NH Department of Environmental Services, Wtshd Mgt Bureau
Roger Stewart	Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Jim Porter	Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
Linda Cartwright	TDEC Division of Water Pollution Control
Paul Mooney	Acclaim Systems, Inc.
Jeffrey White	TetraTech
Thomas R. Dallaire	MassDEP, DWM
Larry Merrill	EPA R3
Dean Tucker	National Park Service Water Resources Division
David Ihrie	Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality
Jolene McQuillan	Montana Department of Environmental Quality
James F. Hudson	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Paul Koska	EPA R6
Ron Travis	Alabama Department of Environmental Management
Jane Rodgers	Alabama Department of Environmental Management
Kayren Pittman	Alabama Department of Environmental Management
James French	Alabama Department of Environmental Management
MaryAnn Silagy	OH EPA
Elinor Zetina	MD Dept of the Environment
Fred Schenerman	MD Dept of the Environment
Ming Jiang	MD Dept of the Environment
John Hill	MD Dept of the Environment
Nan Lyon	MD Dept of the Environment
Dwane Young	EPA HQ
Kevin Christian	EPA HQ
Randy Hill	EPA HQ