R9 Future of STORET/WQX Meeting

Meeting Background:

A WQX regional outreach meeting was held at the EPA R9 offices in San Francisco, CA on June 20-21, 2006. The purpose of the meeting was for EPA HQ and EPA R9 to meet with WQX stakeholders within R9 (see attendees list) for the purpose of discussing the new WQX system. Three main topics were covered:

- an overview of what the production WQX system is, and how it will function, including an overview of the WQX schema
- feedback on the data elements within the schema for purposes of sharing water quality monitoring data
- discussion of the transition to WQX for users (either from the current STORET system, or other)

The following minutes capture the issues and action items brought up during the meeting.

Day 1 – June 20,2006

Dwane Young (EPA HQ) and Eric Wilson (EPA R9) welcomed participants to the meeting and made introductions.

The WQX system overview was given as well as a look at the data elements within the WQX schema.

Action Items – Day 1

1. Make sure Tribal code domain value list captures all relevant tribal organizations
2. Make sure storm water is reportable in the schema – the ActivityMediaSubDivisionName element captures storm water as an option
3. Research how ESAR handles well data
4. Add time zone to the schema wherever time is reported
5. Research adding an optional relative depth data element
6. Research adding a result level ID for error reporting and data synchronization
7. Provide a crosswalk/alias table for the characteristic names once SRS is set within WQX – this will help with transition

Day 2 – June 21, 2006

The issue of data submission detail was discussed – should users have to submit all associated projects, stations and activities data for every result that they want to change or add?

Most folks said this should be optional – the system should allow all of these data elements to be a part of an XML submission as well as allow for results data to be

submitted without all associated data elements for projects, stations, and activities.

Transition to WQX was also discussed, and issues were identified by meeting participants – both about what WQX will mean to them as well as how well it can accommodate varying business needs:

- How can WQX accommodate ground water? (R10 Superfund)
- Some states will need a new database to go with now that STORET is going away. The WQX model is one option (Alaska)
- The state of HI is using STORET for data loading, but then using the DEM Batch utility for portable data logger and fish tissue data (HI)
- An incentive for being a part of the Exchange Network is data sharing. A system leveraging the exchange network like WQX will only be useful if everyone is using it. (Yurok Tribe)
- The database (WQX) needs to accommodate multiple data partners, e.g. those with continuous monitoring data (OR watershed group).
- Will there be an opportunity to test submissions prior to production?
- One concern is duplicate data – when users are submitting data to multiple places, the possibility of duplicate data becomes a concern.
- State node development to interact with CDX will be a challenge
- There is no place in STORET for Water Quality Standards
- Is there a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) or equivalent for how WQX will interact with nodes on the Exchange Network?
- How about other EPA data linkages?
- Are there any outreach efforts taking place with the country of Mexico? (AZ)
- WQX presents users with the burden of tracking changes within a local database in order for data synchronization to occur at the national level.
- Is the STORET sunset date too soon?
- What about STORET data that is already loaded? What happens once WQX is running?
- Communication within a state between IT, program and data folks is a challenge
- What types of training will EPA provide?

Action Items – Day 2:

1. Research adding tribal code at the monitoring location level. This would address the incorrect assumption that all tribal monitoring occurs on tribal land.
2. Research how we should/if we should capture flow data.
3. Research capturing perennial or ephemeral stream types at the monitoring location type level.
4. Add the following domain values:
    a. Monitoring Location Type add “seep”
    b. Sample Collection Equipment add “USGS DH-4” *** Need to follow up with requestor
5. Convert WQX ODS to Access format for users to have
6. Research how we can capture continuous/voluminous data logger data in WQX

Attendees:

Alex Cabillo	Hualapai Tribe
Marshall Cheung	29 Palms Tribal EPA
Francisco Chiang	California State Water Resources Control Board
Larry Cooper	Southern California Coastal Water Research Project
Sheila Corey	Alaska DEC
Anne Dailey	EPA Region 10
Dianne Denson	Alaska DEC
Dave Guiliano	EPA Region 9
Matt Gubitosa	EPA Region 10
Kristin Gullatt	EPA Region 9
Camille Heaton	RTI
Jim Hileman	EPA Region 10
Wayne Hood	Arizona Department Environmental Quality
Karl Jacobs	CA Department Water Resources
Ferd Jaramilla	City & County Honolulu
Lesley Jones	Upper Deschutes Watershed Council
Sarah Lowe	San Francisco Estuary Institute
Jim Martin	Weiss Associates
Laura Mayo	Yurok Tribe
Dale Mikami	Hawaii DOH
Shelly Moore	Southern California Coastal Water Research Project
Dan Mosley	Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe Nevada
Scott Murakawa	Hawaii DOH
Crhis Olson	CA Department Water Resources
John Parada	La Posta Band Tribal EPA
Joy Peterson	Washoe Tribe
Mark Pranger	Moss Landing Marine Lab
Dushane Quasula	Hualapai Tribe
Allen Reed	Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma
Lyle Shizumura	City & County Honolulu
Chris Simon	Middletown Rancheria
Ray Simon	Middletown Rancheria
Jared Volmer	EPA Region 9
John Warpaha	Washoe Tribe
Cody Watt	Yuork Tribe
Dave Wilcox	Gold Systems
Pam Williard	Nevada Division Environmental Protection
Eric Wilson	EPA Region 9