<div align="center">

**WQX/STORET User Call**
**Meeting Minutes**
**March 22, 2018**
**12:00 – 1:00 PM EST**

</div>

http://epawebconferencing.acms.com/wqxqa/

Next WQX/STORET Workgroup Meeting – April 19, 2018 at 12 p.m. EST
There were approximately 39 participants

Agenda
1) Water Quality Portal Downloads – Data Types, Metadata Profiles, and improvements on user comprehension/ease of use
2) Characteristic Groups Planning & Review. Review the Definitions tab on this spreadsheet & comment: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1nS2HsAy1s1-0zJFx213pvKgQO_wF0YfYiEPFq6q6IXM/edit#gid=701531205

1) **Water Quality Portal Downloads – Data Types, Metadata Profiles, and improvements on user comprehension/ease of use**
Britt Dean reviewed the improvements planned for the WQP. All data types and metadata profiles are being evaluated. She asked members for input. A data review spreadsheet will be posted to Google Docs and the STORET FTP site. Users were asked to edit the spreadsheet. Users not using Google Docs should send comments to storet@epa.gov.

Suggestions
- Have an option that will dump all WQX fields.
- Add Link to an explanation of how data is published the portal through WQX.
- Add a question mark link for the "sort data" option. The default is to not return data sorted because it's faster.

**Option for a Results only file**
The WQX Team is discussion a data download that will provide you with results only. This is ideal for advanced users. I will allow results only data to be joined with other datasets. Users would be able to join the results data with metadata such as 'Site Data Only with no resulting overlap or duplicates in metadata elements.

Britt noted that if this is offered, we don't want non-advanced users to misuse this option.

She asked the user group if this was a viable option for users.

Kevin noted that from the portal and warehouse point of view. Most of the metadata requires joining before it's returned. There would be no overlapping between the activity metadata and station metadata reports.

No one provided any input on this use case. Britt asked users to contact the WQX Team if they had questions or input for this use case.

2) **Characteristic Groups Planning & Review. Review the Definitions tab on this spreadsheet & comment:** https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1nS2HsAy1s1-0zJFx213pvKgQO_wF0YfYiEPFq6q6IXM/edit#gid=701531205

Kevin Christian reviewed the spreadsheet with characteristic groups. The groupings will allow users to query reference the groups in the portal.

Not all pesticides or group names have been assigned. If a user wants to assign a group to a characteristic, contact Kevin Christian. The list is dynamically refreshed with the weekly refresh.

Users were asked to look at the 'Not Assigned' characteristics provide feedback and review the assigned characteristics for accuracy.

Eventually a steering committee will be created with WQX and ATTAIN members to govern the characteristics list.

Suggestions:
- Add the description for macroinvertebrates. *These are not registered as characteristics, they are registered as taxon domain or species domain.*

The WQX Team has discussed how to better align the terms across ATTAINS and WQX. The benefit is to look at one group to look at the monitoring data and the assessment parameters. Dwane Young is planning to meet with state and regional participants in Shepherdstown, WV, to discuss this in May.

3) **Other items**
USGS held a meeting with states to have a follow-up discussion on the nutrients best practices guide. The meeting focused on how to take the WQP to the next level. They developed a white paper with three recommendations/goals that are relevant to the WQX community.

   a) Consistency with data discoverability
      - Identify steps to incorporate more data into the WQP.
      - Identify ways for states/partners to make use of the water quality services in the WQP and represent data on their websites. Partner with states by providing funding through the Exchange Network Grant or USGS funding to help scope out pilots to incorporate WQP data.
   b) Identify a better quantification of data quality. Review the metadata elements, completeness and identify a tiered approach.

c) Consistent monitoring network. Work together to identify a universe of centennial locations/stations where consistent methods to collect and analyze monitoring data are in use.  This will allow a cross analysis of those sites and identify a consistent approach as to what is happening at these locations.

Three workgroups will be created to pursue the three goals.  Dwane is leading the first workgroup.  Brian Powerman, USGS, will lead the second group.  Lorie Spragg, USGS, will lead the third group.  More information will come out through the National Monitoring Water Quality Council and AQWA.

Participation is open to all members.  If interested in participating, contact Dwane Young.

➢ Action:  Follow-up with Paul Morton on status of attachments via WQP.