**Water Information and Data Subcommittee**

**Data Exchange Template Workgroup (Workgroup #3)**

Minutes – December 14, 2011

**Attendees**: Steve Tessler (USGS), Laura Paeglis (NE), Jeff Hogan (NE), Paul Houser (Reclamation), Becky Fulkerson (Reclamation)

**Next Call:** Week of January 23rd or January 30th look for a doodle poll

Following brief introductions from all of the workgroup members, we proceeded to follow the agenda:

**Review Project Purpose:** Since all of the attendees had participated in other workgroup kick-off calls, it was decided that this discussion was not necessary.

**Review Workgroup Purpose:** Dwane reviewed the purpose of this workgroup. He explained that this workgroup will focus on defining the data elements for exchanging water allocation, planning, and use data. The workgroup will also define the schema (XML schema) that would be used for exchanging these data. He went on to distinguish between the two types of data that this project will focus on. The first type of data is continuous monitoring data (or sensor data). Examples of this type of data include streamgaging sensors, snow depth sensors, reservoir height sensors, precipitation data, etc. The other type of data contains the more derived or administrative type data. Examples of this type of data include water allocation data, consumptive use estimates, and planning data. It was Dwane’s opinion that these two types of data will require different schemas. He recommended that for the sensor-type data that a schema already exists that we could use. The Water Markup Language (WaterML) which was developed by the Consortium of Universities for the Advancement of Hydrologic Sciences (CUAHSI) would be a good schema for this type of data. For the other type of data, he felt that we’d need to develop our own schema.

Dwane also described that as part of this process, he would be taking the data elements, and schema that are developed and doing outreach with the western states. Through this process, we would vet the schema with the various stakeholder groups.

**Data Exchange Template Discussion:** In order to get this process moving, Dwane recommended that we share with one another the existing models that we have. Dwane has developed a mock-up schema (modeled after USGS’s AWUDS database) for this data exchange and will share it with the group. Steve Tessler (USGS) has worked on projects developing a ‘conveyance’ model that he can share. Laura Paeglis (NE) will share their database design that they use for tracking their water planning, allocation, and use data. We will use these three models to begin evaluating what data elements we should include in the schema. There was some discussion on whether or not WaterML would work for sharing both types of data. Steve wondered whether it might work similar to the conveyance model. Paul Houser (Reclamation) didn’t think that it was designed in such a way to support that type of model. Dwane recommended that it be something that we look at, but he didn’t think that it supported the types of metadata to effectively describe the water allocation, planning, and use data. Dwane asked Steve on how best to coordinate with the Water Census. Steve said that from a timing perspective, the Water Census was just getting started, and that he felt that there would be a great deal of opportunity for us to learn from one another. Laura asked if someone could send the WaterML schema around as well. Dwane said that it would probably be better to look at the WaterML 2 schema since it was the version that was being proposed to the Open Geospatial Consortium as a standard.

The group also decided to use Google as a collaboration method for this workgroup. Dwane will set-up a Google group for this workgroup where we can share documents and other information. The group also felt that there needed to be more state participation in this workgroup. Dwane said that he has reached out to some of the states, but has not yet heard back. He will continue to try to get more participation. There were several action items from this section of the meeting:

**Action Item: Dwane set-up a Google Group for sharing documents**

**Action Item: Dwane post his draft schema and data elements in Google Docs**

**Action Item: Dwane post WaterML 2 schema in Google Docs**

**Action Item: Laura post Nebraska database structure in Google Docs**

**Action Item: Steve post Conveyance model in Google Docs**

**Action Item: Group will review these documents and be prepared to discuss further at the next call**

**Action Item: Get more state participation in this workgroup**

**Workgroup Leadership:** Dwane expressed the need for a workgroup leader. His preference is that the workgroup leader be a state representative. Since there is currently only one state rep on this workgroup, and that rep is already participating in all of the other workgroups, Dwane agreed to continue acting as the de-facto workgroup lead until we can get more state participation.

**Call Schedules:** The group determined that the doodle poll approach to scheduling the call worked fairly well, and that we should follow that approach to schedule the next call. Dwane proposed the week of January 23rd or January 30th. Dwane will send out a Doodle poll for times during that week.

**Other Items:**  None