

Water Information and Data Subcommittee
Workgroup 1 – Conference Call
Minutes – Sept. 30, 2013

Attendees: Sara Larsen (WSWC), Dwane Young (EPA), Laura Paeglis (NE), Jodee Pring (WY), Molly Maupin (USGS), Bret Bruce (USGS), Lindy Clay (OWRB)

Administrative: Sara welcomed the group back from a long break and took attendance. She gave a review of the timeline of WaDE work that had gone on since the last workgroup meeting, noting that the work of putting together the report was a ‘backburner’ task that had proceeded slowly over the past year and a half.

Workgroup Discussion: The first item on the agenda was to review the survey sent out last year to the states. Sara showed the original survey and then talked about who had responded and who hadn’t. She also went over some of the caveats to the report. Some states had filled out the survey with great detail, while others hadn’t. States that were lacking in detail required additional research to try and fill in the gaps. The report represented Sara’s interpretation of the survey’s answers, which weren’t always clearly explained. Also, it was written in increments over time. The group looked over the different segments of the report. The highlights were reviewed in the executive summary, as well as some background information on the project. Sara talked about the ‘Data Similarities’ sections, highlighting what types of data were most common among state water planning programs. The ‘Data Challenges and Potential Solutions’ sections also provided a synopsis of what poses a challenge to regional data sharing as well as some potential solutions. These were followed by a summary of the programs from each state that had responded. Lastly an appendix that summarized the data from each state in a tabular format was provided. Sara asked the group what the next steps should be. Bret and Molly related instances where they had worked on similar compilation efforts, but been ‘bitten’ later when the states saw their agency interpretations without review. They suggested that the draft be submitted back to the original respondents with full transparency so that they could decide whether their survey responses had been interpreted correctly. Sara asked if anyone would be willing to look at the draft before sending it out to the respondents. Dwane, Molly and Bret volunteered to comment on the draft document in the short-term, but also noted that they were facing a government shutdown and furlough the next day. Sara agreed to send the draft to them the following day before the shutdown deadline and then get back to the group in about a month to incorporate comments and also regroup if the shutdown proceeded. She would send out information for another call in a month or so.

Action Items: Review the draft document and give comments back to Sara. Sara will make those changes and then assemble a call before the draft goes back to the state respondents.