

**STORET User Call
Meeting Minutes
November 30, 2017
12:00 Noon – 1:00 PM EST**

Call In Phone: 866 299 3188, Access code: 202 566 2514#

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

Next STORET Workgroup Meeting – January 25, 2018 at 12 p.m. EST

Note, the December 2017 meeting has been cancelled.

There were approximately 31 participants.

Agenda:

- 1) OECA data dashboard demo
- 2) Discuss STORET Warehouse decommissioning items and additions to the Water Quality Portal
- 3) Metals Method Question
- 4) Exchange Network Grant Solicitation

1) OECA Data Dashboard Demo

Dwayne Young demoed a new OECA tool. There seems to be a lot of potential. The tool pulls in data from Water Quality Portal (WQP) and may replace the dashboard for the STORET Warehouse. It currently has WQP data from 2009 to the end of September. It uses ClickSoftware. The graphics are dynamic and allows the user to drill down to the data. It does not have any reporting capability. There may be some capability that can be built in.

The application is slated for public access next week. Dwane will contact the user community when the application comes available.

Dwayne asked the workgroup for suggestions or thoughts.

Suggestions:

- Provide parameters in a cross tab format with the parameters in columns.
- Action Item: Rusty Waseem will look into exporting data and creating reports.

2) Discuss STORET Warehouse decommissioning items and additions to the Water Quality Portal

As continued discussion from the last user workgroup call, Dwane reviewed the items users would like to see upgraded in WQP before the STORET Warehouse is decommissioned. He asked users for additional suggestions. Dwane reviewed the items that have captured so far.

Below is a brief list of the items identified and their status:

- Minimum Detection Levels – The STORET Team knows this is an issue and is trying to make the change.
- Update Characteristic Groups – This is simple and will be done.
- Method Speciation and Characteristic Names – STORET Team is looking at both to make them more consistent.
- Include Lat/Long – This has been on the list for a long time. Looking into this and also adding the station name.
- Location Weights – These are stored the project level. If a user didn't provide a HUC, county or lat/long the portal is blind to that data, if this what the user enters to query the data. The solution is to automatically calculate those.
- LOB (Document Attachments) – This is on the list to add to the portal.
- More detailed organization information – The STORET Team is looking into this.
- HUC12 query capability – Working on this one and it will be done soon.
- Query by station or org id – This a challenge and the STORET Team is looking into this.
- Dashboard is used as a comparison tool – OECA's data dashboard may meet this need.
- Location information – Need clarification on this request.

Dwane opened the discussion to gather more user needs from the workgroup.

- Paul Morton asked if the portal could have best practices for nutrient data implemented, i.e., normalize the names and units for characteristic names. Dwane explained TetraTech made a change to the discovery data tool and this may be implemented in the portal.
- The STORET Team is trying to decide if AlternateMonitoringLocationIdentifier should be exposed in the portal.
- Dwane will research if elevation is included.

Next Steps:

The STORET Team will meet with USGS to prioritize the items. The primary focus is on items that will allow the STORET Warehouse to be retired. Dwane asked users to continue providing input on functionality that may be missing from the portal. Input can be sent to the STORET Help Desk at storet@epa.gov.

3) Metals Methods question

Dwane asked the user community if they could provide insight as to why some data owners are not using the nationally defined methods, but rather are using their own. He asked if the national method needed to be changed. No one provided any input to the discussion. If a user has any input to provide on this issue please contact [Dwane Young](#).

4) EN grant solicitation

Dwane reminded the user community that the Exchange Network FY18 Grant is due January 26, 2018.

It's a great opportunity to line up funding to submit your WQX data. He encouraged those interested in applying to talk with their Informational Technology program to coordinate priorities.

He reminded the community that EPA cannot help write the proposal and encouraged looking for states to partner. There is language in there for census data sharing and attains data as well.

<https://www.epa.gov/exchangenetwork/exchange-network-grant-program>