

California Water Quality Monitoring Collaboration Network

2012 Year End Report to the California Water Monitoring Council

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The Water Quality Monitoring Collaboration Network (WQMCN) is a voluntary monthly Webinar that allows members of the monitoring community to network and exchange information and ideas on topics of interest. The Network helps support a state framework to coordinate consistent and scientifically defensible methods and strategies for improving water quality monitoring, assessment, and reporting. During 2012 twelve webinars were presented. All of the webinars were recorded and made available on the Network's webpage, http://www.mywaterquality.ca.gov/monitoring_council/collaboration_network/.

Topics addressed during 2012 included quality assurance, water quality monitoring programs, monitoring projects, models, monitoring support tools, bioassessments along with reporting and data/information sharing. The Network collaborated with SWAMP, the Aquatic Bioassessment Laboratory at California State University Chico, the Southwest Association of Freshwater Invertebrate Taxonomists (SAFIT) and their partners to present taxonomy webinars with live video feed from the presenter's microscope. This unique training experience expands current taxonomy training opportunities. This has been well received due to the nature of participating in a training event without the need or costs for travel along with the benefit of being able to review the webinar recording. To our knowledge this collaborative effort is the first of its kind.

Through the State Water Board's Clean Water Team's YouTube channel, www.youtube.com/cleanwaterteamvideos, recordings of webinars featuring or supporting citizen monitoring were added. This allowed seven new videos to be added to the channel. This extra visibility and access to past webinars, furthered support for citizen monitoring and provided new value to the highlighted program's presentation.

In April, 2012, the National Water Quality Monitoring Council held its 8th National Monitoring Conference. The Network was invited to provide both a presentation and a poster, *Strengthening Regional Monitoring Programs through the Development of a Collaboration Network: The California Water Quality Monitoring Collaboration Network*, at this premier national forum. In addition, the Network was highlighted during a pre-conference workshop presented by the State Water Board's Clean Water Team, *Implementing Web-based Digital Technologies for Volunteer Monitoring, Watershed Stewardship Organizations and Agencies*. Water quality monitoring leaders from around the world were impressed with the Network's use of technology, the wide variety of topics addressed, and its ability to support collaborations and training efforts at a low cost. Many programs inquired about how they might replicate the Network and many more were interested in how they could benefit from our existing webinar series and webinar recording archive.

The Network has hosted 41 webinars since June, 2009. To learn about the webinar series usefulness and to solicit new webinar topics, a post webinar participant survey was launched during the first half of Fiscal Year 2012-2013. By using an online questionnaire, webinar participants were invited to take a survey for each webinar in which they participated. Through the survey it was learned that 88% found the quality of the information presented in the webinar to be of “high” or “very high quality” and 63% found the webinar they participated in to be “very useful “ to “extremely useful” in addressing their needs as related to the webinar topic. Participants also showed a high likelihood that they would recommend the webinar’s recording to their colleagues. Providing a glimpse of the value to collaborations and networking, nearly a fifth of the participants surveyed (19%) learned about a given webinar through a forwarded email announcement. In addition, fifteen webinar topics, such as delta modeling and natural source identification, were suggested for future webinars.

Efforts made in 2012 continued to provide support and networking opportunities for water quality monitoring programs in California while also expanding the Network’s value to a wider water quality monitoring audience. It is envisioned that the Network and its webinar series will remain an asset.

8th National Monitoring Conference “Water: One Resource-Shared Effort-Common Future” – Portland, CA

Strengthening Regional Monitoring Programs through the Development of a Collaboration Network: The California Water Quality Monitoring Collaboration Network

- Abstract: http://acwi.gov/monitoring/conference/2012/abstracts/abstracts_2012_session01.pdf
- Presentation: <http://acwi.gov/monitoring/conference/2012/O1/O1Burres1.pdf>
- Poster: http://www.mywaterquality.ca.gov/monitoring_council/collaboration_network/docs/2012n_wmcpster.pdf

Implementing Web-based Digital Technologies for Volunteer Monitoring and Watershed Stewardship Organizations and Agencies

- http://acwi.gov/monitoring/conference/2012/ESA9_Burres_TitleLink.pdf

2012 California Water Quality Monitoring Collaboration Network Webinars

- The Regional Monitoring Program: A Collaborative Effort Providing Water Quality Regulators in the San Francisco Bay Area with Information They Need
- Identification of Thresholds of Adverse Effect of Macroalgal Blooms on Benthic Habitat Quality of Estuarine Intertidal Flats
- The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board’s Safe to Swim Program
- Advances in the Application of the USGS SPARROW Model in California
- Guidelines for taxonomic determination of *Baetis adonis* and *Baetis tricaudatus* specimens in Southern California SWAMP bioassessment samples
- Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point Planning (HACCP) - Reducing the risk of spreading invasive species in natural resource activity pathways.

- Introducing the New My Water Quality Web Portal “Are Our Stream and River Ecosystems Healthy?”
- Water Quality Goals
- StreamStats: A streamflow web application
- Finding the Right Funders
- Ecological Condition Assessments of California’s Perennial Wadeable Streams: Highlights from the Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program’s Perennial Streams Assessment (PSA)
- An Introduction to the Concept of Reporting Limits