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New England Biological Assessment of Wetlands Workgroup (NEBAWWG)

Wednesday, May 5, 2021

1:00 – 3:00pm

Agenda

12:45 Connect early & allow time for extra assistance if needed

1:00pm Meeting Commences
[10 min] Housekeeping and Roll Call

1:10 NEIW PCC Updates
[5 min] *Richard Friesner, NEIW PCC*

1:15 Update on Enhancing Northeast Wetland Monitoring & Assessment with EcoRegional FQA Metrics
[10 min] *Don Faber-Langendoen, NatureServe*

1:25 Roundtable Program Updates
[35 min] *Everyone invited to provide an update (5 min for each state)*

1:55 **Break** [5 min]

2:00 NEBAWWG Goals
[20 min] *Beth Alafat, U.S. EPA*

2:20 Joint NEBAWWG–MAWWG meeting update and agenda discussion
[35 min] *Beth Alafat, U.S. EPA*
Richard Friesner, NEIW PCC

2:55 Closing Remarks & Adjourn



NEBAWWG Goals

- Purpose Statement
- Duration/Time – 5 or 10 years?
- NEBAWWG Scope (priority areas)
- Membership – expansion?
- Desired end results

Current NEBAWWG Goals

- The primary goal of NEBAWWG is to support a forum in which to facilitate the development and implementation of wetland monitoring strategies, including elements of a comprehensive wetland monitoring program, that meet the needs of the New England states (i.e., wetland monitoring programs to be implemented at the state level).
- The technical preparation necessary for improved coordination of surface water and wetland monitoring programs, with the eventual long-term incorporation of wetlands into traditional water quality monitoring programs (e.g., CWA sections 305(b), 303(d), 319, and 106)
- Regionalization of existing monitoring and assessment tools for wetlands, such as FQA, functional assessment and biological assessment
- Use of monitoring and assessment tools for improved restoration and mitigation
- Provision of training for regulatory personnel in monitoring and assessment methods
- Source of information on monitoring and assessment tools, through a workgroup website
- Potential Focus Areas

Ideas for Joint Meeting & Collaboration with EPA/States in Regions 2 and 3:

- Development of a Web based data/project storage portal for use by state, tribal and federal partners – ID state data management needs
- Identify sustainable funding streams de-linked from WPDG's (potentially formulating a national model for state and federal data sharing)
- Develop scenarios for the development of a standalone entity which would support this endeavor including website maintenance and storage capacity.
- Coordinate and assist in the dissemination of the results of NWCA surveys and foster multi-regional intensification studies such as ecoregional wetland reference networks
- Develop materials and strategy to publicly communicate and market Northeast/Mid-Atlantic Success.
- Consider hiring a communication expert to develop a sustainable communication plan (model) to inform the public about WPDG success and outcomes (i.e. how has data and tools been used).
- Create a searchable web portal (story map) to allow the public access to data/information
- Identify consistent metrics, developed in coordination with states and tribes, so that state and tribal reporting and web entry is done in a common currency. These metrics would be used in reporting outcomes and outputs for WPDG's as well as other program activities that have been developed through leveraged support from Federal Agencies.