

NPS Alliance Meeting Notes

Jan 22, 2008

Leader: Jacob Bornstein, CWN
Facilitator: Maureen O'Reilly

ALERT: February 22 – Deadline for comments on project abstracts from NPS Alliance members. (See below for more details.)

New Alliance Attendees/Introductions – Lucia Machado

Greg Naugle - Unit Manager, CDPHE's Ground Water/ Water Quality Standards Program. Background in addressing agricultural chemicals in ground water. The Unit is responsible for TMDLs as well as NPS. We are now fully staffed, but have only two experienced staff and four rookies. CDPHE's NPS Program is still in transition.

Tammy Allen - Project Manager, formerly with CDOT – Stormwater Program, WA water quality planning.

David Bird - DRMS employee formerly with USGS. David has a geochemistry background and works in the Minerals Division (active mines). He is not a replacement for Julie Annear (Abandoned mines), but for Harry Posey.

Project Abstract Technical Assistance Meeting Summary – Barb Horn

At CDPHE's request, the NPS Forum provided support for grant applicants. Reviews were based on technical issues contained in the project abstracts. We had more project abstracts than technical folks to review them, but we did provide some help in the review process. Some submitters came to the meeting for technical help when what they needed was an introductory grant writing workshop. We will try to screen out and redirect these folks to CDPHE next year. Still not seeing projects submitted to suit new goals and objectives for NPS. Many were basic stormwater projects. More work is needed to bring in the right projects.

Outreach meetings are being planned for the CO River Basin to help solicit good projects that meet the needs of the state program. This is a new effort for the NPS Alliance. We need to determine where high priority areas and problems are and target our outreach efforts in these areas in order to bring in the right projects at the right time. The process that Barb envisions moves from setting priorities to establishing targets and finally to developing strategies in which people can engage to achieve established goals and objectives.

Take Home Message: Alliance members need to get more engaged.

NPS Alliance Top Three Priorities for 2008 Identification/Selection – Jacob Bornstein

As of the date of today's meeting, the following suggestions had been made by Alliance members as to what the top three priorities should be for 2008.

- Outreach to Target Basin
 - Qualified support to local organizations
 - Develop NPS Projects
- NPS Educations Program
- Support 319 Applicants per CDPHE
- Tie Measurable Results to Projects
- Develop Measurable Results Story
- CDPHE Relations Development
- Pre-Watershed Conference Workshop

During the meeting, each attendee was asked to provide 1-3 priority ideas on a note card. The cards were collected and Jacob presented the suggested priorities for the group to consider. The priorities suggested were:

Review NPS Management Plan (2009)

Synthesis of Watershed Plans

Define Role in Review Process/CDPHE Relations – Work Closely with Division on Projects

Holistic Planning/Measurable Results

Integrate with Research Community

Fund Raising

Establish Roles CDPHE/319

Relationship Development With CDPHE/319

At this point the group took a short break.

During the break, Jacob, Tracy and Barb looked at the suggested priorities together and determined that they fell into three general categories: Education and Outreach; Monitoring; and, Technical Support. Flip charts were developed presenting the proposed priorities under these three topical headings (see summary below). The suggested priorities were then presented to the group by Jacob and the floor was opened up for discussion.

Education and Outreach

- strategy development
- pre-watershed conf workshop
- education on 319 grant process
- prevention education and capacity building
 - target outreach basin
- tell the NPS story more effectively

Monitoring

- holistic perspective on scale of problem
 - tell the NPS story more effectively
 - tie measurable results to projects
- coordination of process with CDPHE

Technical Support

- telling the NPS story more effectively
- integrate with research communities
 - synthesis of watershed plans
 - review documents
 - target projects
 - establish role of CDPHE

A multi-voting process was conducted after the group discussion and the results were announced.

The NPS Alliance's top three priorities for 2008 are:

1. Technical Outreach – To Targeted Priority Basin

**2. Monitoring and Technical Support –
Tell the NPS Story More Effectively**

3. Education and Outreach – Develop an Effective Strategy

Summary of Discussion on Proposed Priorities

Targeted Outreach to priority basin(s)

one (implementation) and two (watershed plans) years out

Technical support – basin, beyond?

- Review of Sampling and Analysis Plans will be needed (support to State)
- Proposal review – technical comments
- Support to project proponents
- Data collected into STORET/State – help sponsors (i.e. Data Sharing Network)
- Are workshops needed? – how to prepare proposals/write reports/etc (what are roles and what do they look like)

- Part of the goal is how to get duplicable projects that are well managed, and effective with documentable results - Right project/ right place - has a technical component. Preparation –implementation – capture results/tell story .
- WQCD is planning workshop – getting ready for sponsors. Could use help.

Tell NPS story:

- We need to tell story in 3 ways
 - national pollution way,
 - \$ way (\$20 M problem, \$500k available),
 - by scale of story: project/segment/watershed.
- Success stories. Scale is important. Need something concrete to do.
- Story telling: finished project went above and beyond original effort, and didn't get where they thought they would. Monitoring does not always show expected reductions. Looking at projects – will effort get them where they want to be?
- Story telling has technical component, but also part of outreach/education.
- NPS part of the story, not the whole story. NPS, PS, Air pollution, all part of story. Fragmentation does not help.

Timing of Grants/ Document Results

NPS education/outreach

- Pre watershed conference/workshop.
- Engage local folks for project success.
- Outcome Based: state-wide efforts preventive rather than restoration, also support getting right project/right place/ right time. Also share stories – successes and not successful projects. Outcomes provide area to strategize around.
- Also focus on target audiences. i.e. general populations, sponsors, project-specific audience. Also offer strategic planning options.

General discussion:

Assisting local watershed groups is where help is needed. Not just local watershed groups, educational component should develop help for watershed groups.

Good outreach leads to better local projects.

Prevention Approach: When sponsor comes in and already has a problem. Maybe that's the problem in the way things are approached. Must have NPS problem to get a grant?

Prevention: Small \$ spent on state-wide outreach – part of what we are doing doesn't address that watershed groups don't exist everywhere. Need to create synergy of local groups, issues, and funding sources. Prevention has different target audience and set of strategies for outreach/education than remediation. How successful is prevention? How to tell? Tougher than measuring moving dirt.

Technical and Outreach/Education are Intertwined. Different areas have different foci, and areas of expertise. Question: Can Alliance do both?

In past, group has done both, but focus has changed back and forth over time. Expertise exists for both.

Education first line is brining NPS message to our own organizations. Bring to the group the message from your organization. NPS is just a problem. Hopefully someday it won't be anymore. Also is a process. Never know what step one is? Information source today is mostly Internet as first line. Alliance representation is very valuable to CDPHE, but give and is take needed. State can't know everything about all the issues. CDPHE does not have all the technical expertise. (With the river restoration subcommittee – substantial gains have been obtained because of the focus and the partners involved.)

Equilibrium - between technical support and outreach is needed.

Administration and leadership of the Alliance needs to be addressed.

CDPHE-led NPS Program/WQCD support-focus.

Alliance – led broader focus – support WQCD and more volunteer leadership is a problem now.

Focus for next meeting - Alliance structure/establish bylaws/leadership process.

Focus meeting by meeting. Build leadership over time.

FY 2008 Project Abstracts – Review and Comment Process – Lucia Machado

Sixteen Project Abstracts were submitted for review. These have been posted on the NPS Colorado web site if you would like to take a look at them. A few of the files posted have technical difficulties with photos and/or maps.

CDPHE has set the following schedule for the review process:

Feb 5 – CDPHE presents a draft list of proposals to the commission.

Feb 6 – Commission posts a list of proposals for public comment – see WQCC web site.

Feb 22 – Deadline for comments on proposals from NPS Alliance members.

Feb 28 – Deadline for comments on proposals from the public at large.

Feb 29 – CDPHE deadline for submission of list of proposals selected for 20008.

March 11 – CDPHE presentation to WQCC on proposals selected for 2008.

NPS Alliance members should e mail their comments to Loretta.

Include in your comments:

Appropriateness of proposed way of addressing stated problem?

Is the funding requested sufficient to address the stated problem?

Does the proposal have the right partners involved?

Is approach outlined in the proposal technically feasible?

In response to Lucia's request that the Alliance submit a position letter on the proposals for 2008, Robert of the WQCC suggested that it would be helpful to have a memorandum summarizing the NPS Alliance project abstract review process rather than formal position letter. Barb agreed to work with Loretta to develop this document and submit it to Robert and Lucia on behalf of the Alliance.

If you would like to make any remarks at the March 11 administrative hearing of the WQCC, please contact Lucia. She will work with you to get you on the agenda.

Next Meeting Dates, Times, Leaders, Locations – Maureen O’Reilly

Jan 22 – Thank you Jacob Bornstein (Leader) and DRCOG (host) - Great way to start 2008!

March 17 – Tracy Yager (Leader) and DRCOG (host) 9:00 am -11:30 am

July 29 - Tentative – Loretta Lohman and Dave Kanzer (Leaders) meet in or near
Glenwood Springs?

Oct 28 Lucia Machado (Leader), no host or time established yet.

Attendees at today’s meeting:

Marcella Hutchinson EPA R8 (note taker)

Tracy Yager - USGS

Larry Mugler - DRCOG

Robert Sakata - WQCC

David Bird - DRMS

Bonie Pate - WQCD

Greg Naugle - WQCD

Lucia Machado - WQCD

Tammy Allen - WQCD

Kathleen Reilly - WQCD

Randy Ristau - CDPHE

Connie O’ Neill - NFRWQPA

Troy Bauder - CSU Extension

Loretta Lohman - NPS Outreach

Barb Horn - CDOW

Angela Medbery - Sierra Club

Joan Carlson - USFS

Dave Kanzer - Colorado River Dist

Karma Anderson – NRCS