Notes: Northwest Environmental Data-network Steering Committee and PNAMP Data Management Work Group Meeting

Time: 2008-02-06 from 9:00 to 3:00

Location:

Large Conference Room: Northwest Power and Conservation Council
851 S.W. Sixth Avenue, Suite 1100
Portland, Oregon 97204

AGENDA ITEMS

9:00

1) Present: Tom Pansky (BPA), Bruce Schmidt (StreamNet), Tom O'Neil (NWHI), Tom Iverson (CBFWA), Stan Frazier (BLM), Jennifer Pollock (USGS-NBII), Viv Hutchison (USGS-NBII), Kelly Lotts (USGFS (NBII), Amber Johnson (NWHI) and Stewart Toshach (NOAA-NWFSC). On phone: Jen Bayer (PNAMP), David Tetta (EPA), Jim Geiselman (BPA), John Piccininni (BPA). Apology: Phil Roger (CRITFC).

2) Update on Responses to Summit and Next Steps and Task 4 Product. (SummitTask 4_ V2.3_2008-01-31). Stewart reported that the Summit Executive were close to finalizing summaries of the Summit tasks following input from participants and were anticipating a follow up meeting. Note: since Feb 6th the Executive have circulated a summary of tasks for Executive Discussion and Action and set a tentative date for the next meeting for May 28th, in Portland, with more details to be announced. Jim Gieselman voiced concern with the slow speed of this effort and thought that there should be an effort to identify how PNAMP, NED, ISEMP and PNW-RGIC could contribute to needed products or provide leadership – and how products already in development or deployed: for example the PNAMP Protocol Manager or the NED Portal could be used to advance regional data sharing.

Comments were also sought – by 2008-02-20 on the draft Summit Task 4 above.

3) Work Plan Action Items (Tom Iverson) (35)

4) Advancing Metadata reporting and Metadata Template. Bruce Schmidt provided a Power Point briefing: "The Need for Metadata- Lessons from the Monitoring Inventories" concerning the benefits and challenges involved in more fully reporting metadata. Some points included: the challenge of getting good Locational data – let alone doing the metadata for it, the need to get beyond inventories so can we use dynamic tools to track what we doing - using better metadata, a need to focus on a core set of metadata that might not provide all possible data but would get us well beyond where we are now. Bruce also provided a draft spreadsheet that has been prepared

based on the FGDC Biological Extension. It is basically an effort to make effort to simplify metadata reporting. The meeting did not discuss in detail.

Discussion included a need to look at core needed metadata with a crosswalk that compared the attributes Bruce had identified, the template on the NED portal, and other Metadata lists – for example the State of Washington's FGDC 'lite' list of metadata for State data.

There was agreement that the Metadata reporting issues were at the center of many of the interests in improved information management and was also the core concept underlying the NED Best Practices draft document. It was further agreed that there was interest in moving this topic forward and interest in forming a Best Practices Metadata Work Group. Those interested, or identified as having a probable interest included: David Tetta, Jen Bayer, Bruce Schmidt, Tom Pansky, Viv Hutchison, Stan Frazier, Stewart Toshach and Peter Paquet. Jen Bayer volunteered to coordinate a first conference call meeting of this group which has tentatively been set for Feb 20th at 10:00 am.

5) Best Practices Document Status. (Best Practices_2007-11-05) The Best Practices task relates closely to the metadata task. A reasonable approach to advancing this document is to work on the metadata component

6) Puget Sound Update. The Puget Sound Partnership has now set up all of it's administrative groups: The Leadership Council, the Ecosystem Coordination Board and the Science Panel - http://www.psp.wa.gov/.

Stewart had provided a briefing on regional and Puget Sound scale information management efforts to the Leadership Council on Jan 29th and joined a Puget Sound information mgt.coordination meeting on Jan 30th at the EPA. EPA CIO, Mollie O'Neil and her staff also briefed the Partnership on the 29th and participated in the EPA meeting. EPA is proposing to help develop a wiki supported system to help the Partnership communicate with the public and share information via the web. There is currently a loose coalition of interests concerned with improving Puget Sound information management. So far there has not been development of a formal work structure or coordination entity. In presentations to the Partnership Stewart has emphasized the work completed by NED, PNAMP and PNW-RGIC that could help to inform the Puget Sound information management and monitoring challenges.

7) PNAMP Information Management items (20)

Jen Bayer provided a quick update on the status of the proposal to employ a data management specialist to help develop Protocol Manager and content. The core idea is to make a term appointment for the rest of 2008 and the start of 2009. No decisions on funding beyond this time period.

<u>Noon to 1:00 - Lunch</u>

1:00 to 3:00.

7) NED Community Page Development (Tom O'Neil and Jennifer Pollock).

Tom O'Neil facilitated a detailed and productive discussion for the development of a NED portal community page around relevant habitat data sets associated with the Pacific Northwest, including USGS-one stop, NBII-PNWIN, NED, PNW-RGIC, and other groups that house regional habitat data.

The group identified many options and opportunities and agreed that the best next step was to develop a work proposal. Jennifer Pollock took the lead on the development of the work proposal. There was a lot of support for the idea of working together on this effort and relating it to metadata promotion.