

THE MONITOR

JULY 2009

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 2

FEATURES:

- ☞ WQX Transition is here, what does it mean?
- ☞ How can I help DSN now?
- ☞ What is the status of DSN Map upgrades?
- ☞ Meet the new DSN Project Coordinators
- ☞ Check out our new website, provide pictures and comments!
- ☞ Upstart of the Mentoring Committee

VISIT:

www.codsinstoret.com

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Map	2
DATABASE	2
DSN / Training	3
SWAPS	3
MENTORING	3
Featured Group	1
DSN Wish List	3
Partners	4

DATA SHARING NETWORK KEEPS EVOLVING

The Colorado Monitoring Council is moving forward as planned after developing the three DSN elements, SWAPS, an interactive map and the database over the past three years. The next three to five years will continue in what seems like constant transition, but we will be moving from an infant stage to young adults as an organization.

Goals to direct this evolution include: to increase

1) information on the system, 2) awareness, knowledge and use of DSN, and 3) overall support in time and cash.

Goals also include: transition from the old STORET upload tools to the new "AWQMS" tools and improved STORET database called "WQX". In addition we are upgrading the map to include desired features not previously funded, while also making

software changes due to licensing and other issues. These are explained further in this issue.

We have two new project coordinators, yes two for the price of one. DSN is lucky to have Lynn and Jeff on board, please welcome and support them. They are well on their way to providing the CWQMC and the Leadership team with planning, tracking and accountability tools to better lead the CWQMC and DSN.

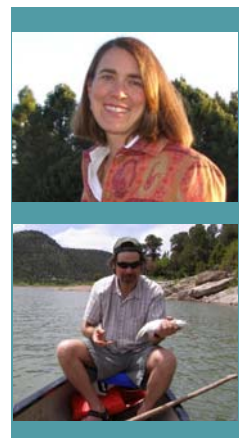
CURRENT NEEDS

The goal of the CWQMC and Leadership Team is to produce a set of objectives and associated budget for each year to be approved and functioning June 1st each year. We call this a work plan and the scope should include the current and next fiscal year. Last year we approved our work plan in October. This year we will be approving the plan at our August meeting. We know what our immediate needs are and they include fully funding the following items in priority order:

- ☞ the WQX transition (\$1,000 short by end of September),
- ☞ hosting for the rest of the fiscal year (up to \$9,000 for Oct-June, that is currently being renegotiated),
- ☞ \$4,500 to finish our new website and re-release it (many new features, new foundation), \$12,000 to fully fund project coordinators through December 2009.
- ☞ Members to provide their time on committees; fundraising; in planning, hosting and sponsoring SWAPS; and being DSN ambassadors within their professional networks and at conferences they attend.

MEET LYNN AND JEFF DSN PROJECT COORDINATORS

Lynn Padgett and Jeff Litteral join CWQMC as our part-time Project Coordinators in March 2009. They are off to a great start. They share the position, with Lynn primarily working on our map, website, fiscal agent duties and Council administration tasks. Jeff focuses on uploading datasets. They have collective background in GIS, water, hydrology, data management and working with stakeholder type groups, to list just a few qualifications. Lynn is also a Ouray County Commissioner. They are newly weds, have three beautiful children, and reside off-grid in rural Ouray County. They have established a permanent office for the CWQMC in beautiful downtown Ridgway. CONTINUED ON PAGE 3....



INTERACTIVE MAP

DSN started with a principle that we would not re-create any existing technology we could leverage. Thus, the first map leveraged ArcIMS licensing fees and work provided by Region 10 of the EPA. This option is no longer available, in part because of other technology changes.

The ArcIMS map is still available and functioning (for a short while longer) at www.codsnstoret.com.

The EPA and WQCD have provided us \$20,000 this

year to upgrade the map to include all the features we could not fund the first round. Our map will be transitioning from the current map to a GoogleEarth powered map, starting in August or September. The full transition will be completed by December 2009. Thanks for your patience during this time.

The GoogleEarth Map will be more powerful and user-friendly than the current map. Water data will be available for

download and analysis from each station.

Pending funding and an available software license, we also hope to develop and support a new ArcServer map application to provide additional functionalities and for the ability to link our map server to desktop GIS systems. We will begin work on this after the Google Map application is running.

We are grateful to the EPA and WQCD for supporting this aspect of DSN.



Free AWQMS Demo Available at www.awqms.com (click AWQMS Applications>AWQMS Test Drive)

DATABASE

The day we have all been waiting for is here, the big luminous WQX Transition has arrived (hear the music to JAWS).

What is the WQX transition? WQX is the new pathway for data to be uploaded to EPA National STORET. The old way of getting data in a format for this purpose involved modified Oracle software, templates and other complicated tools. This old pathway will no longer be supported by EPA September 2009. To be clear, the National STORET repository is not going away, just the tools to get data into that repository.

The DSN will be utilizing the Ambient Water Quality

Monitoring System (AWQMS) developed by long-time partner Gold Systems. AWQMS is a web-based data management system for ambient water quality data. It was specifically designed for compatibility with the Water Quality Exchange (WQX) - the new mechanism for exchanging water quality data between the EPA and its partners. Transition for DSN data will move all existing data from the old system to the new. This will result in a few changes to our templates but ultimately the new system will be more user-friendly. DSN will be making this transition in August and September. During that time we will not be

uploading data to our system; STORET and access of the data will be down. You have a chance to upload your data to STORET the old way until August 1, 2009. Please contact our coordinators immediately if you intend to do so. We appreciate your patience during this time.

When this change was announced, States and Tribes, as well as DSN, had to create their own transition plans. DSN waited to see what States and Tribes would develop so that we could leverage their work. This has paid off. We initially estimated this transition would cost \$50,000. It will only cost \$10,000.

DATA SETS IN DSN SINCE CLOSE OF LAST GRANT

- ☞ Two Years of South Platte Coalition for Urban Rivers
- ☞ Barr Lake
- ☞ Denver Health Department
- ☞ For a full list visit www.codsnstoret.com

We have sent our annual "data update" call to active map or database generators. Please let us help you keep information on DSN current and relevant for all users!

NEW WEBSITE

The CWQMC is developing a new website. The website is a critical tool for networking and communication. This is the place we provide training guidance documents, SWAP fact sheets, SWAP registration, CWQMC administration documents such as our Charter, Annual work plan, Outreach Plan, and meeting minutes. This is where we link users to our products, including our map and water database.

The new site will be parked at www.ColoradoWaterQuality.org. It will have features and functionalities the old site did not, such as the ability to make a secure on-line donation.

Thanks to all who provided the old website. Complete transition to the new site will be accomplished as soon as we have raised the \$4,500 needed to finish.

In the meantime, you can visit our work in progress at <http://www.ColoradoWaterQuality.org>. Please provide comments and send pictures to be used on the new site to cdsn@mtngeogeek.com.

DSN WISH LIST

THREE WAYS TO SUPPORT DSN

DATA

- ☞ For the database
- ☞ Meta-data for the map
- ☞ Priorities, needs and concerns in your local SWAP

CASH

Contribute funding, at a level meaningful for your organization. What are you saving? What are you gaining? What is that worth? This supports DSN's hard costs such as server hosting time, system operation and updates and part-time coordinator. Donations for SWAP sponsorships are welcome too. **ANY AMOUNT HELPS!**

INKIND

Share your expertise & join the Leadership Team Accountability, Direction, Recruitment, Resources

Outreach Committee SWAPS, marketing, membership needs assessments, website, presentations, newsletter

Mentoring Committee Skill matrix of resources, connecting need with mentor, workshops

Technical Advisory Technical aspects of map and database, training, data calls, documentation, tracking.

ALL COMMITTEES MEET SIX TIMES PER YEAR OR AS NEEDED

CONTACT CO-CHAIRS:
Vic Lucero, 303.255.7771
Barb Horn, 970.382.6667

DATA SWAPS

Picking up where we left off with SWAPS, the next round of SWAPS will begin this fall in the Colorado Basins. This includes SWAPS in the geographic areas of Dillon, Glenwood Springs, Craig and Grand Junction.

In the Spring of 2011 we will visit the Gunnison and San Juan Basins and the general towns of Montrose, Cortez, Durango and Pagosa Springs.

This SWAP schedule

follows the Water Quality Control Division's June Basin Rule Making Hearings. The Basic Standards Hearing will be in June 2010. June 2011 will be the Gunnison/San Juan —the first basins where nutrient criteria and potential biocriteria determined in the 2010 hearing will be applied.

DSN SWAPS are place-based exchanges of monitoring activities, concerns, needs priorities specific to the Basin. Local entities help determine the agenda,

which can include presentations from recent efforts and the like. Also, included could be training on how to use the DSN map and database.

SWAPS are open to all but target anyone involved in watershed management of that basin. DSN Swap discussions are all summarized in basin fact sheets and posted on the CWQMC website: <http://www.coloradowaterquality.org/swapfacts.html>

Watch for information for the SWAP in your area. available.

MENTORING COMMITTEE

The CWQMC Mentoring kicked off late this spring. They are on task to developing a process to document the type of assistance available; a list of possible funding sources; and document ways entities can access plans or

monitoring study designs, new monitoring or data analysis methods, and methods of implementation of new regulations. We will try and meet any need requested by a member. This committee will also coordinate larger training

and mentoring. Mentoring topics collected by the membership last year include evaluating data sets for gaps, analyses, and/or interpretation; and help with development of QAPPS, SOPS, and watershed plans; water data formatting and upload assistance; and others.

DSN TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

DSN will be providing Non Point Source Project Sponsors initial training as part of the Water Quality Control Division Sponsor Training. At that time, Project Sponsors will be provided templates and guidance documents. The DSN Project Coordinator will be available to assist each sponsor individually for actual uploads.

DSN will be providing a WQX transition training at the Sustaining Colorado Watersheds Conference in Vail, Oct. 7-9. WQX training may be provided in the Fall Colorado Basin SWAPS if that is what locals request. Other training will occur one-on-one with priority data sets.

(CONTINUED) NEW DSN PROJECT COORDINATORS

To date, they have streamlined our accounting and fiscal tracking and reporting for all involved entities, not an easy task. They have established our new website, uploaded all the new data sets, conducted the research and developed the strategy and work plan for the map upgrades, renegotiated our hosting contract with Gold Systems, worked on our membership database, attended committee meetings, and done the leg work for the WQX transition.

They have lots of ideas and are committed to the CWQMC. The CWQMC is very lucky to have two talented and dedicated individuals, welcome Lynn & Jeff!



**COLORADO WATER
QUALITY
MONITORING
COUNCIL**

P.O. BOX 113
RIDGWAY, CO 81432

PHONE: (970) 626-4045
E-MAIL:
CDSN@MTNGEOGEEK.COM

Providing a collaborative forum
for implementation of effective
collection, analyses, formatting,
and sharing of water quality data.

The Colorado Water Quality Monitoring Council is serving as a statewide collaborative body, open to all, to help achieve effective collection, analysis and dissemination of water quality data, and monitoring information. The Council seeks to improve the linkage between information needs of policy and decision makers with efforts to collect and assess data. The Council promotes effective monitoring programs that include the components of goal identification, data collection, analysis, storage, retrieval, and reporting/dissemination of information. The Council shall address the full range of water quality information, including chemical, biological, and physical characteristics of surface and ground waters. The Council is a non-voting body that operates through consensus-based monitoring strategies. A future goal is to generate enough funds to help produce a frequent but rotating gap analyses per major basin.

For more information about CWQMC contact:

Vic Lucero, Co-Chair
vic.lucero@cityofthornton.net

Barb Horn, Co-Chair
barb.horn@state.co.us

WE'RE ON THE WEB!
WWW.COLORADOWATERQUALITY.ORG

CWQMC PARTNERS



Lefthand Watershed Oversight Group
www.LWOG.org

integral
consulting inc.