

## **WQ Inventory Update Plan**

### **Products**

- Assess and improve web inventory
  - Remove site information
  - Suggest updated column order and standard options within each column, as needed.
  - Write simple, brief user instructions
    - Provide two example searches based on parameter and location questions.
- Write instructions for an intern to complete an update to the Excel version
  - Update the Excel version to have fewer columns and to verify and add data sources.
- Suggest products (lists, maps) that could be generated from the inventory that might be commonly used (i.e. all programs collecting salinity data, list of programs collecting data in each HUC8)

### **Update Assumptions**

- Goal is to provide easy-to-find information on water quality data sources in the Potomac River basin.
- Improve current design to make it simpler for a user to navigate and find potential data sources.
- Assume users will most often search for a specific parameter or a specific location.
- Database will not hold watershed characteristic information.
- Database will not hold water quality data.
- Database will not hold list of monitoring sites used by the data collection programs.

### **For Heidi & Carlington**

- Do you want anything formal written up for this task? A plan? Summary of what was done?
- The inventory report mentions watershed characteristic data, is this still a goal?
  - Suggest moving this information into a separate spreadsheet. Specifically, those entries dealing with land use, planning, elevation, watershed profiles, impaired streams (unless there is associated monitoring data), petroleum releases, etc.
- I am making suggestions for columns to hide from view in the public version. I think users will be less overwhelmed when initially coming to the page if there are fewer columns. The information can be maintained on the Excel spreadsheet and updated by interns. We can add it back to the public version if we receive requests/feedback from users.
- I am suggesting a new order for the columns based on what a user is most likely to search for - assuming that would be parameter or location.
- Confirming that the Site Location column will be deleted from both the Excel and web versions of the inventory.
- Instead of the Spatial Coverage column, what do you think about columns for State and HUC8. We could also add a County column. The filter tools allows the user to

search by more than one option within a column so a search could be done that looked for data in multiple states or across the entire basin.

- There are a number of columns in the internal Excel version that we are not displaying on the web version. Do we still want to collect the information for these?  
Can we delete the columns from the Excel version?

- Source
- Originator
- Number\_of\_Sites\_Sampled
- QA\_QC\_Program
- Funding\_Source
- Dataset\_Type

#### Proposed inventory column order changes

| Column Header               | Suggested Changes  | Suggested Order |
|-----------------------------|--|-----------------|
| Record number               | Hide   |                 |
| program_name                |  | 5               |
| site_location               | Hide   |                 |
| metric_parameter            | Consider making this the first column, followed by parameter_group. Reasoning: most users will come knowing the contaminant of concern and wanting to find out who is collecting data. I could be convinced that program name should come first. Is there a better name for this column? Just "Parameter"? | 1               |
| data_link                   |  | 13              |
| parameter_group             |  | 2               |
| program_website             | Add as link to program name or have a link icon? If this can't be done, move column to end. data_link would come after.  | 12              |
| purpose                     |  | 6               |
| collection_method           |  | 7               |
| spatial_coverage            |  | 3               |
| period_of_record_start_date |  | 9               |

|                           |              |    |
|---------------------------|--------------|----|
| period_of_record_end_date |              | 10 |
| fall_line                 | Hide?        | 4  |
| lat_long                  | Hide (show?) |    |
| frequency_sampled         |              | 8  |
| data_type                 |              | 11 |
| public_or_restricted_data | Hide         |    |
| dataset_fees              | Hide         |    |

### For Luke

- ICPRB source numbers for each entry are no longer needed and the entire column can be deleted from the Excel version, correct?
- Do you foresee any issues with deleting the Station\_ID, Site\_Location, and Source\_No columns and the WQ\_Map\_Points tab from the Excel spreadsheet?
  - Suggest that we delete these, and references to, before handing over to the intern.
- There are three columns at the end of the Excel spreadsheet that I don't know what they refer to. Can they be deleted?
  - Validation\_update\_Link and website
  - End date
  - Note
- Can we delete the Readme tab? Alternatively, what should be there to make it useful?
- Is there any reason not to reorganize the columns of the Excel version to match the order of the web version?
- Can text be a link, or is there a better way to display links (icon?) It would be nice to remove at least one of the columns that is just a link. Specifically, I'd like to make the program name a link or add a button next to its name.
- Can the record number column be deleted or can a header (column name) be added?
- Filter tab
  - For the filter "column" drop down, can the items be listed as they appear across the table?
  - For the "options" drop-down, can they be listed alphabetically? Or in a specific order for each column (i.e. from point to USA for the Spatial Coverage column)?
- Download tab
  - Rename download button. Many users will think they are downloading the actual data. "Download Program Information"? "Download List"?

- Can columns be hidden/expanded by the user? Looking for a way to make the initial results look simpler while preserving useful information.
- Can hover-over “?” pop-ups be added to each header and to the filter titles. These would be used to explain what the type of information the column holds or how to use the filter.
- Where can instructions go?
- Can we add a link to a short survey for feedback?

## Intern Tasks

*This is just an initial list of items I saw while looking through the inventory. I will continue to update and improve this.*

- Standardize capitalization
- Standardize terms used within columns
- Compare Definition tab and ICPRB\_Metadata tab in the Excel version. Make a new version of this tab that matches the columns on the Metadata tab and reflects any other changes.
- Spatial Coverage
  - For the Spatial Coverage options, it would be nice if they went in order from point to USA.
  - use USA, replace Country and Nation-wide
  - Correct point/Point
  - Why are there not more county-specific entries? Need to decide if entries from a single county are listed as “county” or by the county name.
  - Is the coverage listed based on the program or based on where the data are collected?
  - Think about how information in the Spatial Coverage column be most helpful to a user looking for data in a specific area or watershed. Look at all the entries we have before trying to make sense of this. Play with different ways of grouping them.
- Purpose
  - Review entries by Purpose. For those that are not explicitly for water quality monitoring, go to source and check if there is water quality data available. If not, move information to separate spreadsheet. Considering making a list/inventory for watershed information.
  - Check those listed as “unavailable,” identify purpose or let’s talk about it.
  - Here are some categories that I’ve noted to be combined; there are more:
  - Watershed monitoring; Watershed Monitoring; watershed profiles
  - Water quality; monthly water quality, Water Quality Monitoring; water quality loads
  - Community monitoring efforts, volunteer stream assessments
  - Propose a smaller set of options for this column.
- Collection Method
  - Fill in method for those listed as “unknown.” Email or call contact if needed.
  - If we are limiting the inventory to water quality data, can we limit the options here to “grab” and “continuous”?

- An agency name should not be listed as a method. If there is a name or number for the agency's method we can consider listing it.
- Period of Record Start Date, Period of Record End Date
  - Make this more general by just listing year instead of exact date? Is there a reason to keep the date?
  - Look into why some are listed as "various" or "unknown." How can we be more specific?
- Fall Line
  - Change A to "Above"; B to "Below"
  - What is "C" for? Both above and below? If so, change to "Both"
  - Review sources for location of data collection, verify or add "Above", "Below", or "Both." There should not be any blank entries.
- Lat Long
  - Suggest hiding this column in the public version
  - If keeping, change heading to "Lat Long Available."
- Frequency Sampled
  - Check the ones listed as "Unavailable." Why are they listed this way?
- Data Type
  - Suggest hiding this column in the public version
- Public or Restricted Data
  - Suggest hiding this column in the public version
- Dataset Fees
  - Suggest hiding this column in the public version
- Entry 51 (with no filters or sorting) is blank. Find in the Excel version and delete.