WPWA Water Quality Committee 9/6/18

Attendees: Brenda Rashleigh, Brett Still, Elise Torello

Other members: Chris Fox, Matt Downing, Steve McCandless, maybe Linda Green

1. Our task - revision of the water quality document written by Alan entitled “WPWA 2018-2020 Water Quality Modeling Strategic Plan”
   1. extend it to 5 years instead of 3
   2. include other approaches in addition to Watershed Watch
   3. include prioritization for adding sites back in
   4. we think it should include sections for: 1) watershed watch sampling, 2) other assessment approaches, and 3) analysis/outreach/communication
2. Watershed Water Sites
   1. We agreed to accept and work within the document led by Elise
   2. Information used to select the 10 core sites (from Brenda) – one site was selected per watershed, priority was given to: sites with longer and more recent data records; streams/rivers over lakes/ponds; sites with a strategic position in watershed (integrating upstream, capturing stressors).
   3. We will consider tiering within Tiers 1 and 2 (but not 3).
      1. **ACTION: Elise will look in to this**
3. Other assessment approaches
   1. What other entities/programs are sampling in the watershed? Can we improve connections with these? E.g., Brett’s work with Conti lab.
      1. **ACTION: Check with Chris**
   2. Could support lakes organizations collecting the field-based part of Watershed Watch. Could they upload data online? What kind of data structure could be used to house these data?
   3. Sensors – Brett suggests that we talk with Kelli Addy (works with Art Gold at URI). Elise noted that we should include the challenges of sensors (e.g., fouling, loss)
   4. Can review what other watershed groups are doing, e.g., visual surveys
      1. **ACTION: Brett will look into getting one or more URI MESM students to help us with this survey/review**
4. Analysis/Outreach/Communication
   1. We could start with a simple landscape analysis using GIS. Would like to have watersheds delineated above sampling points.
      1. **ACTION: Brett will look into getting one or more URI MESM students to help us with this analysis. Would be great if we could develop a long-term relationship with the program.**
   2. Brenda suggests statistical analyses using CRAN-R, which is free and open-source
   3. Brett mentioned storymaps as a good communication tool. We suggested that might work great for Wild/Scenic, where Denise would be the contact.