



Water Information and Data Subcommittee (WIDS) January 2019 Webinar

Meeting Minutes
Date/Time: January 17, 2019
1pm PT/2pm MT/3pm CT/4pm ET

Call-in number: 1-800-920-7487
Conference code: 253 359 68#

Webinar: <https://join.me/wswc-mtgs>

Attendees: Sara Larsen, Tony Willardson, Adel Abdallah (WSWC), Natalie Mast (Arizona), Todd Adams, Craig Miller (Utah), Linda Davis (Idaho), Ken Stahr (Oregon), Kent Wilkins (Oklahoma), Allison Odell (USBR), Gary Darling (California), Forrest Melton (NASA)

Meeting Minutes: Sara welcomed the attendees and introduced new members to the purpose and goals of the WIDS group. She introduced Adel as a new staff member to the Council. The group reviewed the action items and minutes from the last call. There were no proposed changes from the group.

Status of NASA Cloud Survey and WaDE 2.0: Sara showed the cloud survey report and webpage to the group. Results are generally applicable to states who are investigating the cloud, working with the federal agencies on data issues. She showed a dashboard on the WSWC website that shows all of the WSWC member states' cloud policies (<http://www.westernstateswater.org/western-state-water-resource-agency-use-of-cloud-computing-technology-platforms/>). New states and agencies have been added to WaDE, including interest from some eastern states. Data are still patchy, so our goal is to get more data in standardized ways, such as aggregated to HUCs/Counties, monthly data, for water budgets, including for the Upper Colorado River Basin pilot, etc.

Sara showed some files of the updated WaDE database schema. She talked about the new system and how it will streamline updates both from the states and updates to the application going forward. New schema changes are available for review on the WSWC GitHub repository (<https://github.com/WSWCWaterDataExchange/WaDE2.0>) WIDS has the opportunity to become a standards-setting body for regional datasets. The new approach takes advantage of cloud platform performance and scalability. It also takes advantage of the states' starting new work on ESRI open data portals and other open data-sharing platforms (e.g., Socrata and CKAN/DKAN). WSWC will pull those data into a cache and then serve the data back out. Sara and Adel can also help with that work (either to advise or to assist with funding, etc.).

WIDS could help standardize more expanded datatypes such as water transfer and rate data, agricultural field boundaries, wetlands delineation, water supply system boundaries, etc.) Gary warned members to ensure that their intellectual property rights and protections are in place and protected when using any vendor portals or platforms. He relayed an experience in California where the state had lost control of selected datasets due to private capture. Sara said that, as they worked with each state to modify their portals, they would ask related questions of the state to ensure that the data were controlled and maintained by the state. Linda mentioned how her agency has negotiated with ESRI to determine pricing, etc., but that intellectual property (IP) rights had not been an issue. Sara asked the group if there were other concerns about IP and costs going up. She offered to work with Gary offline to walk through those concerns and then vet them with the WIDS on the next call.

Sara talked about funding acquired for the program from the Water Foundation, the Moore Foundation, and the Mitchell Foundation. The Moore Foundation grant is jointly held with a group called the Internet of Water (<https://internetofwater.org/>) and the Consortium of Universities for the Advancement of Hydrologic Sciences, Inc (CUAHSI). The funding allows the program to continue through 2021, and allows for funding to assist states with some of their data projects (e.g., processing, QA/QC, setting up open data portals). This includes sensor-based observations data – WSWC can solicit help from CUAHSI for those types of data. Sara encouraged the WIDS to get in touch if they thought they could benefit either from funding or advisory help.

Upcoming Data-Related Workshops/Events: Sara talked about the upcoming Colorado River Basin Data Roundtable, hosted by the Aspen Institute, to address data exchange specific to CRB stakeholder needs. Unfortunately, the Water Information Management System (WIMS) workshop (slated for April in South Dakota) was postponed because of the government shutdown (EROS is a USGS facility). WSWC will start planning with USGS once the government comes back online with a new window for hosting a WIMS in September. A potential workshop is on the horizon for working to transition NASA research tools to state agencies. CUAHSI is hosting a Hydroinformatics conference in Provo, UT on July 29th-31st. AWRA is hosting the national conference in Salt Lake City, UT in November. WSWC will be hosting at least one data-centric session there, if any WIDS members are interested in participating.

Group Discussion: Sara asked about any other data needs within the WIDS. Kent talked about reconfiguring the WUDR grants and how they’ve been able to utilize the USGS funds for water use data. Sara asked if they would like assistance for configuring their open data portal for their water use data and agreed to get in touch as that was needed. Sara asked the group what they thought of having “mini-WIMS” online, either bi-monthly or over the winter season to facilitate the information exchange without having such a fire-hose of information like at the last WIMS at JPL. There was some feedback on the group that that would be worth investigating and something worth trying out, see how it went, and then decide whether to keep it going.

Gary asked about WSWC’s involvement in developing the Use Case Repository for California’s AB1755 law implementation. Sara gave some background on this transition from a “field of dreams” (if you build it they will come) approach to including the “use case” oriented approach (in addition to simply getting the data out there). She showed the Use Case Repository dashboard on the WaDE website and explained how to sort through the cases to find data sources and vice versa (<http://wade.westernstateswater.org/use-case-repository/>).

Next Meeting: The next WIDS call will be held in May. Sara will report back to the WSWC members at the spring meeting in March. She’ll send out a recap of the meeting with minutes, action items, and any other materials.

Action Items:

	Description	Assignee
1	Sara will send powerpoint, meeting materials, and any conference information	WSWC
2	When government shutdown ends, and preliminary WIMS plans resume, Sara will get in touch with location/date, draft agenda, etc.	WSWC
3	Offline discussion of private capture, intellectual property rights and pricing for cloud vendors, including ESRI	WSWC/CDWR/NASA