

# The Future of NARS: Building on Our Shared Successes

National Workshop/Conference

**December 5-7, 2017**

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

Science Center & Auditorium

1301 East West Highway

Silver Spring, MD

## AGENDA

### Tuesday, Dec. 5, 2017

- 8:00 - 10:00 am
- **Review Meeting Objective** – *Sarah Lehmann, EPA HQ*
  - **NARS History and Program Development** – *Sarah Lehmann, EPA HQ*
  - **NARS Highlights from a National, State and Tribal Perspective**  
*Moderator: Sarah Lehmann, EPA HQ*
    1. Leveraging the surveys in a state program – *Monty Porter, Oklahoma Water Resources Board*
    2. Increase in lake and stream phosphorus: are oligotrophic systems disappearing in the United States – *John Stoddard, EPA ORD*
    3. Tapping the NARS tree: influencing policy, adopting methods and detecting trends – *Kellie Merrell, Vermont Dept. of Environmental Conservation*
    4. Coordinating probabilistic river/stream surveys across varying scales and agencies in Utah – *Ben Holcomb, Utah Dept. of Environmental Quality*
    5. Great Lakes NCCA enhancements – *Anne Cotter, EPA ORD Mid-Continent Ecology Division*
  - **Paving the Path for the Next Decade** - Session Topics to Discuss Improving:
    1. ability to track trends: "NARS 2.0"
    2. data delivery, analysis, reporting
    3. sustainability of the NARS program
    4. effectiveness/efficiency of training (field methods)

10:00 - 10:30 am Break

10:30 - 11:00 am Group Introductions, Expectations and Overview of Small Group Discussions

11:00 am - 12:00 pm **Session 1 Presentation: NARS 2.0** – *Steve Paulsen, EPA ORD*

- What would it look like?
- What are the benefits?
- What does such a change mean?
- What other options should we consider?

12:00 – 1:00 pm Lunch

- 1:00 – 2:30 pm **NARS 2.0 Small Group Discussions** (*addressing questions below*)
- What do you see as the benefits of the proposed change?  
(*e.g. statistical power, implementation of sampling over multiple years*)
  - What do you see as the biggest challenge(s)? What ideas do you have to address those challenge(s)? (*e.g., related to funding, logistics, training, data management, reporting, staffing, etc.* )
  - How would this impact your organization’s ability to conduct field and/or lab work?  
(*more likely to conduct, less likely, no change*)
  - If the benefits of the proposed change are positive enough, are there other options we should explore to achieve those benefits?

2:30 – 3:00 pm Break

- 3:00 – 5:00 pm **Concurrent Technical Workshops**
- Physical Habitat
  - MMI

## **Wednesday, Dec. 6**

8:15 – 9:00 am **Summary of NARS 2.0 Small Group Discussions**

9:00 – 9:45 am **Session 2 Presentations: Reporting, Data and Communication**

*Moderator: Hugh Sullivan, EPA HQ*

1. Data from field to database: electronic field app – *Brian Hasty, EPA HQ*
2. Applying data from surveys/reporting – *Jason Hill, Virginia DEQ*
3. New data viz/reporting and thoughts on where we might want to go – *Amina Pollard, EPA HQ*
4. Data tools for state/tribal/regional use – *Mike Crow, Crow Insight*
5. Communicating to other groups: ag press articles and video – *Steve Werblow, CTIC*

9:45- 10:00 am Break

10:00 – 11:45 am **Reporting, Data and Communication Small Group Discussions** (*addressing questions below*)

- Are there communication tools that would be useful to you from the NARS program/statistical survey perspective? For communicating with managers? The public?
- How can we improve data delivery to and analytical tools for states/tribes? To other programs? To the public/external groups?
- How would NARS 2.0 design implementation proposal positively or negatively impact the data management/reporting of NARS in your mind?

11:45 am – 1:00 pm Lunch

1:00 – 1:45 pm **Summary of Reporting, Data and Communication Small Group Discussions**

1:45 – 2:45 pm

**Session 3 Presentations: Sustainability** (This session addresses how we keep the NARS program and partnership sustainable, viable and productive into the future.)

*Moderator: Susan Holdsworth, EPA HQ*

1. Obstacles to participating in NARS - Arizona's perspective – *Jason Jones, Arizona DEQ (via phone)*
2. Shedding light on under-assessed waterbodies and issues of emerging concern – *Aaron Borisenko, Oregon Dept. of Environmental Quality*
3. Tribal participation in NARS: the good, the bad, and the bugly – *Kayla Bowe, Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians DNR*
4. Development of a NWCA applications resource for environmental decision makers – *Annie Rossi, EPA HQ*
5. Wetlands – benefits of coordination with NRCS soil scientist and capacity-building on monitoring/assessment of soils data in states – *Erin Dorset, Delaware Dept. of Natural Resources and Environmental Control*
6. Leveraging the surveys to expand for Minnesota's needs – *Lee Engel, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency*

2:45 – 3:15 pm

Break

3:15 – 5:00 pm

**Sustainability Small Group Discussions** (*addressing questions below*)

- What changes to the NARS program would make the biggest difference in supporting states/tribes being able to do field work? Use the data?
- What are the biggest challenges to the sustainability of NARS? What do we need to do to address those challenges?
- Of the indicators collected as part of the NARS surveys, which are they key indicators that you believe are necessary to meet the goals of NARS (how do they differ by waterbody type). What are other indicators we should consider; Why?
- How can we better use information from the surveys to support other programs?
- How would NARS 2.0 design implementation proposal positively or negatively impact the sustainability of NARS in your mind?

## Thursday, Dec.7

8:30 – 9:15 am **Summary of Sustainability Small Group Discussions**

9:15 – 9:30 am **Session 4 Presentation: Training** – Gregg Serenbetz, EPA HQ

9:30 – 10:00 am Break

10:00 – 11:30 am **Training Small Group Discussions** (*addressing questions below*)

- What is the biggest barrier/problem with the current training structure?
- What approaches do you think could be added to strengthen the training program to ensure that crews are adequately trained? How would they help?
- How should we test the approaches that seem most beneficial?
- If NARS 2.0 Design Implementation was underway, how else would you recommend training be modified to ensure that crews are adequately trained?

11:30 am – 12:30 pm Lunch

12:30 – 1:00 pm **Summary of Training Small Group Discussions**

1:00 – 2:30 pm **Whole Group Discussion**

Determine if there is consensus in trying to move forward with a revision to NARS implementation

**How to move forward/Next steps**

2:30 – 3:00 pm Break

3:00 – 5:00 pm **Technical Workshop**

- Physical Habitat
- MMI