

NEBRASKA SURFACE WATER MONITORING COUNCIL

CHARTER

The following Charter Member Organizations hereby voluntarily establish the Nebraska Surface Water Monitoring Council (NSWMC or Council):

- American Consulting Engineers Council of Nebraska,
- League of Nebraska Municipalities,
- Nebraska Association of Resources Districts,
- Nebraska Department of Agriculture,
- Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality,
- Nebraska Department of Natural Resources,
- Nebraska Game and Parks Commission,
- Nebraska Health and Human Services System – Regulation and Licensure,
- Nebraska Public Power District,
- Nebraska Wildlife Federation,
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,
- U.S. Geological Survey, and
- University of Nebraska – Water Center.

The Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ) agrees to facilitate the activities of the Nebraska Surface Water Monitoring Council (NSWMC) by providing administrative support; including facilitating meetings, maintaining membership information, and preparing agendas and notes for all meetings.

The NSWMC may address any issue related to surface water monitoring. The NSWMC will conduct business and make decisions using a consensus-based approach. If a motion is made by a member organization to vote on an action or issue being considered by the Council, each member organization of the Council shall receive one vote. For a motion to pass, “yes” votes must exceed “no” votes and more than half of the member organizations must vote “yes.” Meetings of the NSWMC should be public noticed to provide an opportunity for interested parties to attend and participate in the meetings.

VISION, MISSION AND GOAL STATEMENTS

The Vision of the NSWMC is to:

“Provide an ongoing forum for statewide coordination to insure the most efficient and effective use of available monitoring resources for evaluating existing conditions and trends in water quality and quantity and facilitating informed decisions on the management, protection and use of surface water for the benefit of present and future generations.”

The Mission of the NSWMC is to:

“Promote and facilitate statewide coordination of surface water monitoring in Nebraska.”

The Goals of the NSWMC are to:

1. Improve communication, cooperation, and collaboration among organizations involved with surface water monitoring in Nebraska;
2. Increase public awareness of the value, availability, and use of surface water monitoring data;
3. Develop and maintain a comprehensive, integrated statewide surface water monitoring system in Nebraska;
4. Develop and promote the use of appropriate methods and procedures for collecting and analyzing surface water data; and
5. Promote public accessibility and documentation of the quality of all surface water monitoring data collected in Nebraska.

The Vision, Mission and Goals of the NSWMC should periodically be reviewed and updated as necessary.

MEMBERSHIP AND OFFICERS

NSWMC membership will include all charter member organizations. Any additional organizations will be considered for membership upon receipt of a letter from their director or chief executive officer. A written request from an organization for membership on the Council must include written certification that the organization will support the mission and goals of the NSWMC and make their monitoring data publicly available. The NSWMC must provide written approval of a membership request before a new organization can be added to the council as a voting member. All interested parties will be welcome to attend NSWMC meetings as nonvoting members.

Chair:

Voting members of the NSWMC will elect a Chair to serve for a two-year term. If no other member organizations are interested in chairing the Council, or, in the event of the absence of the Chair for a scheduled Council meeting, the NDEQ will provide a Chair or otherwise facilitate all Council meetings and activities.

Organization:

The NSWMC will establish such bylaws, procedures, and subcommittees as it deems necessary in order to accomplish the mission and goals. Participants in the subcommittees should be representatives of organizations involved with the collection or use of surface water monitoring data. The NSWMC may establish other officers as it

deems necessary.

Activities:

The Council should help promote and participate in meetings and conferences of other organizations and groups for the purpose of enhancing communication, cooperation, and collaboration about surface water monitoring issues. As resources allow, the NSWMC may consider organizing a biennial surface water monitoring conference in Nebraska. The Council may also draft and distribute fact sheets, reports, and other documents to enhance communication and information sharing among surface water monitoring programs. The Council should develop and maintain a web site that provides information about the NSWMC with links to publicly available surface water monitoring data, surface water reports, and other documents. The NSWMC should meet a minimum of four times a year. Meeting places should vary from time to time in order to promote broad-based participation.