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Subject:	Update on WFWQC AD study and 3rd party review
Date:	Tuesday, August 20, 2019 10:06:17 AM
Attachments:	image001.png

Hi All,

On Friday, August 16, building on the prior ULWQS Science Panel (SP) deliberations regarding atmospheric deposition, I, Mitch Hogsett, SP Chair, and Paul De Morgan, RESOLVE, spoke with Leland Myers, WFWQC, and Theron Miller, WFWQC and a SP member. The call provided an opportunity to discuss the various streams of work regarding atmospheric deposition under discussion by the SP. I am writing to share an update on the conversation and, as you will see at the bottom, to request your consideration of some issues related to engaging additional technical experts who would provide some insights on the ongoing atmospheric deposition work and a review of the WFWQC study proposal.

We first discussed the Atmospheric Deposition White Paper developed by Janice Brahney, a SP member, and the timeline for sharing comments so that she can finalize the document. Theron agreed to share comments by COB, Tuesday, August 20 with the full SP. Janice will then be working to modify the white paper to address comments as appropriate.

We also discussed the SP interest in developing a "recommendation on the use of deposition data in the existing U of U model and the related mass-balance analysis" building on their review of the white paper. While Leland and Theron have concerns about using the white paper as the basis for a number in the mass-balance analysis they indicated they understood the step, recognizing the number is a starting place – with an understanding that future studies might result in changes.

Finally, we explored next steps related to the WFWQC Atmospheric Deposition Study Proposal. Before digging into the conversation, I confirmed with Leland and Theron that the SP is interested in ensuring that the results of the study are useful and applicable to the ULWQS process; they concurred with this desired outcome. I began by noting that, on behalf of the SP, I shared a memo with comments on the latest proposal coming out of our July 10-11 meeting (July 26). Theron has received the memo and indicated he will be reworking the proposal to address the comments to the extent possible and intends to share a revised proposal by Friday, August 23. We confirmed the following step would be for the SP to review the revised proposal and share comments as necessary.

As you all remember, the SP also had an action item to "assess need for and then, as appropriate, engage outside experts on external review" of the WFWQC AD research proposal at some point in the future. Leland and Theron indicated (and we knew this was the case from earlier conversations) they are planning to move forward with procuring an independent third party to read through relevant documents, provide general comments and thoughts regarding studying atmospheric deposition, and share an analysis of the proposed WFWQC research plan and existing WFWQC efforts and data. Documents to read would include:

1. proposed WFWQC atmospheric deposition research plan;
2. existing WFWQC atmospheric deposition research efforts and data;
3. Atmospheric Deposition White Paper; and
4. other relevant materials as appropriate

We discussed some questions related to the review including who would pay for the effort, who would write the procurement, how would the procurement be distributed, who would make a final decision on who is hired, and what would happen with the results.

In the discussion Leland indicated WFWQC will pay for the study (the Council approved use of funds last week) and that doing some sort of cost sharing with UDWQ would be significantly more challenging from their perspective. Further, Leland and I discussed the following recognizing our joint interest in having the final atmospheric deposition study results utilized in the ULWQS Study:

1. WFWQC will develop a draft procurement and share it with the SP for comments and the final procurement language will be agreed upon by WFWQC and the SP;
2. WFWQC would run the procurement according to Utah State Code (Title 63G) and would share the RFP with experts around the country, in addition, any other experts the SP thought might be interested in considering the work could receive the RFP;
3. WFWQC would share all responses to the RFP with the SP for review and comment and the final decision on who would be chosen will be agreed upon by WFWQC and the SP; and
4. The results of the review will be shared with the SP for further consideration.

Ultimately the review process is not intended to remove any responsibility from the SP to conduct its review and recommendation development responsibilities, but to help inform the conversations about the atmospheric deposition questions and in the development of the WFWQC Atmospheric Deposition Study Plan.

In closing, I want to ask all of you to consider these steps and this process and share any questions, concerns, or comments you have on whether this process seems reasonable and useful for our ongoing work. I look forward to learning more regarding atmospheric deposition along the Wasatch Front while improving the existing Utah Lake nutrient mass balance.

Please share any comments by COB, Thursday, August 22.

Thank you,

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