

SSWR BREAKOUT GROUP RESPONSES TO CHARGE QUESTIONS

EPA Science Advisory Board
EPA Board of Scientific Counselors

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1. FIRST YEAR PROGRESS

- Progress is good; in line with strategic action plan.
- Planned research activities for FY13 align with those overall goals.
- Important to have implementation plan with specific tasks and milestones

2. SUSTAINABILITY

- SSWR has a good plan to incorporate sustainability into research activities.
- Important to focus activities on sustainability components that EPA can influence.
- EPA can only “contribute to sustainability” by coordinating with others and leveraging other efforts.
- Important to determine what should be EPA sustainability research and what should be left to other agencies and groups.

3. BALANCING IMMEDIATE NEEDS AND EMERGING ISSUES

- Expect that immediate needs will take a larger part of SSWR budget as budget shrinks
- Will be difficult decisions on priorities, mostly for emerging issues
- Recognize that can't pursue all emerging issues
- In some cases may be difficult to separate basic and emerging issues

3. BALANCING IMMEDIATE NEEDS AND EMERGING ISSUES

- Will be questions about mechanisms and reasons for prioritization; need for transparency
- Some communities and groups will have priorities that are different than ORD priorities
- Magnitude and distribution of risk should be considered (EJ communities)
- Need for some kind of risk portfolio analysis on emerging issues

4.1 SSWR: RESEARCH GAPS IN INTEGRATED NITROGEN PLAN

- Assess nutrient trading programs
- Metrics for nutrient management; metrics selected govern direction of actions
- Delivery of nutrients: mechanism and nutrient form
- Important to leverage other research
 - USDA NRCS: Miss River Basin Initiative
 - Ches Bay Program: modeling, monitoring, trading
 - NSF: Improving nitrogen initiative

4.1 SSWR: RESEARCH GAPS IN INTEGRATED NITROGEN PLAN

- Opportunities for innovation
 - New N delivery systems: mechanism and form
 - N monitoring systems, especially portable instruments
- For innovation, leverage efforts of others, and engage the broader community
 - engage universities, USGS, companies, communities
 - competitions

4.2 SSWR: STORMWATER – INCORPORATE NATURAL INFRASTRUCTURE RESEARCH?

- Yes!

4.2 SSWR: STORMWATER – INCORPORATE NATURAL INFRASTRUCTURE RESEARCH?

- EPA should take leadership role
- Important to inventory R&D/innovation activities across US; determine innovation needed
- WERF support good, but broader effort needed
- Good area for innovation competitions
- Develop tools that will empower states to engage and support communities better
- Examine NRC 2008 report on stormwater

INTEGRATION ACROSS PROGRAMS

- ORD has come far in short period of time – impressive
- Compile mechanisms for sharing information among agencies and internally; evaluate adequacy
- Seems to be a lot of informal exchange, but limited formal exchange (e..g, SWAQ)
- NPD half day session on research and budget priorities seems to be a valuable device

INTEGRATION ACROSS PROGRAMS

- All five integration topics should develop “roadmap” like those in development for N and climate topics
- Develop graphical framework for each integration topic (e.g., as done for N program)
- Integration should not be forced; should be initiated where it makes sense.
- Useful to consider barriers to integration, e.g., culture differences, no inventory of federal env research

INNOVATION

- ORD innovation progress is commendable
- Metrics should focus on goals of organization and specific projects, rather than on conventional business performance metrics
- Measure impact of innovation in communities, related to specific projects.
- Consider multiple benefits when assessing innovations, e.g., resource recovery
- Seek innovation from communities (competitions, or outreach to target communities)