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Dr. Don Cline  
Associate Director  
USGS Water Resources Mission Area  
12201 Sunrise Valley Drive  
Reston, VA 20192

Dear Don:

Thank you so much for taking the time to update our Legislation and Policy committee on current activities within the Water Mission Area on June 26. Jim Kreft presented a webinar to the ICWP Water Data and Science Committee, also on June 26, highlighting the NWISWeb modernization efforts. Many planned improvements are supported and will likely be utilized by our members. The following list emphasizes our support of highlights from Jim's presentation:

- The overall goal of the modernization efforts is the efficient retrieval and analysis of water data by USGS staff as well as the larger public.
- Occasional NWISWeb users will be able to find and use more obscure analytics, which will be available but made aware only to power users.
- Tabular data will be available, but more user friendly, less cumbersome data visualization is intended to clearly communicate information and make it usable.
- Modernized code is necessary since the classic code in which NWIS was developed is not cloud-ready and most of the original programmers are retiring.
- Modernization will ensure data availability and access to more parameters now collected by USGS Super Gages than NWIS was originally designed to handle.
- Consideration of future needs such as model-driven streamflow and NextGen attributes like web cameras at each gage and the display of uncertainty levels will be taken into account.

Our members look forward to the launch and completion of these improvements. Making water data more accessible and more usable for analysis will be of great help to our members as well as the general water data using public. We know resources are tight within the USGS, but ICWP encourages that all needed resources be made available to the NWISWeb modernization team as it performs this critical work.

If ICWP can be of any assistance as new tools and data delivery applications are developed, please don't hesitate to contact our Executive Director, Sue Lowry at the above contact information.

With best regards,

Brian Atkins, Chair  
Interstate Council on Water Policy

Cc: Chad Wagner, USGS-GWSIP  
Jim Kreft, USGS-Web Communications  
Bob Joseph, USGS

***Leader in Water Policy Information, Influence and Implementation***