

Statement 2020-06-IWM

ICWP Principle Statement on Data Sharing Across Statelines

Adopted by the ICWP Board of Directors on December 3, 2020; Sunset/Review December, 2023

Statement of the Issue:

ICWP supports and encourages efforts among states to coordinate on data collection parameters and collaborate on watershed-based monitoring needs. Data would reside with its original source, but data would be Interoperable among models and other uses for those data.

Why Important to ICWP membership:

Whether a state is a member of an interstate agreement or not, it surely shares surface and groundwater water resources with an upstream, downstream or river border neighboring state. Collaborative management of such shared resources is critical to avoid conflicts, ensure equitable use and foster economic development along with ecosystem protection. All management efforts rely heavily on water data – hydrologic parameters, water use and availability and water quality – along with the ability to access needed records.

Because agencies within a state , and at the state level, often develop water data collection, analyses, and reporting protocols and establish priorities independently without consultation of neighboring states' needs or programs, the available records are often incompatible temporally, spatially, methodologically, or with respect to formatting and platforms. This incompatibility presents challenges to comprehensive water management across state lines.

ICWP Recommended Action/Position:

--ICWP supports the establishment of standardized data parameters and collection, as well as the development of accessible platforms to encourage data sharing, including the activities of the Internet of Water.

--ICWP supports the efforts of states, interstate organizations and the federal government in their efforts to establish data collection standards and the creation of a common source platform for hydrologic data akin to USEPA's STORET/WQX water quality data platform.

--Because credible decision making relies on scientifically based access to adequate high-quality water data – e.g. hydrologic parameters and data used to define water use requirements, uses and availability, including water quality – along with the ability to readily access needed records, ICWP fully supports the use and sharing of best available science across state and federal partners.

--ICWP encourages the federal agencies with water management jurisdiction to establish a forum for non-federal stakeholders to interact with the agencies on water information needs., similar to the work of the Advisory Committee on Water Information that was abolished in 2019.