

# **Terms of Reference for GEO AquaWatch Management Team (January 12, 2023)**

## **GEO AquaWatch Management Team**

The Management Team (MT) ensures the [GEO AquaWatch Goals and Objectives](#) are met and carefully considers efforts and activities promoted or endorsed by the Initiative. The MT are the Working Group Co-Leaders. They ensure timely accomplishment, and quality control of GEO AquaWatch Workplan Activities undertaken by Working Groups (WG).

## **The GEO AquaWatch Management Team**

The Management Team (MT) has operational responsibility for the annual workplan activities and leadership of the GEO AquaWatch Initiative WGs. More specifically,

- To attend monthly MT meetings in real time (via teleconference or in person), and to stay up to date on the minutes of past meetings in order to best advise actions taken during future MT meetings.
- To provide meaningful guidance and support to GEO AquaWatch WGs to ‘Develop and Deliver Fit-for-Purpose water quality products and information’ by convening meetings, actively engaging in constructive input and monitoring WG progress. In concert with the Secretariat, prioritize, facilitate and coordinate relevant activities and resources across WG’s when opportunities arise.
- To provide leadership to the Secretariat in securing funding and formulating reasonable budgets to implement GEO AquaWatch priorities.
- To ensure activities fulfill end-user needs and requirements.
- To work with the GEO AquaWatch’s Secretariat and the GEO Secretariat to identify new providers and users, and patrons that would contribute to and benefit from GEO AquaWatch;
- To promote the aims and objectives of GEO AquaWatch and externally promote their activities, including the Water Quality Information Service (such as taking an opportunity to briefly introduce an audience to GEO AquaWatch Activities via an oral or poster presentation or distribution of informational materials)
- In conjunction with the Secretariat, to develop the Implementation Plans and Annual Work Plans of GEO AquaWatch, as needed; and approve (in coordination with the Steering Committee) any future modifications or updates of GEO AquaWatch mission, goals, objectives or its governance structure.

## **Management Team Governance Structure**

The MT will, as far as possible, operate by consensus. Decisions requiring a vote will be decided by simple majority of the votes cast by members present. Six co-leaders, at least three of which are Early Career Scientist, represent each identified WG area. The MT will consist of Subject Matter Experts who are also representatives of the water quality community.

In support of the GEO AquaWatch Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Policy, MT membership will take into account expertise, the balance between “providers” and “users”, early career vs senior researcher status, diverse geographical representation and gender balance. MT members will be appointed by the Director (or Scientific Coordinator) upon volunteering, or from nominations received following an open call. Nominations can be made by the Steering Committee, other members of the MT, data and information provider and user organizations, or members of the community. Self-nominations will be welcomed.

MT members will serve a 3-year term (concurrent with their WG leadership), but can be reappointed to maintain continuity. Management Team members will be encouraged to consider serving no more than two consecutive 3-year terms and/or take a 1-yr hiatus from the MT during longer periods of service.