From:	Thomas Armitage
To:	Armitage, Thomas
Subject:	Fw: Project sheet just received for "Connectivity of Streams and Wetlands to Downstream Waters: A Review and Synthesis of the Scientific Evidence "
Date:	Monday, July 28, 2014 6:11:49 PM

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----- Forwarded by Thomas Armitage/DC/USEPA/US on 07/28/2014 06:11 PM -----

From: Angela Nugent/DC/USEPA/US
To: Vanessa Vu/DC/USEPA/US@EPA
Cc: Thomas Brennan/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, Thomas Armitage/DC/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 04/20/2012 08:56 AM
Subject: Project sheet just received for "Connectivity of Streams and Wetlands to Downstream Waters: A Review and Synthesis of the Scientific Evidence "

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Proposed Project Sheet - 213

Date Submitted: 07/28/2014

Agency Request

1. Project Title	Connectivity of Streams and Wetlands to Downstream Waters: A Review and Synthesis of the Scientific Evidence
2. Project Short Title	Watershed Connectivity Report
3. Fiscal Year SAB Activity Desired to Begin	2013
4. Quarter SAB Activity Desired to Begin	1st Quarter
5. Assistant Administrator/Regional Administrator making request	ORD
6. Requesting Office	Office of Water Office of Research and Development
7. Requesting Official (Division Director or above)	Lek Kadeli
8. Requesting Official's Title	Assistant Administrator
9. Program Contact	Jeff Frithsen
10. Program Contact's Phone	703-347-8623
11. Program Contact's Mail Code	8623-P

12. Background for this SAB Advisory Project:

The report titled "Connectivity of Streams and Wetlands to Downstream Waters: A Review and Synthesis of the Scientific Evidence" was requested by EPA's Office of Water. It provides a review and synthesis of the scientific evidence pertaining to physical, chemical, and biological connections from streams, wetlands, and open-waters to downstream waters such as rivers, lakes, estuaries, and oceans. The review is focused on connections from small or temporary streams, wetlands, and certain open-waters, evaluated singly or in aggregate, and the mechanisms by which they affect the function or condition of downstream waters. The goals of the report are to (1) provide a context for considering the evidence of connections between rivers and their tributary waters, (2) summarize current understanding about these connections and associated downstream effects, and (3) discuss factors that influence the degree of connectivity or the magnitude of a downstream effect.

13. Tentative Charge:

1. This report concludes that all streams, regardless of flow duration or size, are physically, chemically, and biologically connected to rivers; and these connections, individually or cumulatively, exert a strong influence on the character and functioning of downstream waters.

a) Are these conclusions supported by the scientific evidence?

b) Does the report include the most relevant peer-reviewed literature on these topics, including

evidence of connectivity and isolation? If not please indicate which references are missing.
c) Was the reviewed literature cited and summarized correctly? If not please indicate where correction or revision is needed.

2. This report concludes that open water and wetlands in riparian areas and floodplains of streams and rivers are physically, chemically, and biologically connected with the river network, and that their functions exert a strong influence on the character and functioning of downstream waters.
a) Are these conclusions supported by the scientific evidence?
b) Does the report include the most relevant peer-reviewed literature on these topics, including evidence of connectivity and isolation? If not please indicate which references are missing.
c) Was the reviewed literature cited and summarized correctly? If not please indicate where correction or revision is needed.

3. This report concludes that for non-riparian/non-floodplain wetlands that are not connected to the river network through a stream channel (i.e., geographically isolated wetlands and wetlands that spill into losing streams), connectivity and isolation vary within a watershed and over time, making it difficult to generalize about their connections to, or isolation from, downstream waters. The literature we reviewed does not provide sufficient information to evaluate the degree of connectivity (absolute or relative) of these non-riparian particular wetlands.
a) Are these conclusions supported by the scientific evidence?
b) Does the report include the most relevant peer-reviewed literature on these topics, including evidence of connectivity and isolation? If not please indicate which references are missing.
c) Was the reviewed literature cited and summarized correctly? If not please indicate where correction or revision is needed.

4. This report concludes that while the influence of a particular stream or wetland on downstream waters might be small, the aggregate contribution by an entire class of streams or wetlands (e.g., all ephemeral streams in the river network, or a cluster of small wetlands) might be substantial.
a) Is this conclusion supported by the scientific evidence?
b) Does the report include the most relevant peer-reviewed literature on this topic? If not please indicate which references are missing.
c) Was the reviewed literature cited and summarized correctly? If not please indicate where correction or revision is needed.

14. Applicable GPRA Goal Goal 2: Protecting America's Waters

15. Description of and citation for any legal obligation/directive for SAB Review:
Not applicable

16. Principal interested and affected parties; information to be considered by SAB Staff Office in determinations of conflict of interest and impartiality. Trade associations (e.g., National Association of Homebuilders, National Association of Manufacturers) and environmental groups (e.g., American Rivers, National Wildlife Federation) are following this report. Media interest in this report expected to be moderate. There is also Congressional interest.

17. Type of SAB advice requested Peer Review

18. Why should the SAB advise on this Project? This report is a Highly Influential Scientific Assessment (HISA)

19. Disciplinary expertise requested Freshwater Streams, Lakes, and Rivers Science
· Limnology/water quality/hydrology/Aquatic chemistry, geochemistry; rivers; large rivers; Mississippi River Basin; nutrient dynamics (N, P, C, Si); sources, fate, and transport
· Limnology/water quality/hydrology/aquatic chemistry, geochemistry; rivers; smaller rivers and streams; Mississippi River Basin; nutrient dynamics (N, P, C, Si); sources, fate, and transport
· Limnology/water quality/hydrology/aquatic chemistry, geochemistry; lakes and reservoirs; Mississippi River

	Basin; nutrient dynamics (N, P, C, Si); fate and transport (removal, transformation, and downstream export)

20. Yearly budget for development of project or review document:

FY	2011
Extramural Budget	75,000.00
FTE	6

21. Past Peer Reviews:

An External Review Draft

22. Description of Quality Management/Quality Assurance used in development of this program or project:

23. Entered by:	Laurie Alexander
24. Phone for Person Entering Project Sheet:	703-347-8630

SAB Staff Office Project Management

1. Comments:

2. SABSO Background Statement

3. Senior Management memo requesting project

15. Additional EPA Staff Editors

History