Development of the Topics for WM2024 will go through the following Five Step process.

**Step 1 - Initial Screening by The PAC Chair of the WM2023 Program And Preparing The 1st Draft Of The 2024 Topic Listing.**

In preparation for the WM2024 Program, the PAC Chair, Gary Benda with Al Freitag and WMS staff reviewed the WM2023 Topic Listing, the abstracts received, and those solicited. We then prepare the 1st draft of WM2024 Topic Listing. Some topics have been removed either due to few or no abstracts in WM2023 or removed if the Topic was considered a one-time event. (Some “one-time” event Topics may be considered again for later conferences).

**Step 2 - Review by The Track Co-Chairs and Preparation Of A 2nd Draft Of The Topic Listing.**

The 1st draft from Step 1 was sent to the Track Co-Chairs for review. They determine any revisions or Topic consolidation based on their joint Track Co-chair discussion. The 2nd draft of WM2024 Topic Listing is then prepared.

**Step 3 – Volunteers Review 2nd Draft of The Topic Listing.**

The 2nd draft is sent to all volunteers, PAC Members and PAC Supporters. The Volunteers are requested to review document WM20-4C on the website, confirm new topics and provide any recommendations to the Lead Topic Organizer. New proposed Topics/Sessions are to be prepared and submitted using the on-line Form 10 for Track Co-Chair evaluation and approval. If they want to be listed as an Additional Organizer for an oral Topic, they should be prepared to solicit at least three abstracts. A 3rd draft of the topic listing is prepared from the volunteer comments and added to the web before the WM2023 conference.

**Step 4 – Track Co-Chairs and PAC Chair Review and Prepare the 4th Draft.**

During the week of the WM2023 conference, the volunteers will stimulate additional topics and evaluate the sessions they attend and provide feedback to the Track Co-Chairs. All new topics should be entered on a Form 10 on-line. After WM2023, the Track Co-Chairs and the PAC Chair will discuss through various webex calls the next revision. Each Track is requested to propose at least one new emerging topic for their track. The results will be consolidated, and a revised topic listing prepared, the 4th draft. It will be sent to the Volunteers for comments.

**Step 5 - The 5th Draft Is Prepared from The Volunteer and Used In The Call For Participation.**

The 5th draft incorporates all the comments from the volunteers and is used in preparing the Call for Participation and added to the WMS web page for WM2024. The Topic Listing is the corresponding detailed underpinning of the Call for Participation and for the September Program Development Meeting (PDM).