

CHARTER – Advisory Committee on Water Information

1. **Official Designation:** Advisory Committee on Water Information (ACWI).
2. **Scope and Objectives:** The ACWI advises the Federal Government, through the Department of the Interior (DOI), U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), on coordination of Federal water information programs. The purpose of the ACWI is to represent the interests of water-information users and professionals in advising the Federal Government on activities and plans related to Federal water-information programs and the effectiveness of those programs in meeting the Nation's water-information needs. ACWI members foster better communication between the Federal and non-Federal sectors on water-information acquisition, information sharing, and related technology transfer.
3. **Description of Duties:** More specifically, the ACWI will meet the objectives and requirements of Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Memorandum No. M-92-01, that directs the ACWI to establish more effective working relationships and foster collaboration with State and local agencies, Indian Tribes, and the private sector using the best technologies to disseminate information so as to improve the awareness of, availability of, and access to existing water-information holdings of Federal agencies and the non-Federal sector. The ACWI will provide advice and consultation toward a cost-effective national network of water-data collection and analysis that meets the priority water-information needs of the Federal Government and, to the extent possible within available resources, the needs of the non-Federal community that are tied to national interests. The ACWI will develop uniform standards, guidelines, and procedures for the collection, analysis, management, and dissemination of water information in order to improve quality, consistency, and accessibility nationwide. The ACWI will consider the effectiveness of existing water-information programs and recommend modifications needed to respond to changes in legislation, technology, and other conditions and will prepare and/or distribute documents that inform others about the conclusions, recommendations, and activities resulting from the Committee's deliberations.
4. **Committee Membership:**
 - A. **Members:** The ACWI will have a maximum of 35 members and their alternates, who will be appointed by the Secretary, based on recommendations from the USGS Associate Director for Water. Members will represent the interests of water-oriented organizations, including Federal, State and other government agencies, professional and technical societies, the academic community, and the private sector. These members will be selected from among, but not limited to, the following groups:
 - Federal agencies
 - Professional water-related associations
 - State and county water-related associations
 - Academia
 - Private industry
 - Water utility associations
 - Civil engineering societies
 - Watershed and land conservation associations
 - Ecological societies

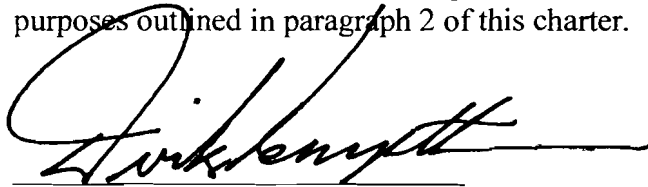
Lake, coastal and ocean associations
Environmental and educational groups

- B. Chair:** The Assistant Secretary for Water and Science, DOI, or his designee, will chair the ACWI. The Alternate Chair will be the Associate Director for Water of the USGS. The Chief, Water Information Coordination Program (WICP) will be the Executive Secretary.
- C. Allowances:** Members of the ACWI will receive no pay, allowances, or benefits by reason of their service on the Committee. However, while away from their homes or regular places of business, in the performance of services for the Committee, non-Federal members to the ACWI will be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, in the same manner as persons employed intermittently in Government service are allowed such expenses under Section 5703 of Title 5 of the United States Code.
- D. Terms:** Members will serve 4-year terms from the date of the designation letter and may be reappointed. If the ACWI is not re-chartered every two years, then the members' terms shall cease as of the same date the Committee's Charter expires. Members are expected to participate in ACWI meetings and activities. If a member fails to attend two consecutive ACWI annual meetings, the DFO may recommend that the Secretary terminate the member's appointment to the ACWI. All members serve at the pleasure of the Secretary.
- 5. Ethics Responsibilities of Members:** A committee or subcommittee member may not participate in any specific party matter in which the member, his/her spouse, or dependent child(ren) have a direct financial interest, including a lease, license, permit, contract, claim, agreement, or related litigation with the Department or DOI bureau.
- 6. Meetings and Procedures:** The ACWI will meet at least once a year and at such other times as designated by the Designated Federal Official (DFO).
- 7. Duration:** The total period of time necessary for the ACWI to carry out its activities is estimated to be for as long as the DOI operates national systems for acquiring and disseminating water information. The Committee will take no action unless the filing requirements of Sections 9 and 14 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) (5 U.S.C. Appendix) have been met, including renewal of this charter every two years.
- 8. Official to Whom the Committee Reports:** The ACWI reports to the Secretary of the Interior, through the Assistant Secretary for Water and Science.
- 9. Bureau Responsible for Support:** Support services for the activities of the Committee will be provided by the USGS, WICP.
- 10. Estimated Operating Costs:** Annual Federal operating costs for the Committee and its subcommittees are estimated to be \$900,000 that includes 6.5 FTE work years of staff support.
- 11. Termination Date:** The ACWI will terminate at such time as OMB Memorandum No. M-92-01 is rescinded. The Charter will lapse two years from the date this Charter is filed unless prior to that date it is renewed by the Secretary of the Interior in accordance with the FACA, 5 U.S.C. Appendix (1988).

12. Subordinate Groups: For assistance in conducting its business, the ACWI may establish subordinate groups. The role of such groups is limited to gathering information, conducting research, analyzing relevant issues and facts, and drafting proposed position papers and/or recommendations for deliberation and consideration by the ACWI. These groups will be established by the Chair, with the approval of the DFO and the ACWI. Members that serve on subordinate groups may include organizations or experts that are not members of the ACWI. The Terms of Reference for these groups will be reviewed and approved by the ACWI. These groups will report directly to the ACWI or, in some cases, through a subcommittee or a subordinate council. Formation of, membership on and meetings of any such subordinate group or committee is subject to approval by the DFO.

13. Designated Federal Official: The Chief WICP will serve as the DFO as required by Section 10 of the FACA.

14. Authority: The ACWI will operate in conformance with OMB Memorandum No. M-92-01, dated December 10, 1991, that requires the establishment of an advisory committee for the purposes outlined in paragraph 2 of this charter.



Secretary of the Interior

APR 09 2008

Filing Date

FEB 01 2008

Date