

WATER





“SHRINKING BUDGET WORKGROUP” Recommendations to ACWI

ACWI Meeting August 19, 2014
Reston, Virginia

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Overview



- Request from Assistant Secretary Castle for Advice and Recommendations, November 2012
- Process of Workgroup Participation and Deliberation
- Basis for Federal Investment
- Six Guiding Principles
- 12 Recommendations for ACWI Consideration



Workgroup Direction

From Assistant Secretary Castle's November, 2012 Letter:

- DOI intends to sustain and enhance water monitoring and related science for the Nation.
- ACWI was asked for recommendations to help USGS continue providing high-quality monitoring and related science within the framework of constrained financial resources.



Workgroup Direction



Castle's November, 2012 Letter (continued):

- Assist DOI and USGS in Identifying, Evaluating, and Prioritizing Options for:
 - Funding Sources
 - Collaboration and Leveraging
 - New and Emerging Technology
 - Prioritizing Monitoring Locations



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Workgroup Direction



Castle's November, 2012 Letter (continued):

- Assist DOI and USGS in Identifying, Evaluating, and Prioritizing Options for:
 - Improving Utility of Geospatial Data and Statistical Analysis
 - Reducing Cost of Monitoring
 - Collection, Management and Delivery of Data
 - Applications for Public Use

The Workgroup



- Strong Participation
- Broad Inquiry and Deliberation
 - USGS Briefings
 - Strategic Directions
 - Monitoring Networks and Infrastructure
 - Quality Assurance
 - Related Science
 - Budget and Recent Trends
 - ACWI Website Collection of Meeting Notes and Presentation Materials
 - Mid-Course Review with DOI and USGS Leadership



Basis for Federal Investment

- Federal Responsibilities include:
 - Negotiate and Monitor Compliance with International Treaties, Interstate Compacts, and Tribal Agreements
 - Design, Implement, Evaluate, and Improve Federal Programs, Projects, and Infrastructure
- National Benefits include:
 - Problem-Solving in Initiatives that Transcend State and Other Boundaries
 - Innovation Opportunities Derive from Interaction with Water Managers
 - National Economic Vitality and Resilience due to Water Availability and Public Safety



Hoover Dam 2010: 80-foot drop in water level

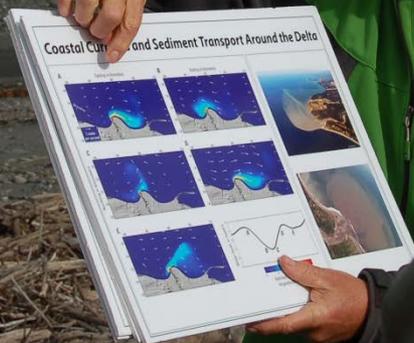
Six Guiding Principles

1. Water Data and Science Should Inform Decisions
2. Water Science Should Address the Whole Water Cycle
3. Water Science Requires Continuity of Water Data
4. Reducing Uncertainty and Risk Should be Weighed Against Costs and Benefits
5. Research Should Strengthen Water Science
6. Collaboration Should Leverage Ideas and Resources



12 Recommendations

1. Sustain the National Monitoring Networks
2. Defer Less-Critical Grants, Interpretive Investigations, Analytical Studies, and Research
 - Sustain Cost-Shared Investigations, Studies, and Research
3. Sustain Incentives to Build Partnerships



12 Recommendations



4. Address “Uncertainty” in Open, Scientific, and Cost-Effective Terms
5. Enhance Alignment of Priorities Between Water Science Centers and OFAs, State, and other Monitoring Agencies
6. Anticipate and Support Increased Roles for Other Agencies
7. Reevaluate NSIP Funding Distribution to Maximize Network Stability



12 Recommendations

8. Distribute NGWMN Funding According to Design Framework
9. Encourage Collaboration among WSCs and with other Agencies for Monitoring Site Maintenance Responsibilities
10. Extend Water Data Portal Capabilities
11. Maintain a Design Strategy for the Monitoring Networks
12. ACWI Subcommittee for Research, Development, and Innovation

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Questions, Discussion, Revisions AND Action?

- Responsive to Assistant Secretary Castle's Request?
- Justification of Federal Investment?
- Additional/Revised Recommendations?
- Linkage Between Principles and Recommendations?
- Plans for Final Report?
 - Proposed Uses, Audiences?
 - Need for an Executive Summary? Graphics? Pull-Boxes?

