

Newsletter of the Subcommittee on Hydrology

available on-line at: <http://acwi.gov/hydrology/index.html>

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Welcome from the Chair



Incoming Chair, Steve Blanchard (left), USGS, and Outgoing Chair, Sam Lin (right), FERC.

As I begin my term as Chair of the Subcommittee, I want to first state that I count it a real privilege to be able to serve in this capacity. I look forward to working with Mary Greene, the Vice-Chair, and all the members of the Subcommittee and its Workgroups to accomplish our purpose, which is to “improve the availability and reliability of surface-water quantity information needed for hazard mitigation, water supply and demand management, and environmental protection.”

Secondly, I want to recognize the excellent leadership provided by our most recent past Chair, Dr. S. Samuel Lin. Sam did an exceptional job of leading and improving the Subcommittee through increasing the number of member organizations, increasing the participation level of organization representatives, increasing the number

of Workgroups under the Subcommittee, development and distribution of the Subcommittee newsletter, and generally raising the energy level of the Subcommittee and its sphere of influence. On behalf of the whole Subcommittee, I want to express a big “Thank You” to Sam for all of his hard work and the excellent leadership he provided to the Subcommittee.

As I look ahead and consider priorities for my 2-year term as Chair of the Subcommittee, I want to focus my attention on the following 3 major activities.

1. Work toward the completion of the Hydrologic Frequency and Analysis Workgroup effort to revise Bulletin 17B. There is still a lot of work to be done here from testing of methods to vetting the revised Bulletin through

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About the Subcommittee on Hydrology

The Purpose of the Subcommittee on Hydrology is "To improve the availability and reliability of surface-water quantity information needed for hazard mitigation, water supply and demand management, and environmental protection." All members who join the SOH share in and support this common purpose as a network to fulfill our mission as defined in the Terms of Reference.

The subcommittee is currently chaired by Steve Blanchard of the United States Geological Survey. Steve can be reached by phone at 703-648-5629 or by e-mail at sfblanch@usgs.gov.

Detailed information about the subcommittee can be found at: <http://acwi.gov/hydrology/>

The Subcommittee on Hydrology reports to the Advisory Committee on Water Information that operates under the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

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the appropriate channels. This effort is very significant to the country and has important national implications.

2. Work toward increased membership and active functioning of the Hydrologic and Hydraulic GIS Applications Workgroup. This recently formed Workgroup exists to promote access and sharing of hydrologic and hydraulic related GIS data and applications and promote the inter-organizational development of GIS applications. The maturing of this Workgroup will result in important benefits to organizations regarding the availability, efficiency, and quality of hydrologic and hydraulic related GIS applications.
3. The formation of a Workgroup to accomplish the 3rd function of the Subcommittee listed in our Terms of Reference, which is to: "Create links among information systems to support easy access and to share precipitation, streamflow, and other related data. Adopt common terminology and definitions for documenting surface-water data. Establish a mechanism that uses modern information

technology to make data available to all interested parties." The accomplishment of this function will have great benefits for all those who need and use surface-water related data.

In addition to these 3 priority areas, I intend to continue efforts to maintain and improve the Subcommittee's functioning, out sphere of influence, and the execution of our Terms of Reference: (<http://acwi.gov/hydrology/hydrotref.html>).

The Subcommittee is an important part of the Advisory Committee on Water Information (ACWI). As demand increases for surface-water related resources in the United States, the importance of our role in (1) promoting collaboration and cooperation amongst water organizations, and (2) improving the availability and reliability of surface-water quantity information becomes even more critical. I look forward to serving as Chair of the Subcommittee over the next 2 years and especially for the opportunity to work closely with the Chairs of the Workgroups, the members of the Subcommittee, and the members of the Workgroups to accomplish our objectives.

Steve Blanchard

Chair, SOH
Chief, USGS Office of Surface
Water

Highlights from the October 2007 Meeting

A Note from Outgoing Chair, Sam Lin

It was with sincere gratitude and great humbleness I accepted the ACWI and USGS awards in the SOH's meeting of October 18, 2007. I can't elaborate enough on the pride I have taken in hearing the abundance of praise the SOH has continually received for its productivity. Those awards were presented to me, as the Subcommittee chair, in recognition of the work items produced by the group over the last couple years.

What has surprised and pleased me the most over my two-year tenure as the Chair were the times where I found myself devoting tremendous efforts to the Subcommittee and in turn benefiting proportionally through the amount of professional information exchanged. It has been, by way of internal and external coordination, communication,

cooperation and collaboration that I have learned to be a leader and a contributor to the SOH for the ACWI.

It has been my privilege and honor to have served all members in continuing and integrating the SOH's efforts over the past two years. I want to take this opportunity to thank again all members for their outstanding contributions in fulfilling the Subcommittee's purpose. I was very fortunate to have led such an esteemed group of individuals and am very proud to receive those awards which will be a reminder of the excellence which can only be achieved through teamwork.

Samuel Lin,
Outgoing Chair, SOH
FERC

Subcommittee Volunteers Recognized for their Support of SOH

The SOH's accomplishments were completed by volunteer members working together. The following persons were recognized at the Subcommittee's October 18th meeting with presentation of certificates of achievement and appreciation in gratitude of their dedicated service during the period of October 1, 2006 through September 31, 2007.

Donald Frevert, USBR, for successful leadership and dedication as Chair of the Hydrologic Workgroup and Chief Editor of the *SOH Connections* newsletter.

Carol Lewis, USGS, for dedicated effort in maintaining and updating the subcommittee's web-site.

William Merkel, NRCS, for initiating and leading the Hydrologic and Hydraulic GIS Applications Workgroup in an effort to benefit the hydrology and hydraulics GIS user and developer communities.

Mary Greene, OSM, for dedicated efforts serving as Associate Editor of the *SOH Connections* newsletter.

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Highlights from the October 2007 Meeting

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Eugene Stallings, National Hydrologic Warning Council, for actively sharing information at each meeting on current events within the hydrologic community.

Wilbert O. Thomas, Jr., representing the Association of State Floodplain Managers, for chairing the Hydrologic Frequency Analysis Workgroup to drive the revision of Bulletin 17B,

“Guideline for Determining Flood Flow Frequency” and promote public awareness of Workgroup activities.

Justin F. Smith, FERC, for commendable volunteer support of the Chair of the subcommittee.

Tammie Baker, FERC, for designing the Subcommittee’s creative poster and newsletter additions and other supportive work.

Featured Speaker

Dr. L Douglas James, NSF, (pictured right) provided an, “Overview of Hydrologic Research at the National Science Foundation” at the October 2007 SOH meeting in Washington, DC. His information is available on the SOH website by clicking the following link. http://acwi.gov/hydrology/minutes/SOH_James-Presentation.pdf



Workgroup Reports

Hydrologic Frequency Analysis Workgroup

<http://acwi.gov/hydrology/Frequency/index.html>

Information on the activities of the Workgroup can be obtained from Will Thomas. He can be reached by e-mail at WTHOMAS@mbakercorp.com

Satellite Telemetry Interagency Workgroup

<http://acwi.gov/hydrology/stiwig/index.html>

The last STIWG meeting was held in Savannah, GA, June 11, 2007. The meeting slated for November 6, 2007, Corpus Christi, TX, was cancelled due to scheduling conflicts. The next STIWG meeting will be held January 23 - 24, 2008 in Gulfport, Miss. The STIWG

representative from USGS will serve as Chairperson for 2008.

Meeting minutes and additional information on the activities of this workgroup can be obtained from Bonnie Wyatt. She can be reached by email at: bonniewyatt@fs.fed.us

Workgroup Reports

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Hydrologic Modeling Workgroup

<http://acwi.gov/hydrology/Hydro-Modeling/index.html>

A conference call of the Hydrologic Modeling Workgroup was held on December 5, 2007.

Progress was reviewed on the action items from the October 9th meeting. Problems have been encountered with getting the proceedings from the 1998, 2002 and 2006 Federal Interagency Hydrologic Modeling Conferences linked to the Subcommittee on Hydrology website. Those problems seem to have been the result of the subcommittee website being down.

Work is proceeding on preparations for the 2010 joint meeting with the Subcommittee on Sedimentation.

The site selection group visited five potential locations in Reno and Las Vegas during the week of December 10th. One more site in Orlando, FL will be visited in mid January. The site selection committee hopes to present its recommended site to the Subcommittee for concurrence at its January 24th meeting."

The next conference call is scheduled for Tuesday, February 12, 2008.

Teleconference minutes and additional information on the activities of the workgroup can be obtained from Don Frevert. He can be reached by phone at (303) 445-2473 or by e-mail at dfrevert@do.usbr.gov.

Hydrologic and Hydraulic GIS Applications Workgroup

<http://acwi.gov/hydrology/h2gisa/>

A teleconference of the Workgroup was held on November 5, 2007. The teleconference addressed building a list of GIS applications in hydrology and hydraulics and contacts. Members discussed the applications currently being developed and used within their own agencies.

Since the members of this workgroup do not have all the information available for the various applications, a questionnaire to distribute and request information will be written. The minimum information to be requested will be a web link, contact person, short summary, and data requirements. A hydrologic and/or

hydraulic model should be linked to GIS, be public domain, have user documentation, and be available on the web.

Representatives of federal agencies, state agencies, and others are invited to participate in the Workgroup. The next teleconference will be held January 7, 2008.

For additional information on the Workgroup or to become a member please contact Bill Merkel by phone at (301)-504-3956 or by e-mail at william.merkel@wdc.usda.gov

Latest News from Member Organizations

National Hydrologic Warning Council



The NHWC is pleased to announce that its website www.hydrologicwarning.org has been significantly revised and updated, depicting the latest in technological and institutional developments in flood warning programs and other uses of hydrologic information. The NHWC's role as a National Voice and its Mission Statement are highlighted.

The new website also unveils a new logo and motto... *"timely hydrologic information protects lives, property, and the environment"* and continues to provide convenient links to many affiliated organizations and agencies. Please take the opportunity to visit this state-of-the-art website and give us your feedback.

Article contributed by Gene Stallings, National Hydrologic Warning Council, <http://nhwc.udfcd.org>

Submitted by Eugene Stallings, NHWC.

Office of Surface Mining, Reclamation and Enforcement

Ground Water Database Development and Use in State Mining Regulatory Programs. The workshop, sponsored by the Interstate Mining Compact Commission and held in New Orleans, La., brought together individuals from 23 states and tribes. A few of the attendees were not from coal-producing states, but their regulation of other mining activities generates similar needs for effective data management.

Ten of the 53 participants were from OSM. A portion of the workshop addressed a risk based data management system which had been developed

through Department of Energy funding for the oil and gas regulatory environment but has been modified for use by state coal programs. A number of states gave formal presentations on their database development efforts. All states and tribes had an opportunity to describe the status of their data management systems. For additional information, contact: Greg Conrad, IMCC. Phone: (703) 709-8654.

<http://www.imcc.isa.us/Conference.htm>

Submitted by Mary Greene, OSM.

Upcoming Conferences and Calls for Papers



American Meteorological Society
88th AMS Annual Meeting
New Orleans, LA
20-24 January 2008
<http://www.ametsoc.org/meet/annual/index.html>



Geospatial Conference and meeting of SMCRA Geospatial Data Stewards
Atlanta, GA
March 24-29, 2008
<http://www.tips.osmre.gov/Geospatial2008/>



Western Snow Conference
Hood River Oregon
April 15-17, 2008
www.westernsnowconference.org



Association of American Geographers
Annual Meeting
Boston, MA
April 15 – 19, 2008
<http://www.aag.org/annualmeetings/2008/index.htm>



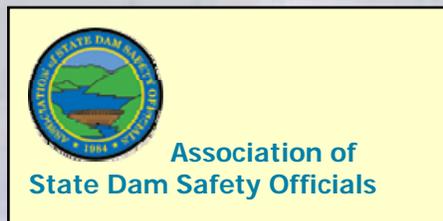
Association of State Floodplain Managers Annual Floodplain Management Conference
Reno-Sparks, Nevada
May 18-23, 2008
[http://www.floods.org/Conferences.%20Calendar/Reno-Sparks.asp](http://www.floods.org/Conferences/%20Calendar/Reno-Sparks.asp)



American Forests
National Conference on Urban Ecosystems
May 28 - 30, 2008
Caribe Royal Hotel
Orlando, Florida
www.americanforests.org/conference/conf_08.php



ConSoil 2008
10th International UFZ/TNO
Conference on Soil-Water Systems
Milano, Italy,
3-6 June 2008
<http://www.consoil.de/>



Association of State Dam Safety Officials
Dam Safety '08
Indian Wells, California
September 7-11, 2008
<http://damsafety.org/conferences/?p=8a505588-202e-4463-8fac-9b31475217ac>



<http://www.flood2008.org/flood/>



ASCE World Environmental and Water Resources Congress
Honolulu, Hawaii
May 12-16, 2008, Honolulu, Hawaii
<http://content.asce.org/conferences/ewri2008/>

Note:

Due to the large number of submissions for conferences and calls for papers, only the conference name, location and date along with the conference web-site are included. Please visit the web-sites for additional information.

Subcommittee Accomplishments for 2007

Highlighting the SOH's Achievements

Under the Advisory Committee on Water Information (ACWI) established in 1997, the SOH has been working toward our mission in improving surface-water quantity information in availability, reliability, and management in the U.S. We have succeeded with special thanks to the contributions of our member organizations and their representatives who see that a strong subcommittee is a vital component of the mission. What we have today is built on the most important foundation established and integrated over the past ten years.

DEFINED FUNCTIONS: Although we have achieved what we planned to do, further scrutiny of all defined functions for the SOH can help us to further our contributions in a collective, progressive manner. As a recap for members, the SOH's functions have been defined in its Terms of Reference as listed below:

- Institutional Partnerships
- Data Acquisition and Reduction – develop procedures to improve the interpretation and integration of data
- Information Management and Sharing
- Methods and Data Comparability
- Reporting and Public Education
- Training

The SOH is a group of “can do” and “willing to do” participants who have contributed extensive and unselfish efforts which enabled the subcommittee to reach its milestones. Although the SOH has done more than what it initially proposed, in order to maintain this level of achievement in the long-term, some efforts will need to be stepped up in the future. Any suggestions on how to lead the SOH in doing so to keep up this good work will be appreciated.

ACHIEVEMENTS: With the ACWI's support to continue successful implementation of its purpose, the SOH has achieved various major milestones over the last two years. This is in addition to our regular quarterly meetings which have afforded us the opportunity to carry out much beneficial information exchange and discussions on pertinent topics. The SOH succeeds because of its unselfish members volunteering and devoting their free time to striving to achieve those goals established by the subcommittee. As a group, we can be considered the heir to the ancient sages and the teacher of posterity. Collectively, in the past two years, we have accomplished the publicly recognized achievements listed below (Refer to the SOH's web site for a more detailed discussion).

Workgroup Accomplishments

I. Interagency Conference by HMWG:

- [Joint 8th Federal Interagency Sedimentation and 3rd Hydrologic Modeling Conferences](#), April 2-6, 2006 Reno, NV

II. Issue Papers by HFAWG and STIWG:

- The HFAWG's issue paper on the subject, “Usage of Expected Moments Approach to Modify the Bulletin 17B” presented in 2006 ACWI's annual meeting
- The STIWG's issue paper on the subject, “GOES DCS Vulnerabilities” presented in 2007 ACWI's annual meeting

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Subcommittee Accomplishments for 2007

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General Accomplishments

I. New Member Organizations:

- Nuclear Regulatory Commission
- NASA/Goddard Space Flight Center
- Office of Surface Mining

II. Public Awareness and Networking:

- The first SOH quarterly newsletter, *SOH Connections* issued on December 15, 2006
- Inviting internal and external speakers to present on pertinent hydrologic topics
- Developing professional connections among the SOH's members through various lines of communication including meetings, email, phone calls, newsletters, etc.
- Informing the ACWI of the SOH activities via email, phone calls, etc. and by presenting an annual report and Workgroups' issue papers at the ACWI annual meeting
- Reaching out to other hydrology professional affiliations, such as the Committee on Hydrologic Science of National Research Council, the Association of State Dam Safety Officials (ASDSO), ASCE, American Geophysical Union (AGU)'s Hydrology Section Executive Committee, etc.

III. Visibility and Publicity Enhancement

Enriching information about the SOH and associated Workgroups on the web by providing the following, in addition to the SOH's meeting minutes:

- Held/sponsored meetings, conferences, and/or workshops
- Products: Newsletter, paper publications, etc.
- Annual reports and issue papers to the ACWI
- Charges of Workgroups
- Histories of the SOH and associated Workgroups
- Updates of above information

IV. Newly Approved or Proposed Subordinate Groups

- Hydrologic and Hydraulic GIS Applications Workgroup (H2GISAWG)
- Proposed Extreme Storm Workgroup
- Discussed to propose HIS (Hydrologic Information System) Workgroup to explore a possible collaborative hydrologic database solution.

V. Special Topic Presentations in the SOH Meetings

A table listing all members and invited guests who made special topic presentations at the SOH quarterly meetings appears on the next page.

VI. Others

- The SOH members share information on current events within the hydrologic community at the SOH meetings.
- The SOH and Workgroup web sites - updated information is continually provided and done in a timely manner.

All those who have advised, led and/or assisted by making substantial contributions to the SOH in order to continue to meet its purpose, particularly the workgroup chairs, the newsletter editors and the ACWI, are greatly appreciated.

Submitted by Samuel Lin, Outgoing Chair, SOH

Special Topic Presentations in the SOH Meetings

Topic	Presenter	Organization	Date of Meeting
<i>USACE's Recovery Effort and Ongoing Activities in the Post-Hurricane Katrina Assessment</i>	Jerry Webb	USACE (Army Corps of Engineers)	1/12/06
<i>Coastal Storm Events - FHWA Plan of Action</i>	Joe Krolak	FHWA (Federal Highway Administration)	7/27/06
<i>Recent Trends in Climate and Their Impact on Water Resources</i>	Robert Livezey	NWS	7/27/06
<i>A Collective Approach to Collect Spatial Water Data in the US</i>	Todd Dabolt	EPA	10/26/06
<i>NASA Water Science and Applications</i>	David Toll/ Edwin Engman	NASA	1/11/07
<i>Information Quality Act</i>	Margo Schwab	OMB	4/12/07
<i>Overview of CUAHSI Hydrologic Information System</i>	David Maidment	U. of Texas (in Austin)	4/12/07
<i>Integrating Ground-based, Space-based, and Airborne Observations for Water Studies</i>	William Logan ⁽¹⁾ and Eric Wood ⁽²⁾	(1) National Research Council (2) Princeton University	7/26/07
<i>Hydrologic Science at the National Science Foundation</i>	L. Douglas James	NSF	10/18/07

Editor's Corner

Thank you to those who provided news and information for this issue of the newsletter. Without your efforts, the newsletter would not be possible.

Effective October 18, Mary Greene took over as Chief Editor of the newsletter, following in the footsteps of Donald Frevert who served as inaugural Chief Editor. Claudia Hoeft volunteered to serve as the Associate Editor for the coming year.

To submit articles for future issues, please contact either Mary or Claudia.

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Mary Greene – Office of Surface Mining,
Denver, Colorado mgreene@osmre.gov
(303) 844-1400 x1438

Associate Editor:
Claudia Hoeft – USDA NRCS,
Washington, DC
claudia.hoeft@wdc.usda.gov
(202) 720-0772



Mary Greene (l), Chief Editor, and Claudia Hoeft (r), Associate Editor, at October 18, 2007 meeting of the SOH.

Upcoming Meetings

Subcommittee on Hydrology – January 24, 2008 – Department of the Interior, Washington, DC