

Closing statement from the Chair of the GIS Applications in Hydrology and Hydraulics Work Group

Presented by William Merkel, Hydraulic Engineer, USDA-NRCS, Beltsville, MD

The Chair wishes to acknowledge the fine contributions of the members of the Work Group in conducting the tasks completed and participating in the many teleconferences over the past several years. The interaction among Work Group members has contributed to information sharing and cooperation among the federal agencies and private industry, both of which were represented on the Work Group. The interaction has also contributed to development of personal contacts among those interested in GIS applications in hydrology and hydraulics which will continue well into the future.

The primary products of the Work Group are available from the web site linked to that of the Subcommittee on Hydrology at <http://acwi.gov/hydrology/>. A number of GIS applications in hydrology and hydraulics were investigated by the Work Group. Each of these has a development/support team and a group of users. In general, there is communication in both directions with respect to new developments or enhancements by the model developers and proposals for enhancements by the group of users. Each application represents a significant investment of time and personal resources which has filled a needed niche in the professional work of hydrologists and engineers.

There are various professional organizations which promote communication of those working with GIS and hydrology/hydraulics. One of the primary ones is the American Water Resources Association which hosts specialty conferences in GIS and Water Resources. Another type of conference is the Federal Interagency Hydrologic Modeling Conference. Those interested in keeping up with new developments in this field are recommended to attend those conferences. In addition, the applications investigated by the Work Group have web sites where the applications are available and also information on updates and opportunities to provide feedback from application users.

In closing, the efforts of the Work Group are appreciated and thanks are extended to those members and their supervisors and managers who supported the member's participation.