



ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON WATER INFORMATION

HYDROLOGY SUBCOMMITTEE

MINUTES July 6, 2000

The meeting was held in Penthouse Conference room of the Interior Building. Tom Yorke, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm. The following members, alternates and guests attended the meeting:

Name	Organization	Email Address
Tom Yorke	US Geological Survey	tyorke@usgs.gov
Douglas James	National Science Foundation	idjames@nsf.gov
Will Thomas	Assoc. of State Floodplain Managers	wthomas@mbakercorp.com
Glenn Austin	National Weather Service	glenn.austin@noaa.gov
Robert Swain	Bureau of Reclamation	rswain@do.usbr.gov
Martin Becker	Defenders of Property Rights	martin_becker@prodigy.net
Gene Stallings	National Hydrologic Warning Council	EASPE@aol.com
Eric Janes	Bureau of Land Management	eric_b_janes@blm.gov
Sam Lin	Federal Energy Regulatory Commission	shyangchin.lin@ferc.fed.us
David Wingerd	Corps of Engineers	ming.tseng@usace.army.mil
Jane Thurman	Agricultural Research Service	
Ken Brooker	Corps of Engineers	

The Subcommittee reviewed the minutes of the April 6, 2000 meeting and approved the minutes with one minor editorial change.

Frequency Analysis: Martin Becker reported on the progress of the Hydrologic Frequency Analysis Work Group, which had met that morning. The work group did not have a quorum so elections were not held. Martin discussed the membership and quorum issues. Currently two-thirds of the 21 members need to be present. Martin will contact the membership by email to determine who will attend the work group meetings in person or through teleconference in order to establish if a quorum is present. Martin and Don Woodward will continue to serve as liaisons to the Subcommittee.

The activity of compiling Bulletin 17B FAQs has become a forum for frequency analysis issues and a defacto list of activities for the work group. The draft FAQs will be circulated for review

by September 25. The final FAQs will be submitted to the Subcommittee and posted on the ACWI and FEMA web page in January

Will Thomas and Rick McCuen are preparing draft guidelines for evaluating flood frequency estimates for ungaged watersheds. The draft will be circulated to work group members by August 25. The work group is proposing to serve the guidelines on the ACWI and FEMA web pages in January 2001. The work on regulated flows is just in the discussion stage. The work group is looking at the types of regulation and how to deal with each. They will be developing a flow chart; the first draft should be available by October 25.

Hydrologic Modeling: Bob Swain distributed a draft agenda for the Hydrologic Processes Modeling Workshop scheduled for November 8 and 9 in Tucson, AZ. Anticipated attendance by about 50 will be by invitation only. Key agenda topics to date are: Software Development Philosophy and Environment; Roles of State, Federal, University & Private Organizations; Appropriate Use and Guidance for Use of Models; and Measures of Model Performance. Tom Yorke reiterated his previous recommendation for inclusion of water quality modeling as a topic, or at least have a discussion on the links between hydrologic models and sediment transport and dissolved constituent transport models.

Membership: Tom Yorke welcomed Shyang-Chin (Sam) Lin as the new FERC representative on the Subcommittee. Ken Fearon will be the alternate from FERC. Tom also discussed the status of the Forest Service and EPA membership. Officially, both agencies should be removed from the membership role because a representative or alternate has not attended one-half the meetings in FY 2000. Tom will send letters to the current representatives and alternates requesting that their agencies consider nominating other individuals that will be able to participate on the Subcommittee.

Announcements: Doug James announced two recent reports: one on research needs in hydrology and the other on the global change research program. The report, "A Framework for Reassessment of Basic Research and Education Priorities in Hydrologic Sciences," is available at <http://cires.colorado.edu/hydrology/40.html>. The global change research report is undergoing an interagency review prior to being released to the Internet.

Martin Becker reported that his organization is focusing on intellectual property rights. Martin also reluctantly announced that he recently had his first hole-in-one. Congratulations.

Tom Yorke reported on the continuing reorganization of the USGS. Line authority for implementing programs in the future will be from the Director through three Regional Directors. The former division chiefs are now Associate Directors for Science (Water, Geology, Mapping and Biology).

Eric Janes reported the Unified Federal Policy for Watershed Management is expected to be approved this month and published in The Federal Register in August or September.

Glenn Austin provided copies of the service assessment report for Hurricane Floyd. He also announced an upcoming Distributed Modeling Conference. Mike Smith of the Hydrology Lab, 301-713-0640x128, is the point of contact.

Dave Wingerd reported that the reorganization and move of the COE is still progressing. The Engineering/Construction Division will move to Ft. Belvoir in September. There will be a Water Resources Branch and Earl Eiker (the current Chief of Hydrology and Hydraulics) will lead a Watershed Team.

Will Thomas reported an attendance of over 700 at the June 19-23, 2000 ASFPM Conference in Austin, TX. At this conference, ASFPM released a new publication on floodplain management entitled "National Flood Programs in Review - 2000" that identifies those national policies and programs that could be improved to better serve the Nation. The report can be retrieved in pdf format from: www.floods.org/PDF%20files/2000-fpm.pdf

Sam Lin reported FERC is well along in the process of adopting modified Probable Maximum Flood guidelines. The revised guidelines are open for comment until September. The guidelines are available on FERC's homepage (<http://www.ferc.fed.us>).

Next Meeting: The Corps of Engineers has agreed to host the next meeting at Ft. Belvoir. The meeting will be held from 1000 to 1230 on October 5.

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URL: <http://acwi.gov/hydrology/minutes/Minutes.july2000final.pdf>