



ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON WATER INFORMATION
HYDROLOGY SUBCOMMITTEE

MINUTES
Oct 5, 2000

The meeting was held at the Corps of Engineers, Room 7123C 20 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
 Time: 10:00 am to 12:10 pm. The following members and guests attended the meeting:

Name	Organization	Email Address
Glenn Austin	NOAA/National Weather Service	glenn.austin@noaa.gov
Martin Becker	Defenders of Property Rights	martin_becker@prodigy.net
David Farrell	U.S. Department of Agriculture	daf@ars.usda.gov
Donald Frevert	Bureau of Reclamation	dfrevert@do.usbr.gov
Mike Grimm	FEMA	michael.grimm@fema.gov
Douglas James	National Science Foundation	idjames@nsf.gov
Eric Janes	Bureau of Land Management	eric_b_janes@blm.gov
Shyang-Chin (Sam) Lin	Fed Energy Regulatory Comm	shyangchin.lin@ferc.fed.us
William Merkel	U.S. Department of Agriculture	wmerkel@hydrolab.arsusda.gov
Gene Stallings	National Hydrologic Warning Council	EASPE@aol.com
Wilbert Thomas	Michael Baker, Jr	wthomas@mbakercorp.com
Ming Tseng	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	ming.tseng@usace.army.mil
Donald Woodward	U.S. Department of Agriculture	don.woodward@usda.gov
Tom Yorke	US Geological Survey	tyorke@usgs.gov
Larry Wenzel	NOAA/National Weather Service	larry.wenzel@noaa.gov

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|---|---------------------|
| 1. Review of the agenda and time schedule | Yorke |
| 2. Introduction of members and quests | All |
| 3. Approval of minutes of July meeting | Yorke |
| 4. Election of new Vice Chair | Yorke |
| 5. Report of Hydrologic Frequency Analysis work group | Becker and Woodward |
| 6. Report of the Modeling work group | Frevert and Tseng |
| 7. New business | Austin |

8. Statements from guests
9. Information exchange

Austin
All

1. Review of the agenda and time schedule

The agenda shown above was approved.

2. Introduction of members and guests

Each person introduced themselves and announced who they represented.

3. Approval of minutes of July meeting

The Subcommittee approved the July 2000 minutes.

4. Election of new Vice Chair

The Chair explained the rules for electing the Vice Chair. The subcommittee took nominations for the Vice-Chair position. Will Thomas and Mike Grimm were both nominated. After some discussion of the responsibilities and duties of the position, Mike Grimm was elected by vote 7-6 as the Vice-Chair. The Chair and Vice-Chair will serve for the next two years at which time the Vice-Chair becomes Chair.

Glen Austin assumed the role of Chair. The group expressed its thanks to Tom Yorke for serving as the Chair for the last 18 months.

5. Report of Hydrologic Frequency Analysis Work Group

Martin Becker reported on the activities of the frequency analysis work group. Members have been communicating by email to work on the three major tasks of the work group. Mr. Becker also discussed the role of "active" vs. "participating member" and that all were requested via email to decide on which role they would interact with the group. The primary difference being that active members are permitted to vote on the issues, whereas participating members may provide comment on the issues, but do not vote. There was some discussion that a clarification email should be sent by Mr. Becker to all members to make sure that everyone understands the differences before making a final decision.

The work group continues to discuss the guidance for estimating discharges in ungaged areas. Will Thomas, Mike Grimm, and Rick McCuen have completed a new draft position paper for the purpose of focusing the issue. [ACTION] The final draft will be distributed in the next 2-3 weeks to the workgroup for review and comment.

Bill Kirby and Jerry Coffey continue to compile the frequently asked questions (FAQs) about flood frequency analysis that were submitted by work group members. Martin Becker discussed the need to better focus the FAQ's by defining the end user and will pursue this. A final draft of the FAQs has not been circulated to date.

Members are sending each other comments on what constitutes regulated flow so they can begin to address the frequency analysis of regulated streams and rivers. Several documents and case examples have distributed via email by various members that discuss the various methodologies being used and accepted by different agencies. There appears to be general agreement that there is not "one method", but rather a variety of approaches.

6. Report of the Modeling Work Group

Don Frevert and Ming Tseng reported on the hydrologic modeling work group. They are working on finalizing plans for the modeling workshop scheduled for November 8 and 9, 2000. The workshop will be held at the Sheraton Hotel in Tucson, AZ. The program format includes a plenary session followed by four focus panel discussions and subsequent breakout sessions. 53 RSVPs have been received to date. The purpose of the workshop is to scope out issues for the 2002 Conference. Those interested in receiving a copy of the agenda should contact Don. The product of the workshop is proceedings and identification of key topics for the 2002 conference. Doug Glysson, Don Frevert, and Steve Markstrom will be making hotel and facility management arrangements for the 2002 conference.

7. New Business

There was discussion that EPA and the Forest Service need to be pursued for participation in the subcommittee. It was discussed that if members cannot attend the meeting, then alternates should attend. The Chair suggested the committee had been tolerant in the past and the Subcommittee adhere to the by-laws. **[ACTION]** The Chair will write a formal letter to the EPA and Forest Service requesting their presence or they will be dropped from the committee. Tom Yorke will provide Glenn Austin with past requests for attendance to help decide how to pursue the agencies participation.

It was noted that the Interstate Council on Water Policy (ICWP) has inquired about membership. Tom will pass this information onto Glen as well.

Tom Yorke provided an update on the Hydrometric Determinations Committee (TC 113) of the International Standards Organization (ISO) and distributed a current list of ISO standards and cross-referenced ASTM standards. TC 113 and its Subcommittees develop new standards for hydrometric determinations and review existing standards on five-year intervals for completeness and relevancy. During five-year reviews standards may be adopted for another five years, discontinued or modified.

The chair and secretary of TC 113 are from India. The USGS is the Administrator of TC 113 for the USA. The chairs and secretaries of Subcommittees of TC 113 are shown below.

SUBCOMMITTEE	CHAIR	SECRETARY
SC 1-Velocity Area Methods	UK	India

SC 2-Notches, Weirs, and Flumes	Netherlands	UK
SC 3-Terminology and Symbols	UK	UK
SC 5-Instruments, Equipment and Data Management	USA	USA
SC 6-Sediment Transport	India	India
SC 8-Ground Water	USA	USA

Tom invited member organizations to participate in TC 113 and its subcommittees. Participation could include developing new standards or reviewing existing standards or changes to existing standards. Any interested organizations should send a name of a contact to Tom. He will notify the contacts that standards are being developed or scheduled for review.

Don Woodward provided an update on the Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) NRCS/USGS effort. Don said the report will be presented to the subcommittee in the near future. He will request a formal request for review.

Mr Grimm noted the ACWI Hydrology Subcommittee website needs to be updated with recent meeting minutes and membership rosters etc. **[ACTION]** Tom Yorke said he would follow up on this and provide the name of a contact as USGS to provide with future information to be posted.

8. Statements from Guests

No statements provided

9. Information Exchange

- a. NWS - provided an update on the reorganization of NWS headquarters. The Office of Hydrology was split. The Operations staff will be assigned to the Office of Climate, Water and Weather, Hydrologic Services Division. The remaining staff will be in the Office of Hydrologic Development.
- b. USGS - reported on a substantial budget appropriation increase for the Streamgage Program and the Ground Water Resources Program.
- c. NRCS - reported that the recent fires in the northwest have damaged 41 of 650 snotel sites. Efforts are underway to repair damaged SNOTEL sites. Also reported that a bill is before Congress to rehab dams that have reached "useful life" that includes new staffing. To meet the increased workload caused by the aging structures, NRCS has established a new staff in Fort Worth of 23 persons.
- d. COE - reported that the Corps headquarters has moved to the GAO building on H St. The Engineering Division will be moving to Ft. Belvoir. **ACTION** Mr. Tseng will send his new email, new address and phone number to the Chair.

- e. USBR - noted that a new commissioner would be coming soon.
- f. National Hydrologic Warning Council announced the Southwest Association of ALERT Systems (SAAS) will be hosting their annual conference in late October 25-27 in Denver. Mr. Stallings will provide a presentation to "The National Hydrologic Warning Council and the Hydrology Subcommittee, Past, Present and Future."
- g. FEMA - reported that there is potential for increased funding for Map Modernization. Also reported on the future condition hydrology effort.
- h. FERC - noted that the new PMF guidelines are in review
- i. BLM - reported that \$1.8 million had been approved in response to recent fires. Also requested that if any of the membership agencies were aware of student research in regard to fires, they would like to be contacted

[ACTION] The Chair requested that everyone consider the short and long-term vision for the subcommittee and to be prepared to discuss this topic at the next meeting.

Mr. Austin suggested the Subcommittee consider as a future goal a Water Information Clearinghouse and utilize such resources as the Internet using www.water.gov as a means of information exchange with our customers. He reported on the FEMA/North Carolina Cooperating Technical State (CTS) Agreement making NC the first cooperative technical state. The agreement involves activities related to flood hazard mapping.

The Chair informed the committee future meetings will be held at National Weather Service Headquarters in Silver Spring. **[ACTION]** The Chair will provide directions, date and time of next meeting to all members.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, January 25, 2001, 10:00 - 12:30 p.m in Silver Spring, MD.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 PM.

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URL: <http://acwi.gov/hydrology/minutes/Minutes.oct2000final.pdf>