

**MEETING OF
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON WATER INFORMATION'S (ACWI'S)
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HYDROLOGY (SOH)**

8:00 a.m. – Noon, PACIFIC TIME

June 25, 2010

Meeting Room Capri 110

Riviera Hotel and Casino

Las Vegas, NV

Dial In Information:

Number: 1-888-830-6260

Participant Code: 975680

FINAL MINUTES

AGENDA

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| 1. Welcome and Introductions | Claudia Hoeft |
| 2. Review and Approval of Agenda | Claudia Hoeft |
| 3. Joint Federal Interagency Conference Announcements | Doug Glysson |
| 4. Approval of Minutes from April 29, 2010 | Claudia Hoeft |
| 5. Status of Action Items from April 29, 2010 Meeting | Claudia Hoeft |
| 6. Review of SOH slides for ACWI Meeting, July 13-14, Reston, VA | Claudia Hoeft |
| 7. National Hydrologic Information System (HIS) development and SOH effort and status of a new Water Data Work Group under SOH | David Goodrich |
| 8. Hydrologic Modeling Work Group | Don Frevert |
| 9. Hydrologic Frequency Analysis Work Group | Will Thomas |
| 10. Hydrologic and Hydraulic GIS Applications Work Group | William Merkel |
| 11. Extreme Storms Work Group | Tom Nicholson |
| 12. Current Events within Hydrologic Communities | All |
| 13. Announcements and Q&A on Business Reports from Member Organizations | All |
| • <i>"The SOH CONNECTIONS" Newsletter Editor's Report</i> | |
| ○ Claudia Hoeft (USDA) Editor and Richard Raione (NRC) Co-Editor | |
| 14. Plans for Next Meeting | Claudia Hoeft |

Adjourn

Summary of the Meeting

Prepared by Claudia C. Hoeft, USDA - NRCS

Attendees

Subcommittee on Hydrology Members

Martin Becker	Defenders of Property Rights (DPR)	<i>(by phone)</i>
Don Frevert	Bureau of Reclamation (BoR), Retired	
Dave Goodrich	USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS)	<i>(by phone)</i>
Claudia Hoeft	USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)	
Victor Hom	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA/NWS)	
Sam Lin	Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)	
Robert Mason	United States Geologic Survey (USGS)	<i>(by phone)</i>
William Merkel	USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)	<i>(by phone)</i>
Gene Stallings	National Hydrologic Warning Council (NHWC)	<i>(by phone)</i>
Nancy Steinberger	Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)	<i>(by phone)</i>
Will Thomas	Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM)	<i>(by phone)</i>
Donald Woodward	American Forests	

Subcommittee on Sedimentation Guests

Doug Glysson	United States Geologic Survey (USGS)	
Paula Makar	United States Geologic Survey (USGS)	
Matt Römken	Agricultural Research Service	

1. Welcome and Introductions

Claudia Hoeft

Mary Greene, Chair, Subcommittee on Hydrology (SOH) was unable to attend this meeting due to injury she sustained following a fall in her driveway. Claudia Hoeft, Vice-Chair SOH, filled in for Mary to run this meeting. Claudia reported that she spoke with Mary earlier in the week and Mary indicated she wasn't sure when she might return to work as the injuries were fairly serious and she was taking a lot of pain medication.

Claudia Hoeft, Vice-Chair, welcomed all SOH members and Subcommittee on Sedimentation (SOS) guests to this meeting in Las Vegas as a prelude to the Joint Federal Interagency Conference (JFIC) on Hydrologic Modeling and Sedimentation.

2. Review and Approval of Agenda

Claudia Hoeft

Claudia Hoeft proposed a change to the agenda to allow Doug Glysson, conference chair for JFIC, to speak prior to the Approval of the Minutes from the April 29, 2010 meeting. Doug has a number of announcements regarding conference activities and the need for help from SOH and SOS members.

3. Joint Federal Interagency Conference Announcements

Doug Glysson

Doug Glysson, conference chair for JFIC, reported that the USGS in Las Vegas has volunteered to bring boxes from the office (where most items were shipped) to the hotel. He asked that SOH members be ready to break at 9:30 a.m. in order to help unload boxes if necessary. On Saturday, June 26, help is needed to set up to help stuff bags for the registration counter. Currently there are about 460 persons registered for the conference. Four years ago Reno had 150 people register as walk-ins. Not that many are expected here, but there will be extra registration bags prepared for walk-ins. At 5:30 p.m. this evening there will be an organizational meeting in Doug's room.

4. Approval of Minutes from April 29, 2010

Claudia Hoeft

Several people submitted minor corrections to the minutes from the April 29, 2010 meeting to Claudia Hoeft via e-mail. Claudia thanked those individuals. Those changes have been incorporated. No further revisions were suggested. The minutes were approved with the incorporated revisions. *Claudia Hoeft will send minutes from the April 29, 2010 meeting to Carol Lewis for posting on the SOH web-site.*

5. Status of Action Items from April 29, 2010 Meeting

Claudia Hoeft

- 1) Dave Goodrich, ARS, will re-send information on File-sharing.
Complete.
- 2) Mary Greene will post ACWI presentation slides for SOH on the SOH web-site.
To be discussed further at this meeting.
- 3) SOH members should send suggestions/revisions to the slides by the end of May.
Complete.
- 4) Slides will be updated/revised at the June meeting.
To be discussed at this meeting.
- 5) All subcommittee representatives are asked to let Mary know if they will be attending in Las Vegas in person or if they will be dialing in.
Complete.
- 6) Mary Greene will check on the time and meeting room at the hotel for the meeting and let members know.
Complete.
- 7) Members submit items for newsletter to Claudia Hoeft and/or Richard Raione by May 15, 2010.
To be discussed further at this meeting.
- 8) SOH Connections newsletter issued by June 1st (or prior to JFIC).
To be discussed further at this meeting.

6. Review of SOH slides for ACWI Meeting, July 13-14, Reston, VA

Claudia Hoeft

Will Thomas reported that Steve Blanchard will be making the presentation for SOH at the July 13-14 ACWI meeting. Will has agreed to serve as a backup. Neither Mary Greene nor Claudia Hoeft are able to attend. All of the Work Group members provided input on the slides and there have not been changes since the last set was prepared for the February 2010 meeting which was canceled because of the snow storms. Dave Goodrich reported that he may have some additional information to provide. ***SOH members are asked to review the slides for the ACWI presentation (sent out by Mary on February 5, 2010) and return any comments or suggestions to Steve Blanchard by July 7, 2010 so that he has time to incorporate changes prior to the ACWI meeting.***

7. National Hydrologic Information System (HIS) development and SOH effort and status of a new Water Data Work Group under SOH

David Goodrich

Via e-mail, David provided an update in the form of .ppt slides (see file Howe we work with agencies on web service-HIS_pptx.pdf) from Ilya Zaslavsky is Co-chair of the of the Hydrology Data Work Group (HydroDWG), of the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) work group on Data Standards. A OGC meeting was conducted last week in Silver Spring, MD. The presentations at HydroDWG (including a brief plenary report) are available at http://external.opengeospatial.org/twiki_public/bin/view/HydrologyDWG/SilverSpringTc2010. There was significant engagement by US federal agencies at this meeting, especially by USGS and NOAA.

David proposes to put Ilya in touch with Steve Blanchard, or have Ilya send a few slides to Steve for the ACWI presentation. David Goodrich also asked David Maidment for an update on ESRI starting to publish real-time through its Water ML services and was provided the following information:

- 1) WaterML 2.0 is on its path to the standard (hopefully by early 2010, perhaps by March). A draft specification was presented at the meeting. Next steps include RFC period, and forming a Standards work group that will address all comments before presenting it to OGC architecture board and for voting.
- 2) Harmonization report updated and voted in as a discussion paper
- 3) We had a workshop in March, attended by ~25 people from many countries – to develop HDWG workplan, and explore how we move ahead with WaterML 2, modeling, forecasting issues, etc. see David Lemon's PPT. Prior to the March workshop, we had a meeting at WMO (in February), to settle coordination between WMO and HDWG.

- 4) A new data Interoperability Experiment (IE) kicked off on 6/16 – focused on Surface Water. An ongoing IE is focused on groundwater (US and Canada). There is detailed info on the HDWG web page http://external.opengeospatial.org/twiki_public/bin/view/HydrologyDWG/SurfacewaterInteroperabilityExperiment, and http://external.opengeospatial.org/twiki_public/bin/view/HydrologyDWG/GroundwaterInteroperabilityExperiment).
- 5) We are planning additional IEs (each IE to last for a year, and starting them every 6 months or so – at least this is what it has been taking to prepare an IE): on hydrologic forecasting (see the great talk that John made at the meeting); water quality (with significant ontology development ingredient), and water use (see talk by Mark Nardi).

8. Hydrologic Modeling Work Group

Don Frevert

The main purpose of the Hydrologic Modeling Work Group (HMWG) is to organize the Federal Interagency Hydrologic Modeling Conference (FIHMC) – now part of the JFIC – every four years. This Monday the conference kicks off with some 460 registered attendees. A few on-line and/or walk-in registrations are expected as well. There are student competitions with prizes going to the 1st and 2nd place for both posters and papers. The short courses on Curve Number and EXCEL Spreadsheet are a go on Sunday and Thursday respectively.

Jerry Webb, USACE, has volunteered to chair the work group; and Joseph Giacinto, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, has volunteered to serve as work group vice-chair. E-mail concurrence from the work-group members has been requested and an official nomination is being made thru the Subcommittee. *Don Frevert will send the Jerry and Joseph's names forward to SOH for approval after the conference concludes.* The ACWI presentation slides for HMWG will be revised to list Jerry and Joseph as nominees for work group chair and vice-chair.

9. Hydrologic Frequency Analysis Work Group

Will Thomas

Will Thomas reported that there is no additional information from the Hydrologic Frequency Analysis Work Group (HFAWG) since the last meeting in April. The next meeting time is undetermined right now, but regular meetings will reconvene after JFIC and the July 4th holidays.

10. Hydrologic and Hydraulic GIS Applications Work Group

William Merkel

Bill Merkel reported that he is presenting a paper at JFIC on Monday afternoon regarding the workgroup activities. The work group has a teleconference scheduled for after JFIC.

11. Extreme Storms Work Group

Tom Nicholson

Tom Nicholson was unable to attend this meeting. Robert Mason and Gene Stallings reported that there has not been a meeting of the work group since the last SOH meeting.

12. Current Events within Hydrologic Communities

All

- *National Hydrologic Warning Council – Gene Stallings*

Gene reported on the recent flooding tragedy that occurred in Arkansas. On June 11, 2010, twenty people lost their lives after flash floods swept through the remote Albert Pike campground in the Ouachita National Forest in western Arkansas along the Little Missouri River at about 2:30 a.m. Even though a National Weather Service flood warning was issued around 2:00 a.m. the terrain and a lack of cellphone or outside communication service in the valleys made communication very difficult.

13. Announcements and Q&A on Business Reports from Member Organizations

All

- *Federal Energy Regulatory Commission – Sam Lin (received via e-mail)*

FERC participated May 11, 2010 in a Western US Dam Owner' Strategic Planning Workshop on Hydrology and Hydraulics Risk. The workshop is convened by FERC's licensees in anticipation of the Commission's strategic plan to explore transitioning the FERC dam safety program to Risk Informed Decision Making (RIDM). One of the more difficult major technical and policy issues involved with RIDM is how to establish reliable estimates of the probability of extreme floods. The workshop goal is to

establish a strategic plan to develop the methodologies and tools to assign probabilities of floods up to and including the PMF which is the current Federal guideline for high and significant hazard potential dams.

- ***Natural Resources Conservation Service – Claudia Hoeft***

Claudia Hoeft reported that the USDA-NRCS has just released an update to its National Engineering Handbook Part 630 (NEH 630), Chapter 15, Time of Concentration. This is the first update of this chapter since 1972, and represents a multi-year effort to update this chapter of the handbook (previously known as NEH-4). NEH 630.15 is available through the USDA-NRCS eDirectives web-site at:

<http://directives.sc.egov.usda.gov/OpenNonWebContent.aspx?content=27002.wba>

All of NEH 630 can be downloaded a chapter at a time through the USDA-NRCS eDirectives web-site at:

<http://directives.sc.egov.usda.gov/viewDirective.aspx?hid=21422>

- ***American Forests – Donald Woodward***

Donald Woodward reported that American Forests has dropped its urban forests group. They are returning to their original concept of logging trees, supporting development of nursery stocks, and reforestation. At this time Don is unsure whether American Forests will continue to support him as a member agency of SOH.

- ***Agricultural Research Service – Dave Goodrich***

The ARS is holding their Customer Workshop on Water Availability and Watershed Management in Chicago on Wednesday and Thursday, September 8 and 9, 2010. This is their 5-year planning meeting to help identify upcoming research priorities.

- ***United States Geological Survey – Robert Mason***

Robert will send (e-mail) an article to SOH members for discussion on classifying streams and floods independently of recurrence intervals for lay audiences. This article was presented at the Association of State Floodplain Managers meeting in Oklahoma City. Discussion on this article will be an agenda item at the next SOH meeting.

- ***“The SOH CONNECTIONS” Newsletter Editor’s Report - Claudia Hoeft***

No new articles have been submitted to either Claudia or Richard for the newsletter. Without additional information to include we’ve delayed putting a newsletter together until sufficient material is received. The concern with that is that older information may be out of date by the time new information is received. Claudia again encouraged everyone to please submit articles or items of interest as soon as possible.

- **REMINDER: *Submit Agency and Work Group reports by July 16th to Mary and/or Claudia.***

15. Plans for Next Meeting

Claudia Hoeft

The next meeting will be in Washington, D.C. at the South Agriculture Building on October 21, 2010 starting at 9:00 a.m. Claudia Hoeft will send out location information with directions prior to the meeting.

ACTION ITEMS:

- 1) Claudia Hoeft - send minutes from the April 29, 2010 meeting to Carol Lewis for posting on the SOH web-site.
- 2) SOH members - review slides for the ACWI presentation and return any comments or suggestions to Steve Blanchard by July 7, 2010.
- 3) Don Frevert - send Jerry Webb’s and Joseph Giacinto’s names forward to SOH for approval as HMWG chair and vice-chair.
- 4) Robert Mason - send streams and flood classification article from the ASFPM meeting to SOH members.
- 5) Claudia Hoeft - include discussion of stream and flood classification article on SOH agenda for October meeting.