

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

**12:00 p.m. – 3:00 pm, Eastern Time
April 19, 2012**

**FERC - 888 First Street, NE, Meeting Room 3M-1
Washington, DC 20426**

**For callers inside DC Area, please dial 202-502-6888 or
For those outside DC, dial 1-877-857-1347**

(No password is needed. The meeting ID is 1822.)

TENTATIVE AGENDA

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Welcome and Introductions | Richard Raione |
| 2. Review and Approval of Agenda | Richard Raione |
| 3. Approval of Minutes from January 19, 2012 Meeting | Richard Raione |
| 4. Status of Action Items from January 19, 2012 Meeting | Richard Raione |
| 5. Feature Presentation #1:
<i>Status of Hydrologic Frequency Analysis Work Group</i> | Will Thomas |
| 6. Feature Presentation #2:
<i>Status and Research for the Extreme Storms Work Group</i> | Thomas Nicholson/
John England |
| 7. Review of Work Group Reports and Q&A | |
| a) Hydrologic Modeling Work Group | J. Webb/D. Gleason |
| b) Hydrologic Frequency Analysis Work Group | Will Thomas |
| c) Hydrologic and Hydraulic GIS Applications Work Group | William Merkel |
| d) Extreme Storms Work Group | Tom Nicholson |
| e) Satellite Telemetry Interagency Work Group | |
| 8. ACWI-SOH Assessment:
<u><i>Assessing Agency Needs and ACWI SOH Priorities</i></u> | Richard Raione and
SOH Members |
| • Re-examine purpose of the Assessment | |
| • Review Survey Feedback from FEMA and USGS | |
| • General Comments from other SOH Members | |
| 9. Standard Procedures for Invited Guests (See attached) | Richard Raione |
| 10. Current Events within Hydrologic Communities | All |
| 11. Announcements and Q&A on Business Reports from Member Organizations | All |
| a) Business Reports | |
| b) "The SOH CONNECTIONS" Newsletter Editor's Report | |
| c) Other? | |
| 12. Review Action Items | Richard Raione |
| 13. Plans for Next Meeting (Tentative: July 19, 2012) | Richard Raione |

Adjourn

Action Items

Actions	Status	Due Date
All members: Submit respective Agency SOH Survey to Richard and Victor.	Closed	February 17
Victor Hom: Review any unincorporated comments on October minutes. Victor is to check any new email postings.	Complete and to be distribute as final for posting onto ACWI SOH site.	February 17
Victor Hom: Send Draft of ACWI SOH Meeting Minutes for January 2012 to SOH Members after incorporating any new reports or comments.	Complete and distributed for review.	February 17
David Wells: Check for conference meeting room and logistic support for April 19 th SOH Meeting at EPA	Meeting to be moved to FERC -	February 23
Sam Linn: Confirm conference meeting room and logistic support for April 19 th SOH Meeting at FERC from Noon-3PM	Completed -	February 23
All members: Review Terms of Reference, History, and Membership List posted on ACWI SOH website at http://acwi.gov/hydrology/index.html and submit any suggestion for changes to Richard and Victor.	ACWI SOH members did a great job on the membership roster. Victor received no other related comments, but will provide his review of the website and webpages.	March 1
Victor Hom: Coordinate with Dr. Tomlinson on his availability to present at upcoming ACWI SOH meeting.	Deferred. Will Thomas and John England will be feature speakers for the April 2012 ACWI SOH meeting.	March 1
Richard Raione/Victor Hom: Discuss ACWI SOH's purpose and its role as it relates to ACWI, OMB, 92-01, and any other related authorizations with Wendy Norton.	Richard has reached out to Wendy. Richard and Victor have re-examined ACWI-SOH's TOR and supporting materials. They are committed to rechanneling this group to its	March 15

	purpose.	
All members: Submit current events and business reports on FY12Q2 activities to Richard and Victor in preparation for April 19 th meeting.	FERC Submitted Report	April 5
All members: Submit newsletter articles to ACWI SOH editors: Peter Chaput.	-	April 5
Work Group chairs: Send Work Group status reports to Richard and Victor in preparation for April 19 th meeting.	HFAWG and ESWG to Present	April 5
Claudia Hoeft: Draft a standard procedure regarding welcome to meetings and expectations / needs of guests who wish to attend SOH meetings.	Claudia provided draft for discussion at April meeting.	April 19
Kevin Stewart: Identify NHWC/Washington DC representative for ACWI SOH.	Members are to submit recommendations to Glenn and Kevin	April 19
John Osterberg: Identify Dr. Ian Ferguson will be USBR Primary representative for ACWI SOH.	Completed - Dr. Ian Ferguson will be a welcome addition	April 19
Dan Schwitalla: STIWG draft statement of concern regarding bandwidth sell off impact on hydrology and hydraulic data collection and availability.	Carried forward	No date assigned

Attachments

- **Minutes from January 19, 2012 ACWI SOH Meeting** ... See Email Attachment
- **ACWI SOH Roster** ... See Email Attachment
- **Presentation #1: Status of Hydrologic Frequency Analysis Work Group** ... Will Thomas will be providing to ACWI SOH Members on 4/18/2012
- **Presentation #2: Status and Research for the Extreme Storms Work Group** ... John England will be providing to ACWI SOH Members on 4/18/2012
- **Business Reports** ... See Attached
- **Agency Assessments (Reports from USGS and FEMA to be reviewed at ACWI SOH April 19, 2012)** ... See Attached
- **Standard Procedures for Invited Guests** .., See Attached Draft provided by Claudia Hoeft

Business Reports

FERC Report on 4/2/12

- On January 31st, FERC and the Corps of Engineers (COE) held a meeting to discuss potential design and construction issues with the proposed Dorena Lake Hydroelectric Project at the existing Dorena Dam site in Oregon. A preconstruction meeting was also held at the site with the COE, FERC, Dorena Hydro LLC (licensee), and their consultant. The purpose of the meeting is to familiarize the parties with the construction site, observe how site conditions may affect construction and the existing dam, and to prepare for a Supplemental PFMA to be performed the following day. Previously, it was reported that for this project to be economically feasible, the licensee must place the project commercially on-line by December 31, 2012. If this date is met, they will obtain a \$6 million Business Energy Tax Credit. Dorena Lake Dam is a high hazard potential dam located on the Row River, near the City of Cottage Grove.
- On February 22, 2012, FERC staff will attend the annual Nantahala area Emergency Action Plan (EAP) training and table top exercise conducted by Duke Energy for local Emergency Management Agencies (EMAs) and other involved organizations. There will be particular emphasis on providing education regarding the new dam safety monitoring enhancements at each of the high hazard potential dams. These enhancements were installed and procedures developed to reduce the response time as much as possible where the EAPs are time sensitive. An exercise was held concerning one of the dams, and each agency was asked what their response would be in the given hypothetical situation.
- On Thursday February 23rd, FERC convened a meeting with the United Water Conservation District (UWCD) and the CA Department of Water Resources (DWR) regarding their Piru Creek Site-Specific PMP/PMF Study. This Site-Specific PMF Study is a joint effort by UWCD and DWR for their respective FERC Projects for determination of spillway adequacy at Santa Felicia Dam and Pyramid Dams.
- On 2/28 through 3/1, FERC staff attended the DHS Dams Sector Council meetings in Clearwater, Florida. Workgroups for Security Education and Information Sharing met on 2/28, and separate/joint meetings of the Government Coordinating Council (GCC) and Sector Coordinating Council (SCC) were held on 2/29 and 3/1. Educational products, R&D priorities, best practice guidelines, and coordination of security activities were discussed at the council meetings. The GCC is composed of all federal and state agencies having responsibilities for U.S. dams and the SCC is composed of representative private dam owners and organizations, including security personnel from approximately 25 FERC Licensees.

USGS Response – Robert Mason

Advisory Committee on Water Information

Subcommittee on Hydrology

Assessments of Needs and Priorities

Subcommittee on Hydrology <http://acwi.gov/hydrology/>

Agency's Top Three Hydrology Needs for FY2012 and FY2013

1. The USGS is engaged with numerous partners to establish a more holistic, WaterSMART program for quantifying major aspects of the water budget (Precipitation, ET, surface water, groundwater, water use) as well as ecosystem needs and water-quality limitations on the availability of water. The SOH could provide a sounding board for some aspects of that program and facilitate interactions with SOH member agencies and organization.
2. Flood-inundation modeling is an evolving practice that provides GIS-based interpretations of flood inundation forecasts. The USGS is working with the USACE and NOAA to develop common protocols for flood-inundation maps so that users can receive consistent information about the extent, timing, and statistical characterization of flood risk regardless of the source of the underlying model. SOH could enhance this collaboration by providing a forum for member agencies and organizations to discuss, support, and even join this effort.
3. Stabilize the streamgauge network and implement the National Streamflow Information program. SOH should continue to provide opportunities for agency members to highlight the plight of our basic data-collection networks such as the streamgauge network, NWS precipitation and radar networks, and USDA Snowtel and fire weather monitoring as well as related products like the NOAA hydrologic atlases and USGS state flood-frequency reports that require updating and enhancements for better use.

Suggestions on how ACWI SOH could help address your agency needs:

The USGS is a partner driven, service organization, but we value the SOH for enabling us to discuss our efforts and better understand the efforts of others in regard to hydrology. We would hope that SOH would continue to identify and advertise activities underway in other agencies and organizations that can be used to develop or complement USGS applications efficiently through so that working together we can meet multiple agency needs. The SOH should continue routinely provide a forum for agencies to discuss their current activities and seek input from colleagues.

Suggestions on how ACWI SOH could realign its efforts to support your agency goals:

ASCE and other agencies put out occasional status reports related to America infrastructure and it might be possible for the SOH to do the same for the data networks and related technologies, methods, and access portals and databases.

Rather than relying solely on workgroups SOH might consider sponsoring multi-day forums to assemble agency representatives with similar interests who will receive a short-term charge, assemble, review information and data related to specific issues and then provide a recommendation back to the SOH. The short-term status of the forums might provide timely information for SOH decisions on current issues before they become stale and allow different mixes of agency representatives to interact.

Extreme Storm Events Work Group <http://acwi.gov/hydrology/extreme-storm/index.html>

Applicability from 1 to10 (10 Highest): 9

Suggested Priority 1 to 10 (10 Highest): 8

Recommendations:

In order to restore their effectiveness, this Work Group needs to resolve internal conflicts and begin to move forward to complete the charge they have received and accepted. The Group needs to follow the ACWI's request to develop a work plan and cost estimate to update the Catalog. Their work supports important tasks that the Bureau of Reclamation is performing for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Agency POC: Robert Mason, USGS Water Mission Area, Office of Surface Water

Hydrologic Frequency Analysis Work Group http://acwi.gov/hydrology/FA_terms.html

Applicability from 1 to10 (10 Highest): 10

Suggested Priority 1 to 10 (10 Highest): 10

Recommendations:

This workgroup needs to draw to close the study of the Bulletin 17B update, report out to the Subcommittee, and produce a final recommendation concerning new flood-frequency statistical procedures (including EMA) no later than March 31, 2012. Following the approval of the recommendations by the SOH and endorsement by ACWI, the Group must focus on the preparation of the Bulletin 17B update and its publication. As a next step, the workgroup should start investigating the status and needs for status of work on non-stationarity trends detection. It would also seem worthwhile to have some general guidance for estimation of flood-frequency information through model simulation.

Agency POC: Timothy Cohn, USGS Water Mission Area, Office of Surface Water

Satellite Telemetry Interagency Work Group <http://acwi.gov/hydrology/stiwig/index.html>

Applicability from 1 to10 (10 Highest): 7

Suggested Priority 1 to 10 (10 Highest): 7

Recommendations:

Challenges for GOES DCS are increasing. The impacts of proposals for selloff of wireless spectrum, the difficulty of funding new launches, and pressing needs for two-way communications with field instruments demand attention. STIWIWG needs to establish a more active dialogue with user agencies and the broader hydrologic and meteorological community to ensure that these impacts are understood and that agencies can identify alternatives for communication with field instruments. The presence of STIWIWG within SOH helps the communications flow, but only to the extent that STIWIWG members actively engage the SOH with regular reports and attendance. The STIWIWG should prepare a white paper for ACWI discussing the wireless spectrum sell-off and its impact on GOES DCS and identify potential alternatives. USGS is considering the formation of an internal group to study alternatives to GOES DCS. Any work by STIWIWG should be shared with the USGS group and the USGS study group will do likewise.

Agency POC: Daniel Schwitalla, Water Mission Area, NWIS Program

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

Applicability from 1 to10 (10 Highest): 7

Suggested Priority 1 to 10 (10 Highest): 8

Recommendations:

This Work Group seems to have lost focus or function aside from sponsoring the Federal Modeling Conference. It maybe that the group can simply be renamed and charge with that sole activity, or perhaps it could be re-chartered. There are useful activities on which it could work. It could ensure a better understanding of current modeling efforts by reporting compiling a report on agency activities including efforts to model energy-related issues like hydraulic-fracturing. The Group should consider moving towards studies of GCMs, particularly downscaling for hydrologic applications.

Agency POC: Darwin Ockerman, Water Mission Area, Office of Surface Water;
Alternate: Lauren Hay, Water Mission Area, National Research Program

Hydrologic & Hydraulic GIS Applications Work Group <http://acwi.gov/hydrology/h2gisa/index.html>

Applicability from 1 to10 (10 Highest): 6

Suggested Priority 1 to 10 (10 Highest): 3

Recommendations:

We are unclear about how the scope of this workgroup is distinct or overlaps the broader ACWI workgroup on GIS and spaial data. It is not clear that there is a compelling argument for both. It may be that the membership could be combined with the ACWI spatial data workgroup?

Agency POC: Paul Rydlund, Water Mission Area, Missouri Water Science Center

Agency Assessments (Reports from FEMA to be reviewed at ACWI SOH April 19, 2012)

**Advisory Committee on Water Information
Subcommittee on Hydrology**

Assessments of Needs and Priorities from FEMA

Subcommittee on Hydrology

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

Agency's Top Three Hydrology Needs for FY2012 and FY2013

-How to communicate uncertainties associated with hydrologic analysis on FIRMS

Suggestions on how ACWI SOH could help address your agency needs

Need to be discussed with the members

Suggestions on how ACWI SOH could realign our efforts to support your goals

Need to be discussed with the members

Extreme Storm Events Work Group

<http://acwi.gov/hydrology/extreme-storm/index.html>

Applicability from 1 to10 (10 Highest): 2

Suggested Priority 1 to 10 (10 Highest): 5

Recommendations: _____

Agency POC: _____

Hydrologic Frequency Analysis Work Group

http://acwi.gov/hydrology/FA_terms.html

Applicability from 1 to10 (10 Highest): 8

Suggested Priority 1 to 10 (10 Highest): 8

Recommendations: It is important to understand the impacts the revisions will have on FEMA studies _____

Agency POC: Siamak Esfandiary

Satellite Telemetry Interagency Work Group

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

Applicability from 1 to10 (10 Highest): 2

Suggested Priority 1 to 10 (10 Highest): 2

Recommendations: It would be helpful to understand how this work group can help with FEMA's Risk MAP efforts

Agency POC: _____

Hydrologic Modeling Work Group

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

Applicability from 1 to10 (10 Highest): 2

Suggested Priority 1 to 10 (10 Highest): 2

Recommendations: It would be helpful to understand how this work group can help with FEMA's Risk MAP efforts

Agency POC: _____

Hydrologic & Hydraulic GIS Applications Work Group <http://acwi.gov/hydrology/h2gisa/index.html>

Applicability from 1 to10 (10 Highest): 2

Suggested Priority 1 to 10 (10 Highest): 2

Recommendations: _____

Agency POC: _____

Information for guests attending meetings of the Advisory Committee on Water Information (ACWI) Subcommittee on Hydrology (SOH) meetings:

The SOH meets every three months (typically the third Thursday of the first month of each quarter during the Fiscal Year) and at other times as designated by the Chair. At least three meetings each year are held in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area. Meetings are open to the public. Guests are welcome and encouraged. Most meetings are held in buildings where SOH members work. Security procedures vary from building to building. The following information is provided for potential guests of SOH meetings:

Prior to the meeting:

- Guests are to contact the SOH Chair by telephone, by e-mail, or in writing, at least one week prior to the meeting they wish to attend.
- Guests are to provide the Chair with complete contact information including the following:
 - Name
 - Affiliation (Federal Agency, NGO, private company or other entity)
 - Mailing address
 - Email address
 - Telephone number
 - A brief statement describing your interest in attending
 - The Chair is to provide the following information to guests:
 - Verification of meeting time/location
 - Directions to the meeting
 - Special instructions regarding parking/getting to the meeting via public transportation or other relevant information
 - Meeting agenda
 - Any special instructions related to security procedures
 - Name and contact information for a designated contact (the Chair or other SOH member)

Day of the meeting:

- Guests are asked to arrive at least 15 to 20 minutes early to the meeting venue to allow sufficient time to clear security and find the meeting room.
- Guests are to bring an appropriate form of valid government issued id, with a photograph. (Most building security procedures require guests to produce this to gain entrance to the building.) Typically this will be a drivers license or passport.
- The Chair or other designated contact will meet guests at the building entrance to help them clear security, if necessary, and to escort them to the meeting room.