

## **Streamflow Information Collaborative Work Group Charter**

### ***ESTABLISHMENT***

This Charter establishes a collaborative working group (hereafter “Collaborative”) under the Advisory Committee on Water Information (ACWI) Subcommittee on Hydrology (SOH).

### ***PURPOSE, SCOPE AND OBJECTIVES***

The purpose of the Collaborative is to support national streamflow information network goals and priorities and to assist with leveraging existing resources and capabilities to meet streamflow information needs across the U.S.

Initial objectives of the Collaborative include:

- Identify stakeholder needs and coordinate national streamflow information network priorities.
- Identify opportunities for coordination, innovation, technical transfer, training, and leveraging of resources (including foundational datasets, data management systems, and scientific tools).
- Propose cohesive strategies which address the value, uses, economic benefits, and critical gaps in our Nation’s streamflow network.
- Develop effective communication mechanisms for transmitting data, importance of data networks, and societal relevance, including the value, uses, economic benefits, and critical gaps in our Nation’s streamflow network.
- Increase engagement with data partners and stakeholders, including organizations, such as Federal, State, Regional, Tribal, and Local agencies, and the private sector that are not currently engaged.
- Identify issues that are needed for future priorities such as estimation of flows at ungaged streams, and quantifying errors and uncertainty in streamflow measurements, estimation methods, and reported records.
- Recommend further objectives for the SOH consideration in supporting the national streamflow information network.

This Collaborative, as a working group under ACWI’s SOH, will work in alignment with the SOH. Recommendations and products from the Collaborative will be presented to the SOH, and other ACWI subcommittees as appropriate, for further consideration and appropriate action. Coordination with the SOH and its workgroups will provide communication with other subcommittees to minimize duplication of effort and optimize potential collaboration for multi-disciplinary efforts.

## ***COLLABORATIVE STRUCTURE & PROCESS***

**Composition and Tenure** – The Collaborative will consist of representatives from Federal, State, Tribal and local government agencies, non-governmental organizations, academia, and private sector. Two co-chairs will convene and run the Collaborative. The first co-chair will be a USGS Groundwater and Streamflow Information Program Coordinator, and the second co-chair will be elected by and from the Collaborative at large. The second co-chair will serve a 2-year term. The Collaborative shall report to the ACWI SOH Chair. Any representative who is absent for more than 4 meetings in a row may be asked to leave the Collaborative.

**Timing** – A face-to-face meeting will be held once a year to align with the annual SOH and ACWI meeting. Regularly scheduled meetings will be held by teleconference on a schedule approved by the co-chairs, confirmed with the membership of the Collaborative and designed to meet the Collaborative objectives.

**Process of Governance and Decision Making** - The Collaborative will provide input on streamflow information network issues and priorities, funding, outreach, and collaborative initiatives that could benefit from coordination among the stakeholders. In the event that decisions cannot be made by consensus, the co-chairs may report recommendations to the SOH on the basis of a majority vote, giving fair representation to all significant minority viewpoints (written report if needed or desired).

**Authority** - Collaborative recommendations will be presented to the SOH.

**Resources** - Some funding support will be provided for individuals who are not federal employees participating in the Collaborative annual face-to-face meeting, if funds are available from the USGS.

**Products and Communications** - A Google Drive, sharepoint, or other appropriate site will be established by the USGS Groundwater and Streamflow Information Program Coordinator to create, share, and store information developed and used by the Collaborative. A record will be made of all conference calls and meetings including agenda, action items, progress on activities, and documentation of decisions on advice and recommendations. After review and approval by the Collaborative these documents will be posted on Google Drive, sharepoint, or other appropriate site, and final documents (along with meeting minutes) will be posted on the ACWI SOH website.

The Co-Chairs will brief the Subcommittee on Hydrology on the recommendations, activities and products of the Collaborative quarterly or more often, as appropriate.