

**ACWI**  
**Streamflow Information Collaborative (SIC)**  
**Tuesday, February 12, 2019**  
**10:30am Central**

**Attendees:** Sandy Eberts (USGS Co-Chair), Richard Antoine, Doug Curtis, Michele Eddy, Shelly Thawley, Sue Lowry, Richard Rockel, Jennifer Carter, Chad Wagner, Tom Littlepage, Claudia Hoeft (USDA-NRCS), Meredith Carr (NRC), Jim Kreft (USGS- Speaker), Daniel Pearson

**Call Purpose:**

- Presentation: *New Real-Time Data Pages for NWISWeb—Water Data for the Nation*
- Update on streamflow related activities

**Agenda:**

- Approval of agenda – additions/deletions
- Approval of previous minutes
- Review nominations & vote on Ryan Mueller’s replacement as Co-Chair
- New Real-Time Data Pages for NWISWeb presentation
- Info exchange – streamflow information related activities

**Business Portion:**

Approval of agenda – additions/deletions: Agenda approved

Approval of previous meeting minutes: Minutes from 12/11/2018 were adopted

Review nominations & vote on Ryan Mueller’s replacement as Co-Chair

Sandy Eberts announced that she received no nominations for Ryan’s replacement via email and asked if anyone on the phone wished to nominate themselves or someone else. She noted that Sue Lowry (ICWP) had been nominated during the December meeting (call). Question: Richard Antoine asked what the position entails. Answer: Planning meetings, soliciting speakers, drafting minutes, reporting periodically to the Subcommittee on Hydrology. No additional nominations were received. A vote was taken and **Sue Lowry was unanimously selected as the new non USGS Co-Chair**. Thanks and congrats Sue.

Sue Lowry Bio

Sue was named as the Executive Director of the Interstate Council on Water Policy (ICWP) in February 2018. Prior to that, she served for many years as a Board of Director member for the ICWP in her capacity as the Administrator for the Interstate Streams Division of the Wyoming State Engineer’s Office in Cheyenne WY. Sue worked at the Wyoming State Engineer’s Office from 1988 until her retirement in June, 2016. Upon retirement, she formed Avocet Consult, LLC to continue working on water policy and water resources topics.

Sue’s career at the WY State Engineer’s Office focused on interstate river basin management, serving on interstate river basin compact commissions and decree committees in the Bear, Yellowstone, Snake and Belle Fourche River Basins, including being named as Wyoming’s Commissioner to the Bear River and Yellowstone River Basin Compact Commissions by Wyoming Gov. Matt Mead in 2012. Sue currently serves as the Federal Chair to the Red River Compact Commission involving the states of Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Louisiana. She holds a B.S. in Agricultural Economics (1981) and an M.S. in Range Management and Water Resources (1988) from the University of Wyoming.

**Presentation:**

Jim Kreft, USGS Water Mission Area, Web Communications Branch.

*Water Data for the Nation, New monitoring location pages*

Slides will be posted on the SIC website:

<https://acwi.gov/hydrology/sic/presentations/index.html>

USGS is modernizing its web-based information delivery. The classic real-time NWISWeb pages have been around since 1995 and have an outdated page design that results in poor usability, especially for novice users who are accustomed to modern web technology. For example, ½ of current users are mobile users, but the original mobile pages have only a fraction of the functionality of the regular web pages. In addition, Congress is beginning to require a standards-based, mobile-first federal web presence.

The next generation station pages take advantage of a huge and vibrant open source community for data visualization. The user no longer has to fill out a form to graph the data of interest and everything works as well on a phone as it does on a desktop computer. System integration also is an exciting new feature. For example, if flood inundation maps for a site exist, the information automatically appears in the next gen page for the station (see for example <https://waterdata.usgs.gov/monitoring-location/03371500/>). Additional data and information will be integrated into the next gen station pages over time. Also of note, data and information are now machine readable and data standards are used to aid data discoverability. The next gen pages use of standards builds upon best practices established by the Environmental Linked Features Interoperability Experiment (ELFIE). For example, a USGS gaging station is now a hydrometricStation and can be recognized by a robot crawler.

Jim gave a live demonstration of the new data pages; he showed how to find the link to the next generation station pages from the classic pages. He also noted that the Streamflow Information Collaborative is one of the first groups to see the new pages; the beta version went live today. Jim mentioned a few upcoming features. The USGS water data blog (<https://waterdata.usgs.gov/blog/>) is a great place to go to learn about new features and announcements related to development. All development going forward will be agile (iterative), so feedback from users can be readily incorporated. There is a link at the top of every new data page to a form for providing feedback (good and bad), so please take the time to explore these pages and let the USGS know what you think.

**Q&A Following Presentation:**

Question: Jennifer asked if ESRIs open source platform or open script are being used.

Answer: No, because we need more control and there are scaling issues, but some of ESRIs leaflet is being used. Question: Claudia really likes the new data pages and asked how broadly the new data pages can be shared at this time. Answer: As broadly as possible. They are live as a beta production version. Any classic real-time streamgage data page on NWISWeb has a live link to the associated next generation station page.

Question: Richard Antoine asked if someone (e.g. Richard Pardee, USGS) might be able to share information on the next gen station pages with the Satellite Telemetry Interagency Working Group (STIWG). Answer: Chad said Richard would be on that committee and we could check with him. Question: Sue noted that the new pages are impressive and asked if Federal Priorities Streamgages (FPS) will be identified. Answer: Information on networks will eventually be a part of the new data pages. Sue also asked when the next gen station pages will be more than beta. Answer: The pages are beta, but the launch this week was a production launch. They can be used now, however, the classic data pages won't disappear for a year or more until the USGS is sure that all

desired functionality exists and is working smoothly in the new pages. Question: Meredith asked if presentation quality graphics could be added. Answer: Image versions of the graphs are already in the plans. Question: Tom asked who is permitted to participate in these (SIC) calls. He also mentioned that he is looking for data retrieval tools for automated, continuous pulling of data. Answer: The calls are open to anyone. Tom was directed to the USGS Water Services Pages (<https://waterservices.usgs.gov/>). USGS StreamStats also was mentioned (<https://www.usgs.gov/mission-areas/water-resources/science/streamstats>).

**Round Robin:**

Chad gave a quick demo of two new USGS mappers, (1) the Federal Priorities Streamgages Mapper (<https://water.usgs.gov/networks/fps/>), and (2) the Endangered, Discontinued and Rescued Streamgages Mapper (<https://water.usgs.gov/networks/fundingstability/>). Sandy pointed out that both mappers are still being tweaked. Feedback is always welcome. Chad & Sandy also mentioned a new USGS fact sheet on its streamgaging network (<https://pubs.er.usgs.gov/publication/fs20183081>) that includes a description of the National Streamflow Network and the Federal Priorities Streamgages Network. A 'By-the-Numbers' section provides official gage counts. Sue shared information on the ICWP's upcoming Washington DC Roundtable meetings, which will be co-sponsored with the National Water Supply Alliance on April 2-4. Please see their new website for more information on the meeting (<https://icwp.org/>).

**Next SIC Meeting:**

March 12, 2019 **10:00 central. Note time change!**