

Subcommittee on Sedimentation
July 23, 2015
Teleconference/WebEx Meeting
Minutes

Subcommittee on Sedimentation (SOS) Chair Amanda Cox called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. CDT. The minutes were prepared by Amanda Cox. Present were:

- Jeff Bradley, President, WEST Consultants representing ASCE, Salem, OR
- Jerry Bernard, retired NRCS, SEDHYD Technical Program Coordinator, Stafford, VA
- Amanda Cox, Chair, Assistant Professor, Missouri Water Resources Research Institute (MWRRI), Saint Louis University, St. Louis, MO
- Doug Glysson, Retired Hydrologist, Office of Water Quality, U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), Reston, VA, SEDHYD Joint Conference Chair
- Mark Landers, Federal Interagency Sedimentation Project Chief and OSW, USGS, Atlanta, GA
- Peter Nelson, Assistant Professor, Colorado Water Resources Research Institute (CWRRI), Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO
- Tim Randle, Vice-Chair, Manager of the Sedimentation and River Hydraulics Group, Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), Lakewood, CO
- Matt Römken, Director National Sedimentation Lab, and Researcher in erosion processes, Agricultural Research Center (ARS), Oxford MS
- Joseph Schubauer-Berigan, Research Ecologist and Chief, Environmental Stressors Management Branch, USEPA, Office of Research and Development, National Risk Management Research Laboratory, Cincinnati, OH

Minutes from April 2015 SOS Meeting

Cox

The minutes from the April 2015 Meeting were circulated by email for approval on September 7, 2015.

REServoir SEDimentation

Landers/Randle

The RESSED workgroup held a meeting on May 27, 2015. The following sections are the notes from the meeting which were provided as an update to the SOS.

Status of RESSED

RESSED resides on the USGS website and is now a now static system. Except for some recent additions by Reclamation, the reservoir sedimentation data in RESSED are largely from surveys conducted prior to 1987.

Status of USACE Reservoir Sediment Information (RSI) database and future plans

The USACE is developing the Reservoir Sedimentation Information (RSI) database using Oracle software. The database development is in response to the USACE's interest in the resiliency of

reservoirs with climate change. RSI is linked to the National Inventory of Dams database and has the ability to store reservoir survey data (horizontal and vertical coordinates) in addition to summary information about reservoir sedimentation.

Status of individual agency plans to survey reservoirs and publish data

Sean Kimbrel and Tim Randle have been working with USACE to add Reclamation reservoir sedimentation data to RSI.

Jon Fripp indicated that NRCS does not presently have a comprehensive and coordinated program to survey reservoirs designed by NRCS and publish the data. Jon will inquire as to the NRCS's future interest in adding data to RSI.

Reservoir survey plans from other agencies, that own or operate reservoirs (e.g., BLM, FWS, NPS, TVA), are not known at this time.

Interagency Recommendation to SOS for reservoir sediment data

The consensus recommendation from the workgroup was for the Subcommittee on Sedimentation to adopt the USACE's RSI as the future national database on reservoir sedimentation. The future vision is for the public to have access to data fields of RSI that are not classified for security reasons.

This recommendation is made with the understanding that RSI is new and still under development. Each agency will be responsible for providing checked and certified reservoir sedimentation and survey data (i.e. data that is certified through a Quality Assurance/Quality Control process) to USACE in a manner that can be efficiently uploaded into RSI. Agencies may utilize data already in RESSED, but they will have to re-check and certify the data they provide to USACE are correct and in a format that can be uploaded into RSI. Reclamation likely will be the first agency to provide past and more recent reservoir sedimentation data to USACE.

The RESSED database will have to be kept on the USGS or SOS website until such time that the RSI database includes all relevant data in RESSED. The names of the two databases should be kept separate to avoid confusion.

Reservoir Sustainability

Randle

The workgroup held a meeting on April 22, 2015 at the SEDHYD conference. The workgroup decided to change to the name of the National Reservoir Sedimentation Team to include the word "sustainability". Accordingly, the new name is the National Reservoir Sedimentation and Sustainability Team (NRSST). The NRSST put on a short course at the SEDHYD 2015 conference. They are planning to develop some web-based resources from the SEDHYD 2015

short course material. NRSST held a meeting at the SEDHYD Conference and would like to have a meeting on October 19-23 in Lakewood, CO, which will include a field trip to Paonia Reservoir. The workgroup is requesting SOS support and approval to host the workshop in Lakewood.

The following motion was made by Tim Randle (second by Matt Romkens), "The SOS will sponsor travel (for non-federal members) and meeting room costs, not to exceed \$7,000, for the NRSST workshop to be held October 19-23". The motion was passed unanimously.

The NRSST wants to develop web-based resources for reservoir sedimentation and sustainability that can be put on the SOS website. The content will be vetted through the workgroup first and then will go to the SOS for approval. The NRRST is considering short courses for other conferences (U.S. Society of Dams or ASCE); and they are considering a series of 30 to 60-minute webinars, which will be recorded as part of the web-based resources. USGS has access to recording software. Mark Landers will check if this would be an option for the workgroup to use.

SEDHYD 2015 Planning Overview

Glysson/Bernard

The SEDHYD Conference had revenue of \$146,000 and expenses of \$167,000, which resulted in a \$20,500 short fall. The initial plan from March 2013 was to lose about \$25,000 on the conference because there are more than sufficient funds in the SOS and SOH accounts. The checking account is currently slightly under \$62,000. Doug Glysson recommended keeping \$5,000 in the checking account to cover the costs for the website and active Verizon phone number until the next conference. Accordingly, Doug proposed to transfer one-half of the remaining funds to each of the savings accounts (SOS and SOH). Approximately \$80,000 is needed from the combined SOH and SOS checking accounts to cover the cost of the next conference and after the transfer there will be approximately \$197,000 available in the combined accounts.

The SOS and SOH need to identify a new set of people authorized to sign checks on the accounts. Each account (SOH and SOS) needs three people with signing authority where one person can sign for both the SOH and SOS. Previously, Jerry Webb offered to be on both accounts. The SOS SEDHYD workgroup will elect a chair and determine the remaining two people to be authorized signers. Tim Randle will setup a conference call for the workgroup.

Doug wrote an email to Kerry Rodgers to get the \$25,000-credit prize that SEDHYD won from the Peppermill Resort raffle in writing. The SOS and SOH have three years to use the funds. Mark Landers suggested trying to coordinate a meeting two years out that would include subcommittee working group meetings, FISP meeting, and/or technical workshop of sediment surrogates or sediment forensics. Doug will determine what costs can be included in the \$25,000 credit.

Tim inquired about the process to find a location for the next SEDHYD Conference. Doug stated that it has to go through the process of getting multiple bids because the conference goes through the Department of Interior. This process gives hotels equal opportunity to bid. This process needs to start March 2016, with the committee developing a list of cities they want to consider for the conference. The Chair of the Site Selection Committee should then send an RFP out to the Visitors Convention Bureaus of the cities and they can send it out to the hotels. The committee should request proposals from four or five cities, and then eliminate all but two of the cities. Ideally, a contract will be signed about 44 months before the conference.

Jerry Bernard developed a CD of his technical program coordination files and sent those to Jerry Webb, Tim Randle, Claudia Hoeft and Jon Fripp to use for the next conference. Conference proceeding are online through the SOS website. Jerry also prepared a CD of all the proceedings from 1947 to present and he sent a copy of that to the other workgroup members. This information will be kept on the SOS website.

Jerry expressed concern that we are not getting enough volunteers for the next conference. Amanda shared notes from Jon Fripp about his efforts to find volunteers. Seven people responded to his first email to solicit volunteers. This will be discussed during the next SEDHYD workgroup meeting. Amanda will contact Mark Strudley and Jon Fripp to get information from the full conference survey.

Federal Interagency Sedimentation Project

Landers

SEDHYD was a good showcase for the FISP work including funded research and in-house research that resulted in sixteen papers. The FISP has ongoing current research that will produce a new FISP fact sheet and two technical memorandums. One updating FISP recommendations regarding physical samples collected using a collapsible bag sampler versus a rigid-body sampler; and the other provides information on methods using depth-integrated samplers. Membership in the FISP is still limited to federal agencies and they would like to see more participation from other agencies such as NRCS, EPA, and the Fish and Wildlife Service. Tim Randle inquired as to whether the FISP will in the future endorse a bedload sampler for gravel beds. Mark indicated the largest amount of activity in the last two years has been related to gravel bedload measurements and they are still analyzing and reviewing data to develop a recommendation.

Prospectus Update

Jonas

The Prospectus Workgroup has not met since the last SOS meeting and there was no report for this workgroup.

National Stream Morphology Data Exchange Proposals

Cox

The NSMDE workgroup has not met since the last SOS meeting. A proposal submitted to the NIWR - USGS National Competitive Grants Program is still being considered.

New Business

Cox

Tim Randle stated that they are still working on the sediment analysis guidelines for dam removal. Progress is being made, figures have been developed and a webinar was made in May 2015. Tim would like to put this on the SOS website when it is complete. Tim estimates a draft will be ready for peer review by the end of the calendar year.

Scheduling of Next Meeting

Cox

Joseph Schubauer-Berigan volunteered to look into a space at EPA headquarters and Mark Landers offered having the USGS in Reston serve as a backup location if we were unable to get it coordinated at EPA headquarters.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 CDT