

**Subcommittee on Sedimentation**  
**January 22, 2014**  
**Meeting**  
**Minutes**

Subcommittee on Sedimentation (SOS) Chair Amanda Cox called the meeting to order at 11:02 a.m. EST. The minutes were prepared by Lee Koss. Present were:

- Amanda Cox, Chair, Assistant Professor, Missouri Water Resources Research Institute (MWRRI), Saint Louis University, St. Louis, MO
- Tim Randle, Vice-Chair, Manager of the Sedimentation and River Hydraulics Group, Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), Lakewood, CO
- Jerry Bernard, retired NRCS, SEDHYD Technical Program Coordinator, Stafford, VA
- Jeff Bradley, WEST Consultants representing ASCE, Salem, OR
- Matt Collins, Hydrologist, National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Gloucester, MA
- Deborah Cooper, Research Hydraulic Engineer, Engineer Research and Development Center, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Vicksburg, MS
- Jonathan Fripp, Hydraulic Engineer, National Design, Construction and Soil Mechanics Center, NRCS, Fort Worth, TX
- Marie Marshall Garsjo and retired geologist, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Fort Worth, TX; SEDHYD FISC Technical Program Chair
- Doug Glysson, Retired Hydrologist, Office of Water Quality, U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), Reston, VA, SEDHYD Joint Conference Chair
- John R. Gray, Retired National Sediment Specialist, Office of Surface Water (OSW), USGS, Reston, VA
- Meg Jonas, Research Hydraulic Engineer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Alexandria, VA
- Jenifer Bracewell, USGS, RESSED FilemakerPro Database Programming Team Member, Reston, VA
- Lee Koss, Senior Hydrologist, Bureau of Land Management Washington Office, Washington, DC
- Mark Landers, Federal Interagency Sedimentation Project Chief and OSW, USGS, Atlanta, GA
- Kevin Laurent, USGS RESSED FilemakerPro Project Database Management System Expert, USGS, Patuxent, MD
- Peter Nelson, Assistant Professor, Colorado Water Resources Research Institute (CWRI), Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO
- Matt Römkens, 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

## **Review and approve minutes from the November 20, 2013 Reston Meeting**

Cox

**Minutes** Tim Randle made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 20, 2013 teleconference, which was seconded by Matt Collins and approved by the Committee.

### **REServoir SEDimentation (RESSED)**

Cooper/Jonas/Bracewell/Laurent/Gray

1. No one has yet backfilled for John Gray's National Sedimentologist position with the USGS Office of Surface Water after his Jan. 3 retirement. Until further notice, John will retain lead of the RESSED effort.
2. The first merge of Army Corps of Engineers RESSED data provided over the last 12 months (using RESSED runtime software) should be completed in January 2014.
3. The medium-term RESSED goal will focus on development of a web-based entry application as the sole means of entering data into RESSED.
4. The server for the RESSED website (<http://ida.water.usgs.gov/ressed>) will be shut down in 2014. The website will be permanently moved to the USGS Office of Surface Water server in Reston, VA. The switch should be transparent to users.
5. Kevin Laurent is responding to the Bureau of Reclamation's request for corrections to known errors that survived the BUREC data port in August 2012.

### **Reservoir Sustainability**

Randle

The SOS task Committee on Reservoir Sedimentation and Sustainability was has been approved with the following members:

- Tim Randle, USBR, Chair
- Meg Jonas, USACE
- Lee Koss, BLM
- Peter Nelson, CWRRRI
- Jon Fripp, NRCS
- Marie Garsjo, NRCS (retired)
- John R. Gray, USGS

Other SOS member organizations are invited to participate. This group has not yet met, but a meeting will be organized this spring.

In addition to the above task committee, SOS also approved the formation of the National Reservoir Sedimentation Team to work under the task committee. The suggested membership on the National Reservoir Sedimentation Team is listed below:

- Greg Morris, Gregory Morris Consultants
- George Annandale, Golder Associates
- Kyle Juracek, USGS, Lawrence, KS

- Ron Ferrari, USBR, Lakewood, CO
- Kent Collins, USBR, Lakewood, CO
- Additional USACE members
- TVA member

Other members need to be identified and the willingness all members needs to be confirmed.

### **SOS Sponsored Seminars**

Gray

On Nov. 13, the SOS sponsored Dr. Greg Morris' web-cast seminar from the USGS National Center in Reston, Virginia. Greg's seminar title was, "Reservoir obsolescence or sustainability: A new paradigm for sediment management."

On Jan. 15, Dr. George Annandale's seminar broadcast from Denver, Colorado. George's seminar title was, "Sustainable water supply and climate change."

Both seminars were well-attended, with a large and diverse group of virtual attendees for George's webinar.

George's presentation is posted on the [SOS website](#). We hope to also post Greg's presentation.

### **SEDHYD 2015**

Bernard/ Glysson

Conference Planning Report

1. Still awaiting meeting approval from USDI (packet has been submitted to USGS to be forwarded to DOI).
2. The approach is that once USDI gives formal approval, approval for federal employees should be easier for other agencies to obtain.
3. Jerry Bernard noted that the recently passed Appropriations Act for 2014 contained language concerning reporting requirements for conferences. The extracted text follows. This is in addition to specific agency requirements for approval and attendance. The general tone is that the members understand that federal agency budgets are very tight, and that scrutiny caused by a recent lavish GSA conference is generally causing agency heads to restrict numbers of conferences, as well as attendees.

H. R. 3547 (<http://beta.congress.gov/113/bills/hr3547/BILLS-113hr3547enr.pdf> )

Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014 (this portion extracted, pages 238 and 239)

DIVISION E—FINANCIAL SERVICES AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2014

Title VII—General Provisions—Government-wide

SEC. 742.

(a) The head of any Executive branch department, agency, board, commission, or office funded by this Act shall submit annual reports to the Inspector General or senior ethics official for any entity without an Inspector General, regarding the costs and contracting procedures related to each conference held by any such department, agency, board, commission, or office during fiscal year 2014 for which the cost to the United States Government was more than \$100,000.

(b) Each report submitted shall include, for each conference described in subsection (a) held during the applicable period—

(1) a description of its purpose;

(2) the number of participants attending;

(3) a detailed statement of the costs to the United States Government, including—

(A) the cost of any food or beverages;

(B) the cost of any audio-visual services;

(C) the cost of employee or contractor travel to and from the conference; and

(D) a discussion of the methodology used to determine which costs relate to the conference; and

(4) a description of the contracting procedures used including—

(A) whether contracts were awarded on a competitive basis; and

(B) a discussion of any cost comparison conducted by the departmental component or office in evaluating potential contractors for the conference.

(c) Within 15 days of the date of a conference held by any Executive branch department, agency, board, commission, or office funded by this Act during fiscal year 2014 for which the cost to the United States Government was more than \$20,000, the head of any such department, agency, board, commission, or office shall notify the Inspector General or senior ethics official for any entity without an Inspector General, of the date, location, and number of employees attending such conference.

(d) A grant or contract funded by amounts appropriated by this or any other appropriations Act may not be used for the purpose of defraying the costs of a conference described in subsection (c) that is not directly and programmatically related to the purpose for which the grant or contract was awarded, such as a conference held in connection with planning, training, assessment, review, or other routine purposes related to a project funded by the grant or contract.

(e) None of the funds made available in this or any other appropriations Act may be used for travel and conference activities that are not in compliance with Office of Management and Budget Memorandum M-12-12 dated May 11, 2012.

4. SEDHYD key positions vacant. The following key positions remain vacant and need volunteers: Field trip coordinator, Poster/demo coordinator, and Proceedings coordinator. Anyone interested in or would like additional information as to what these positions entail should contact Doug for the first two and Jerry B for the last one. Tim Randle noted that if one filled a position that that would justify participation and attendance.
5. Planning schedule has been tentatively revised. Abstracts are now due 6/23/2014, and final papers due 11/23/2014. The draft revised call for papers is nearly ready for distribution and posting, with only the web site uploading instructions yet to be finalized.
6. SEDHYD website. "OpenConf" conference management system is currently being used to design the conference website, with the help of Darren Nezamfar (USACE). Members are encouraged to visit the draft web pages at [www.sedhyd.org/2015](http://www.sedhyd.org/2015) and to suggest edits and content. Much work still needs to be done, especially on the uploading documents function so that abstracts, papers, and presentations can eventually be submitted. The website system should make tracking and organization more streamlined.

**Federal Interagency Sedimentation Project (FISP)**

Landers

Key ongoing activities for the FISP include supply, testing, quality assurance, and repair of sediment sampling equipment through the Hydrologic Instrumentation Facility; and in-house plus contract research studies. The primary sediment samplers purchased from FISP in FY13 were the DH-81, DH-95, D-96, and DH-2. Primary ongoing in-house research includes: (1) methods to estimate suspended sediment using acoustic surrogates and (2) evaluation of field isokinetic performance of FISP bag samplers. Proposed research projects that were selected by the FISP Technical Committee for funding (provided funds are available) for FY14 include:

- Computational Fluid Dynamics Analysis of Suspended Sediment Sampler Efficiency
- Portable Passive-Acoustic Bedload Monitoring Surrogate for Non-Experts
- Using close-range remotely-sensed multispectral imagery to quantify the effects of particle size distribution on in-stream turbidity
- Measurement volume for passive acoustic monitoring of Self-Generated Noise
- Developing seismic monitoring of bed-load transport in coordination with the Trinity River Restoration Project

**Prospectus 2007 – 2012 update**

Jonas

Meg Jonas reported that she expects to hear soon on her request for funding to work on the prospectus.

### **National Stream Morphology Data Exchange proposals**

Collins

Marian Muste resubmitted the USGS-NIWR proposal to fund NSMDE development in February, 2013. We learned later in the year that NIWR grants would not be funded in 2013 because of sequestration cuts. Marian plans to resubmit the proposal to USGS-NIWR if they solicit proposals again in 2014.

Amanda Cox resubmitted an NSMDE development proposal to the NASA ROSES Terrestrial Hydrology program (A.16) on July 15, 2013. She originally submitted the proposal in March to the ROSES A.26 Rapid Response and Novel Research in Earth Science program and was given a quick response with advice to resubmit to the Terrestrial Hydrology program. ROSES representatives felt that program was a better match. Amanda has been advised that a response to the recent submission should be forthcoming in March 2014.

### **Communication of reservoir sedimentation impacts**

Jonas

There is a need to communicate the importance and significance of reservoir sedimentation to policy makers. Suggestions were discussed and this was a task assigned to the SOS task Committee on Reservoir Sedimentation and Sustainability.

### **New Business**

Future SOS Initiatives

Cox/Randle

Tim Randle listed the activities that SOS has already undertaken (e.g. sediment analysis guidelines for dam removal, RESSED, reservoir sedimentation and sustainability, geomorphology database, and SEDHYD 2015). The question was asked if SOS should initiate any other activities. The general consensus by SOS was that no other activities are needed at this time.

Upcoming ACWI Meeting

Cox

Meg Jonas has volunteered to attend the March ACWI meeting in Washington D.C. The date has not been set yet.

### **Next Meeting**

Cox

Amanda Cox will setup a Doodle poll to identify a meeting date in early April.

The meeting was adjourned at 14:20 EST