

Subcommittee on Sedimentation (SOS)
05/27/2011 via teleconference and WebEx
Agenda and Notes

All times Central Standard Time

8:45 AM Establish WEBEX connections

9:00 AM Call to order and Roll Call Römken

Participants: Meg Jonas(USACE), Matt Romkens(USDA-ARS), Jerry Bernard (USDA-NRCS), Matt Collins (NOAA), Paula Makar (USBR), John R. Gray (USGS), Doug Glysson (USGS), Joe Schubauer-berigan (USEPA), Tim Randle (USBR), Michael Eberle (FS), Paul Makowski (FERC), Marian Muste (CUAHSI, Consortium of Universities for the Advancement of Hydrologic Science, Inc.)

9:20 AM Review Agenda and Changes Römken

Michael Smolen (OSU) resigned SOS membership as of this week. Jeff Bradley (ASCE) received an award: 2011 environmental and water resources institute service award. Tim Randle wants to mention the Elwha project under other business.

9:30 AM Acceptance of Minutes of Febr. 23, 2011 Römken

John Gray noted that the description of that status of the Technical Committee, relative to the SOS, needs to be explained more clearly and will be dealt with in the October meeting. **Tim Randle moved to approve, seconded by John Gray, subsequent to a few typographical corrections.**

9:40 AM Update RESSED Status Gray/Jonas

Meg Jonas reported on the working group status. A dry run with the Omaha District resulted in some action items. Alpha testing is anticipated in mid June. Many issues remain with database organization, extraneous data fields, etc. Old data will require additional vetting. Sedimentation surveys on 100 USACE reservoirs are being updated, and surveys for 300 additional reservoirs are being added. By mid-summer, USACE funds for this effort will be exhausted, resulting in a working data base for the USACE to enter data into but not for public release or other uses of RESSED. Meg's report is shown below.

RESSED STATUS REPORT by Meg Jonas and John R. Gray

Progress and Plans:

- Data entry and reporting are being tested within the working group. We had a recent dry run with USACE Omaha District, which resulted in some action items. We have also been refining how the database and program will be distributed and updated. Next step will be alpha++ testing with USCOE Omaha District of the data entry system (mid-June).
- There have been many unanticipated database/schema issues related to what we used to refer to as "reverse engineering needs" for RESSED. In other words, the scope of the effort has

necessarily expanded to ensure that most database elements (and hopefully all key database elements) are understood and treated correctly in the new database. In spite of these challenges -- and concern that the "old" data will require additional vetting to improve its usefulness -- we continue to believe that the availability of valuable historical information that includes about 6,620 bathymetric surveys at 1,824 reservoirs will ultimately make our efforts worthwhile.

- Other than USCOE funds for specific mission-critical needs obtained in FY2010 (a part of the funds were carried over to FY2011) no other support has been identified by the SOS. Absent funding after the current COE mission-critical project ends -- by mid-summer 2011 -- the USGS will necessarily cease work on RESSED with the caveat that every attempt will be made to assist the USCOE in their use of RESSED to ensure that their mission-critical needs are met (this is a subject for the USCOE and USGS to address as the present project comes to an end). The current website will continue to be maintained at: <http://ida.water.usgs.gov/ressed/> as a "give-away" of the "old" Access database.

Other endeavors:

- Meg gave a presentation in March to the USACE Institute for Water Resources. This was done as coordination with National Portfolio Assessment for Water Supply, which supplied funding for the database update.

- At Bob Boyd's/BLM invitation, Meg and John met with WestFAST (Western States Federal Agencies Support Team) on April 7 and "pitched" RESSED. Michael Fallon of the Corps discussed the importance of sedimentation impacts on water supply storage in the Southwestern Division. This fledgling group may opt to use RESSED as a "plank". Meg and John intend to follow up on an offer by Roger Gorke/EPA/OW for an EPA briefing on RESSED. They also intend to continue to seek other means of RESSED support.

- Meg will give a presentation on reservoir sedimentation work at a USACE Infrastructure Conference in June.

Tim Randle noted that the SOS has a workgroup on Reservoir Sustainability, which relies on having a reservoir sedimentation database. Jerry Bernard noted that the SOS has a responsibility for collecting these data and should push forward to do so. Meg noted that no funding is available for data input.

Meg noted that there is a direct connection and interest in water supply, as well as sediment. Some additional sources of funding may be identified if water supply issues are emphasized. She noted that we should focus primarily on a public database. Going to a private database would be an enormous undertaking.

John, Meg, Tim agreed to work on ways possible to attract additional funding, including private sources. Joe Schubauer-Berigan suggested that the group focus on mechanisms for private funding. John noted that any public/private funding proposals would need to go through the ACWI. Tim agreed to lead efforts to attract funding for the RESSED project.

Joe mentioned the possibility of privatizing the data base, brainstorming possibilities for funding. Possibly a fee for use?

The next ACWI meeting is scheduled for July 12 and 13. A vote on a resolution to support

RESSED will take place at that meeting.

10:00 AM Stream Morphology Workgroup Report Collins/Gray

Matt Collins reported on the workshop, which was conducted 4/27-28/2011 at the USGS Water Science Center, Madison, WI. The SOS authorized as much as \$8,800 from JFIC to support travel for invited speakers plus some administrative costs. Only about 42% of those available funds (\$3,800) was used. A summary report with recommendations for next steps is being prepared for the SOS. Some bullets about the workshop follow. Matt Collins, Faith Fitzpatrick, Marie Pepler and John Gray were the coordinators for the workshop. Three breakout groups focused on specific issues: Scale and Data Model Issues; Scope of the Database; Ways and Means (how to get it done).

Following is a synopsis of the workshop:

- 1.5-day workshop at USGS facility in Madison, WI
- 28 invitees attended in person, 5 via webex representing 8 Federal agencies, 5 universities, 3 State agencies, and one private firm
- April 27 morning plenary/expert presentations by geomorphologists, database guru's, managers; afternoon field trip to Wisconsin River/Aldo Leopold homestead ("Sand County Almanac")
- April 28 morning 3 break sessions: Scale and Data Model Issues; Scope; Ways and Means
- Plenary session to end in early afternoon, followed by afternoon discussion by workshop organizers Matt Collins, Faith Fitzpatrick, Marie Pepler, John Gray, with Matt Romkens and Jerry Bernard also participating
- Summary to SOS in preparation

Big Picture Considerations/Outcomes

1. Group was enthusiastic and very forthcoming -- sense that the stream morph database concept is an overdue concept
2. Understanding that any SOS-sponsored project would not include new data collection, only database development (modification?) and protocols identification
3. Understanding that any effort that would require large sums of money over long periods would probably be a non-starter
4. Observation that a plethora of databases are extant; number of protocols for a given parameter exceed 100 (Forest Service)
5. On scope, observation that if we opt to go beyond x-y-z and time coordinates, database issues become much more complex and potentially less tractable.
6. Observation that we should put emphasis on piggybacking on existing databases, even if the ultimate and best such product would likely be a uniquely constructed database
7. Desire to compile metadata on existing databases

Next Steps

Complete workshop summary draft; vet with all participants; submit vetted/revised summary/set of recommendations to the SOS

Write a short AGU-EOS article

Seek SOS guidance on next steps, if any

Marian Muste announced that CUAHSI has a user conference scheduled for June 22 – 24 in Logan, UT. Marian also urged that we reach out to the Spatial Water Data Group under ACWI in an attempt to coordinate efforts along this line. The website for the CUAHSI Conference on Hydrologic Data and Information Systems, June 22-24, 2011 Logan (UT) is <http://his.cuahsi.org/conference2011/>. Late registration is available after June 1.

10:30 AM JFIC Issues and Update Römken

Doug Glysson reported.

- The Thriva registration program company has been bought by another company (Active Network), and the program has changed, resulting in an apparent savings in costs. The 2ndJFIC used the program for registration for the last conference. Jeff will be obtaining the new template from the new program/company, ready for use for the next SOS-sponsored conference.
- Site selection committee: requests for proposals have been received, and Doug will be sending out to the committee around 1 July, with responses back by mid-August. No additional cities have been identified or submitted. Possibly Denver or Phoenix/Tucson areas might be included in the assessment. Tunica, New Orleans, Biloxi, Tampa, San Diego, Palm Springs? Local agency support is key, as well as transportation hubs, room rates, etc. SOH also needs to concur on location for joint meeting.
- **ACTION ITEM:** Doug again requested write-ups and files, etc., from the last conference. These are important starting points for people who will carry out the various conference functions in the future.

11:00 AM Other Business All

Tim Randle reported about the Elwha River project to remove the Elwha and Glines Canyon dams. Removal is scheduled to begin on September 17, 2011 and take a total of three years in this concurrent removal. A sediment-monitoring facility has been installed downstream from the two dams, including participation by other countries, universities, and federal agencies, to monitor suspended-sediment and bedload transport. John Gray reported that the Technical Committee has a supporting role in the monitoring effort through the National Center for Physical Acoustics at the University of Mississippi.

Doug noted that the USGS is interested in hosting a sediment and dam removal workshop. This could be the opportunity to roll out the guidelines (Tim Randle, lead). This should be on the next meeting's agenda.

11:15 AM Next SOS Meeting (time/place) Römken

October 13, Lakewood/Denver location (HWA or Denver Federal Center USBR). Field trip to a nearby reservoir being dredged is a possibility. Tim Randle will try to arrange trip through the Denver Water Board.

11:20 AM Adjourn Römken