

Subcommittee on Sedimentation Meeting Notes August 20, 2012, Port Angeles, WA

Attendees in Person

- Brian Cluer, NOAA Fisheries
- Matt Römken, ARS
- Amanda Cox, CSU
- Marie Garsjo, NRCS
- Jeff Bradley, ASCE
- Paula Makar, Bureau of Reclamation
- John R. Gray, USGS
- Tim Randle, Bureau of Reclamation

Attendees by Phone

- Meg Jonas, USACE
- Doug Glysson, retired USGS (SEDHYD agenda only)
- Jerry Bernard, retired NRCS (SEDHYD agenda only)
- Marian Muste, IHR-Hydroscience and Engineering, University of Iowa - 10:30 to 11:00 AM

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM, PDT

The Bureau of Reclamation was assigned to take notes in the procedure established at the June meeting. Thanks to Tim Randle and Paula Makar.

SEDHYD Planning Overview

Makar

The Federal Sedimentation and Hydrologic Modeling Conference is scheduled for March 23-27, 2014, in Reno, Nevada. The subcommittees will meet before that, expected dates are March 20 and 21, 2014. Doug Glysson reported he is finalizing the contract with the Peppermill and will next work on the RFP for the exhibits contractor. Jerry Bernard noted that the call for papers and conference themes need to be worked out soon with the FISC and FIHMC chairs.

Volunteers need to be identified for the following positions: Registration, web page uploading, short courses, field trips, student program/competition, AV equipment/student, proceedings, posters/demos, and spousal program coordinators. Please send Doug Glysson, Paula Makar and Marie Garsjo your suggestions.

Review and accept minutes of April 5, 2012 meeting

Garsjo

John Gray noted that the April minutes need significant revision before they can be approved. Meeting notes or minutes should be concise and the decisions made documented. Acronyms should be spelled out. People need to be identified by first and last name and the agency they represent.

Review and accept minutes of July 28, 2012 meeting

Garsjo

Paula Makar noted that SOS has two bank accounts (checking and savings) and the Subcommittee on Hydrology has two bank accounts (checking and savings). There are not four bank accounts for SOS.

With these adjustments, the minutes were approved unanimously. The motion was made by Jeff Bradley and seconded by Matt Römken.

Matt Römken asked if the present meeting had enough participants for a quorum. This brought up a discussion about SOS member organizations that have not participated in at least 50 percent of the meetings during the past fiscal year. The Chair will notify these organizations that they will be dropped from the SOS membership unless mitigating circumstances can be demonstrated. Organizations that are dropped will have to petition for reinstatement in SOS.

Comment [jrg1]: Seems we should leave ourselves a bit of wiggle room here...

Tim Randle suggested that the Chair contact SOS organizations at a high level to let them know that they have not been participating and will be dropped from SOS if they do not continue participating. SOS member organizations should understand that they can participate by phone and WebEx. In these days of shrinking Federal budgets, it becomes more imperative for agencies to cooperate and share information. Otherwise, agencies risk duplicating efforts, wasting money, and not achieving the best outcomes with limited funding.

Summary of Advisory Committee on Water Information (ACWI) annual meeting, 7-11-12 Garsjo
Hilton Washington Dulles Airport, Herndon, VA
<http://acwi.gov/acwi-minutes/acwi2012/slide.lib/index.htm>

Marie Garsjo represented SOS at the meeting by phone and reminded ACWI about the outstanding need for RESSED funding.

OLD BUSINESS

Reservoir Sustainability Workshop Randle

Tim Randle provided a PowerPoint presentation on the workshop. There was general consensus that the issue of reservoir sustainability needs to be brought to the attention of the public and water resources managers. Conclusions included the need for a workshop on data collection; more research is needed on watershed sediment yield; important to publicize that sedimentation impacts on authorized project purpose impact dam safety. Journal publication was suggested as a foundation to help educate managers on the value of further reservoir sustainability research. Several potential venues such as an American Water Resources Association news article, a Journal of Hydraulic Engineering Technical Note, an American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) magazine article, or an American Geophysical Union EOS article were identified. Information should include identification of problems and a range of solutions, identification of priorities of specific reservoirs within each watershed, and looking at reservoirs as a system. Marie Garsjo said that she would write up the conclusions in an article for AEG News of the Association of Environmental and Engineering Geologists.

Other suggestions included identifying issues and solutions at the county or water district level, and advancing the issue through ASCE-Environmental and Water Resource Institute to the governing board. It was suggested that SOS submit a reservoir sustainability resolution to ACWI asking the federal government to begin reservoir sustainability planning at selected reservoirs throughout the country, with possible creation of a national reservoir sustainability team. Also suggested was developing a communication plan and a SOS reservoir sedimentation score card for each agency. The general consensus was that there was value to completing a white paper on reservoir sustainability that should be published through SOS.

REServoir SEDimentation (RESSED)

Gray

USGS is nearing completion of entering Reclamation's reservoir survey data into RESSED, and the RESSED programming team has completed many upgrades to RESSED, including data input and report capabilities. A quality-control function for new and revised data also is in development. The USGS will contribute \$75,000 toward keeping RESSED operational starting in 2013, assuming Congress passes an adequate budget for USGS and USGS WaterSmart program support funds are not reduced. The USGS considers the \$75,000 per year funding as seed money and would still like contributions from other agencies. RESSED is now open to all federal agencies. If possible, USGS should make RESSED available to the public for use of data already in the database. John Gray will find out if there are any limitations on this plan.

On September 6, 2012, John Gray will give a presentation via WebEx on RESSED to the Western States Federal Advisory Support Team. Other SOS members may want to listen in. John will mention that we sponsored a Reservoir Sustainability Workshop.

Prospectus 2007 – 2012 update

Garsjo

The prospectus is to be updated every five years. The most recent version of the prospectus (2007) contains information about the SOS history, sediment issues, and SOS structure and activities. The audience for the prospectus is not well defined.

After a discussion, the Subcommittee decided to keep the information in the present prospectus together, but the web site could provide links directly to major sections. For example, the sections may include the following:

- Vision statement and Purpose of SOS
- History of SOS
- Future Goals
- Pertinent legislation
- Sediment Issues Confronting the Nation
- Subcommittee Structure and Activities

A workgroup was established to work on an updated version of the prospectus including the following people: Marie Garsjo (workgroup Chair), Amanda Cox, Matt Römken, and Brian Cluer.

Overview of Elwha Dam project

Randle

Tim Randle gave a presentation on the Elwha River Restoration Project: Sediment Management to provide background information for the people attending the Tuesday field trip.

Review of officer election

Garsjo

Marie Garsjo reviewed the information from the prospectus that SOS officers serve for two years and so the current officers will remain in place for another year.

Next meeting

Garsjo

MakaTHERE WILL BE LU

The next meeting will be a WebEx discussion and is scheduled for Thursday, January 24, 2013 at 10:00 AM, MST.

The meeting was adjourned at about 3:30.