

Resolution on Reservoir Sustainability, Presented by the Subcommittee on Sedimentation, a Sub-group of the Advisory Committee on Water Information

Continued sedimentation threatens the project benefits for many of the Nation's reservoirs. The SOS encourages all Federal agencies to develop long-term reservoir sediment-management plans for the reservoirs that they own or manage by 2030. These management plans should include either the implementation of sustainable sediment-management practices or eventual retirement of the reservoir. Sustainable reservoir sediment-management practices are practices that enable continued reservoir function by reducing reservoir sedimentation and/or removing sediments through mechanisms that are functionally, environmentally, and economically feasible. The costs for implementing either sustainable sediment management practices or retirement plans are likely to be substantial, and sustainable methods to pay for these activities should also be identified.

Federal agencies are encouraged to start developing sustainable reservoir sediment-management plans now for one or two reservoirs per year on a pilot basis. From this experience, interagency technical guidelines will be developed for preparing sustainable reservoir-sedimentation plans.

This resolution was presented to the Advisory Committee on Water Information (ACWI) at their annual meeting, August 19-20, 2014. Subsequently the Subcommittee on Sedimentation made some revisions (which are reflected in the text above), and ACWI voted on this resolution via email and approved it with 22 "yes" votes and 4 abstentions.