

**West Virginia Stream Gaging Council**  
**December 16, 2004**  
**10:00 AM - 12:30 PM**  
**West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection Offices**  
**Charleston, West Virginia**

***Meeting Notes***

**Attendance**

Present in person:

Ramesh Chintala, Michael Baker Corp.  
Tamara Vandivort, West Virginia Water Research Institute  
Tom Burns, Emergency Services  
Hugh Bevans, US Geological Survey  
Nick Schur, West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection  
Carol Boughton, US Geological Survey/Canaan Valley Institute  
Ron Evaldi, US Geological Survey  
Dave Bassage, West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection  
Tim Curran, US Army Corps of Engineers  
Russ Campbell, Conservation District

Present via conference call:

Liz Garland, West Virginia Rivers Coalition

**Points of Discussion:**

Status of Memorandum of Understanding

Signatures have been received from the following members authorizing creation of the Council:

§ Paul Ziemkiewicz, West Virginia Water Research Institute  
§ Ed Hamrick, West Virginia Division of Natural Resources  
§ Stephanie Timmermeyer, West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection  
§ Truman Wolfe, West Virginia Conservation Agency  
§ Tim Curran, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Huntington District  
§ Catherine Hill, U.S. Geological Survey  
§ Liz Garland, West Virginia Rivers Coalition

Hugh Bevans volunteered to contact the remaining by the end of the week to remind them they need to sign. Those remaining to submit signatures are:

- § Fred VanKirk, WV Department of Transportation, Division of Highways
- § Stephan Kappa, WV Office of Emergency Services
- § John Sikora, National Weather Service
- § Kiena Smith, Canaan Valley Institute

Tamara Vandivort confirmed with West Virginia University National Research Center for Coal and Energy Research Business Office Accountant, Tracy Reda, (and later with Shelley Maddox with the WVU Foundation) that signatures may be submitted on separate signature pages rather than all signatures on a single signature page. Also, all 11 signatures must be received *prior* to the WVU Foundation setting up the account to accept private donations to the Council. An actual bank account will be effective for use upon the receipt of all 11 signatures *and* the first private donation.

#### Status of Stream Gages

Ron Evaldi gave a report on the status of stream gages. He pointed out the need for consistency in equipment components. Ron stated that a joint proposal [USGS and USACE?] on the kinds/types of equipment needed should be developed; that there is a need to start compiling equipment needs and flood protection plan.

Ramesh Chintala described an All Hazards Mitigation Plan developed by Michael Baker Corporation for the WV Office of Emergency Services and that the plan was approved by FEMA this year. This plan incorporates the recommendations in the WV Statewide Flood Protection Plan. Ramesh stated that it was possible that funding could be obtained from FEMA through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) for purchase and installation of new flood warning system equipment.

Ron also mentioned eliminating telephones from gages; use satellite and radio transmitters.

#### Flood control gaging stations

15 have been identified; 14 on line and reporting.

#### Promoting the Council

There was some discussion of doing a press release and developing promotional handouts for members to use when soliciting private donations. These ideas are to be further explored at the next meeting.

## **Future Activities**

### National Institutes for Water Research Annual Meeting

There was discussion about other neighboring states expressing an interest in the MOU West Virginia is setting up. Tamara Vandivort and Paul Ziemkiewicz will be attending the national water institutes meeting in Washington, DC in March and will look into getting placed on the agenda to give a presentation on the WV Stream Gaging Council.

### Organization of Council Meetings, Maintaining Records, Etc.

Effective as of this December 16, 2004 meeting, Tamara Vandivort with the West Virginia Water Research Institute will begin handling meeting organization, notes, records, etc. of the Council.

### Next Meeting

A meeting will be scheduled for January, 2005 of the Council at the WVDEP offices in Charleston. This meeting will be a general business meeting and will include electing a Chair and Vice-Chair for the Council. The public will not be invited to attend this business meeting.

### Responsibilities of the Chair and Vice-Chair

Tamara Vandivort will draft a document on the Responsibilities of the Chair and Vice-Chair to submit to the Council for review prior to the January, 2005 meeting.

### Remaining Signatures on MOU

Hugh Bevans will collect the remaining signatures and forward all to Tamara Vandivort at the earliest opportunity. Once those signature pages are received, Ms. Vandivort will hand deliver them to the WVU Foundation in order for the account setup to begin.

### Soliciting Private Donations

Hugh Bevans mentioned that he would have Kim start contacting potential private donors.