

West Virginia Stream Gaging Council
March 17, 2005
10:00 AM - 12:30 PM
West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection Offices
Charleston, West Virginia

Meeting Notes

Agency Representation

Agency	Present	Absent	Represented By
WV Water Research Institute			Paul Ziemkiewicz; Tamara Vandivort
WV Division of Natural Resources			Danny Bennett
WV Department of Environmental Protection			Dave Bassage; Nick Schaer; Pat Campbell
WV Conservation Agency			Russ Campbell
WV Department of Transportation			Neal Carte
WV Office of Emergency Services			
National Weather Service			John Sikora
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers			James Schray
U.S. Geological Survey			Hugh Bevans; Ron Evaldi
Canaan Valley Institute			Rob Stull
WV Rivers Coalition			Liz Garland
Michael Baker Corporation			Ramesh Chintala

Other Representation

Members of the Public - None present.

Points of Discussion

Liz Garland called the meeting to order.

Approval of 1/26/05 Meeting Minutes

Action: John Sikora moved to approve the 1/26/05 meeting minutes as written; Hugh Bevans seconded; all approved.

Elections for Chair and Vice Chair

The Council discussed the following nominees for Chair and Vice Chair of the Council:

Chair	Vice Chair
Liz Garland, WV Rivers Coalition	Russ Campbell, WV Conservation Agency
	Hugh Bevans, U.S. Geological Survey
	John Sikora, National Weather Service
	Dave Bassage, WV Department of Environmental Protection

John Sikora declined being considered for Vice Chair. The Council asked the remaining nominees to leave the room. The Council continued discussion of the nominees.

Action: By a simple majority vote, the Council elected Liz Garland as Chair and Dave Bassage as Vice Chair.

Scheduling Upcoming Meetings

The Council discussed having quarterly meetings for 2005. The first Thursday of the months of June, September, and December seemed to meet most members' schedules.

Action: The dates for the next three meetings for 2005 are as follows:

- § Thursday, June 2, 2005
- § Thursday, September 1, 2005
- § Thursday, December 1, 2005

The locations for the future meeting will be decided upon at each meeting. The selected location for the Thursday, June 2, 2005 meeting will be the WV Department of Environmental Protection offices in Charleston. The meeting location for the September 1, 2005 meeting will be determined at the June 2, 2005 meeting.

Public Notices of Council Meetings

The procedure for advertising the March 17, 2005 meeting was as follows:

Tamara Vandivort, Council Secretary, developed notice and distributed as follows:

- § Emailed to Council members asking that they place the notice on their agency websites.
- § Placed meeting notice on WVWRI web site.
- § Sent notice and draft agenda to Betty Ireland, Secretary of State, to place notice in WV Register.

Action: The Council requested meeting notices be distributed in the same manner making sure the Secretary of State has at least a 2 week notice.

Data Collection Mission and Budget Issues

Russ Campbell mentioned 14-15 flood-control structure gages are online (at the USGS web page) under agreement with USGS. Additionally, WV Conservation Agency partners with USGS on stream gages at approximately \$50,000 per year.

Proposed Danny Bennett-budget type
\$10,000 coming out of management for stream gages??
Neal Carte - Highways - \$40,000 continuous and record gages.

Legislation under consideration this session includes Senate Bill 239. It would establish the Flood Protection Planning Council. In hearings, several minor amendments have been made.

Council 6-member board (DOH, DNR, DEP, Conservation, DMAPS and Econ Development) and would incorporate an advisory council of the original flood task force membership.

Maybe Council can be brought in as advisory member

Liz Garland asked if we can speak as Council as a whole

Hugh mentioned educating and providing technical education/support but not lobbying. Hugh mentioned USGS being asked by Pittsburgh Coal to pick up some gages.

Press Release

The Council reviewed and discussed the draft press release. A suggestion was made to include something about the next Council meeting in June.

Action: Council to send any comments regarding the draft press release to Tamara Vandivort by April 15; Vandivort to send final draft to Council between April 15 and May 1; Council to submit final comments to Vandivort; Vandivort to remind Council of this timeline and get leads for distribution.

Fact Sheet

The Council reviewed and discussed the draft Fact Sheet. Liz Garland suggested adding in an education section. Hugh Bevans suggested a section of why gages are important. Other suggestions included recreational value, why the Council came together; what the Council is trying to accomplish; adding in a graphic showing the decline of gages; and photographs of a gage in a flooding situation and a gage with a recreational scene like a kyack.

Action: Fact Sheet Subcommittee formed consisting of Dave Bassage, Liz Garland, Paul Ziemkiewicz, Hugh Bevans, and Rob Stull.

Web Page

The Council reviewed the draft web page on line and made suggestions. Suggestions included:

- \$ counter for hits to web page
- \$ set up email web address for people to send in comments and questions
- \$ news items/current issues section
- \$ add Michael Baker Corporation to the Council membership
- \$ post meeting minutes
- \$ insert gaging links to other sites
- \$ add links to agencies

Action: Tamara Vandivort will work with webmaster at WVU to incorporate these suggestions. Vandivort will email instructions to Council members for accessing the draft web page which is not yet released to the public. Council will continue to review web page and get comments to Vandivort.

Gage Status Report

Pittsburgh USACE cut; USGS may be taking over their gages; a proposal is going in. John Sikora mentioned a mesonet network which has monies; 2 gages per county; plan for this spring. Need to fix those out there already. The question arose as to whether monies can be used to fix existing gages and maintenance on new gages. Liz Garland placed the question as to how the Council might be able to address the issue of maintenance, make suggestions, and facilitate.

Liz Garland suggested a subcommittee opportunity for regular maintenance; open up the door; see if Office of Emergency Services are interested; maybe make this an agenda item for next meeting.

Action: Tamara Vandivort to contact Tom Burns and George Settles with the Office of Emergency Services to give a report on the gage situation at the next Council meeting; place on agenda.

Seeking Private Donations

Hugh Bevans mentioned that he would like to approach Cabellas. Ron Evaldi reported that contact has been reopened with Toyota but no meeting with them scheduled yet; want to seek to build additional gages from Toyota. Evaldi mentioned that it is back to square one with Walmart; that we are out of sequence with their funding cycle. Heins Foundation was discussed in terms of preparing a 1 page proposal to upgrade gages to take data more frequently.

Action: None specified.

Flood Inundation Initiative

There was discussion about developing maps to show what river levels are with various precipitation effects; real time forecasting; using weather service models; link to DEM's (maps); current situation + forecast.

Action: None specified.

Logo

The Council reviewed and discussed two draft logos provided by a contact of Kim Miller's with USGS. Liz Garland suggested depicting a gage and a user; can be conceptual.

Action: Dave Bassage and Pat Campbell volunteered to have a WVDEP artist develop draft logo(s).