

**West Virginia Stream Gaging Council**  
**September 1, 2005**  
**10:00 AM - 2:00 PM**  
**West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection Offices**  
**Charleston, West Virginia**

***Meeting Notes***

**Agency Representation**

Agency	Present	Absent	Represented By
WV Water Research Institute			Tamara Vandivort
WV Division of Natural Resources			Danny Bennett
WV Department of Environmental Protection			Dave Bassage; Pat Campbell; Nick Schaer
WV Conservation Agency			
WV Department of Transportation			
WV Office of Emergency Services			Jim Steele
National Weather Service			Alan Rezek
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers			James Schray; Tom McFarland
U.S. Geological Survey			Ron Evaldi
Canaan Valley Institute			Ed Watson
WV Rivers Coalition			Liz Garland
Michael Baker Corporation			

**Other Representation**

None

**Points of Discussion**

Liz Garland called the meeting to order.

### **Approval of 6/2/05 Meeting Minutes**

**Action:** Dave Bassage moved to approve the 6/2/05 meeting minutes with corrections to the spelling of “Moorefield” and “Darren Feit.” Jim Schray seconded; all approved.

### **Upcoming Meeting Schedule**

The Council discussed staying on a quarterly meeting schedule for 2005 and holding those meetings at WVDEP offices in Charleston.

**Action:** The Council will meet on the first Thursday of March, June, September, and December. Therefore, dates for the next four meetings will be as follows:

- § Thursday, December 1, 2005
- § Thursday, March 2, 2006
- § Thursday, June 1, 2006
- § Thursday, September 7, 2006

### **Follow-up From June “To Do” List**

Meadow Gage: The plan is to get another gage in place; something in Rainelle; an “eyeball” gage for planning for commercial people. Liz Garland, WVRC, will present cost to rafting companies on Tuesday, September 6, 2005. Rafting companies may pay for installation but not maintenance. Plans are to install a “stick” gage. Ron Evaldi, USGS, volunteered to go with Liz Garland to a lunch meeting next Tuesday, September 6, 2005 in Fayetteville. Ron Evaldi will give a presentation on technical aspects of gages.

**Action:** Liz Garland and Ron Evaldi will meet with rafting companies on September 6, 2005 to explain technical aspects, costs, and seek support.

### **Funding Updates**

Heinz Foundation: Proposal rejected.

Virginia Environmental Endowment: Pending. Liz Garland, WVRC, had a meeting with Gerald McCarthy, VEE, last Friday, August 26, 2005. Mr. McCarthy indicated to Liz Garland that VEE tends to not support anything which involves government entities. A decision will be made in November. Liz Garland pointed out that it might be better if grants are written for watershed groups and submit them in their name.

Toyota: Tabled. Ron Evaldi, USGS, reported that USGS has been unable to communicate with Toyota; not getting any connection made; nothing happening.

Walmart: Tabled. Ron Evaldi reported that there is no activity between USGS and Walmart at this time.

Parkersburg Area Community Foundation: Tamara Vandivort reported that she had worked with Dave Bassage, Liz Garland, and Ron Evaldi to develop a proposal for the PACF. The proposal includes program start-up support and upgrading the Geostationary Satellite Server transmission ratio at Station 03155000 on the Little Kanawha River, Palestine, Wirt County. The PACF is to make a decision by November 30, 2005.

**Action:** Tamara Vandivort will mail the proposal to the PACF before 5:00 PM September 1, 2005.

### **Information Dissemination**

There was discussion that the web site should serve as a resource for general information to educate the public and that press releases should highlight specific news items. There was also a suggestion that an article be developed for *Wild and Wonderful* magazine.

### South Branch Press Release

Pat Campbell, WVDEP, stated that WVDEP and USGS entered into an agreement for continuous monitoring on the South Branch and in Moorefield. They are seeing fluctuations in pH. WVDEP and USGS are also cooperating for continuous monitoring of turbidity at the mouth of the South Branch near Springfield. A press release was developed and picked up by nine newspapers.

### **Gage Operation Updates**

#### National Weather Service

Alan Rezek, NWS, reported that there will be a gage switch at Marietta on September 26, 2005 to make it the official gage. He said there is a need for temperature sensors.

#### U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

James Schray, USACE, stated that there are four places they are looking to upgrade. He mentioned Kermit and Williamson. Schray mentioned *Alert* funds that they can use for data transmitters but that there are problems getting those *Alert* funds free. Schray also stated that by 2012 all transmissions have to go to real time; that is, from a 4 hour

lag time to a 1 hour lag time.

### Gilmer County

Gilmer County is continuing to do good work; no new news to report.

### Office of Emergency Services

Jim Steele, OES, reported that they will be hiring two technicians and will be putting gages in seven counties that do not have them now. They are also relocating gages. Steele also stated that OES hopes to do a new web page.

### **Fact Sheet**

Tamara Vandivort, WVWRI, informed the Council that she had received a bid of \$600 from JAR, Inc. to produce a fact sheet for the Council. Dave Bassage, WVDEP, volunteered to step up and chair the fact sheet committee. The Council agreed to have Bassage head the fact sheet project and to table the JAR, Inc. option.

**Action:** Dave Bassage, WVDEP, is to chair the development of a fact sheet for the Council.

### **Logo and Stationary**

Dave Bassage, WVDEP, brought four examples for the Council's consideration. One design was selected. (See Figure 1.)

**Action:** Dave Bassage, WVDEP, is to meet with the graphic designer who developed the selected logo and get more examples in different sizes to share with the Council.

### **Mission**

Liz Garland, WVRC, reminded the Council that gages serve the user and data needs to be put into a usable format for user accessibility. Nick Schaer, WVDEP, suggested a user need summary including anglers, rafters, etc. Development of a "matrix" was suggested that would take into account what can be/should be done with gages; water quantity/quality; purposes such as recreation, emergency preparedness, commerce, etc. to achieve extensive accessible and dependable water quantity and quality data for all of West Virginia.

Consensus is that current needs are not being met; gages may be in place but are not working for example. There is a need for new gages. Determinations need to be made for what is needed and where gages should be placed. We need to look at what we have; fix what is in place first; then decide where additional gages should be placed.

The Council should be part of a triage for prioritization. Initially take on faith that the gages that are out there are needed. Then meet needs associated with shortfalls in agency funding; eliminate data overland; offer impartial decision-making; keep an interagency focus.

Since USACE funding has been flat-lined since 1996 and USGS expects serious cuts of ~10% in 2007, a matrix tool for decision making would be useful for determining what gages get fixed/placed first.

### ***Lunch Break***

### **Technical Discussion**

Attendees: Ron Evaldi, USGS; Jim Steele, OES; Ed Watson, CVI; Danny Bennett, DNR; Dave Bassage, WVDEP; Liz Garland, WVRC; Tamara Vandivort, WVVRI.

Points made included:

- § Maintenance, construction, operation of gages need to be coordinated among agencies.
- § Need for a gage maintenance training program across agencies/cross-training. Liz Garland mentioned possibly doing this with CVI.

### **Funding Discussion**

Tamara Vandivort, WVVRI, presented the following fund raising strategy to the Council for consideration:

**West Virginia Water Gaging Council  
Fund Raising Strategy  
Proposed by Tamara Vandivort  
West Virginia Water Research Institute  
August 23, 2005**

### **Who To Target**

- § Identify medium- large-sized businesses and foundations in the State with environmentally-friendly philanthropic agendas and/or have need for water gaging data.
- § Identify medium- large-sized businesses and foundations nationwide with environmentally-friendly philanthropic agendas.
- § Differentiate between businesses that will give solely and those more inclined to be part of a donating partnership.

### **How to Target**

- \$ Determine which businesses should be approached in person and which want proposals/applications.
- \$ Identify contacts for businesses to be approached in person.
- \$ Develop spin; that is, match our needs with businesses' priorities; i.e. flood warning with insurance companies and utilities; disaster recovery with home improvement companies; water quality data with outdoor recreational equipment companies; equipment repair and replacement with equipment companies.

### **When to Target**

- \$ Develop time line to identify which companies accept proposals at specific times.
- \$ Set up solicitation schedule to incorporate companies' time lines and mix in others that accept proposals anytime and personal visits so that a minimum of 1 proposal and 1 in person visit is accomplished each month.

### **Procedure**

- \$ Council selects which companies to target during the next quarter.
- \$ Council members volunteer to work on proposal/white paper text; identify contacts; and make personal visits
- \$ Council members identified to work on specific solicitations collaborate to develop text and spin.
- \$ Proposal/white paper text and contact information is relayed to the Council Secretary.
- \$ Proposals fully developed and submitted to companies by Council Secretary.
- \$ White papers fully developed by collaborating Council members.
- \$ Copies of proposals/white papers kept and follow-up on proposals made by Council Secretary.
- \$ Appointments made and follow-up to personal visits made by selected Council member(s) and relayed to Council Secretary.
- \$ Status reports on fund raising given to Council at quarterly meetings by Council Secretary and other Council members as appropriate.

**Action:** Vandivort volunteered to take the lead on developing one proposal per month on behalf of the Council. She will request needed information from Council members and package and submit proposals to potential sponsors.

Additional suggestions from the Council regarding funding sources included:

- \$ Dominion Environmental for the West Fork Basin
- \$ Look within our own organizations for funding
- \$ DuPont
- \$ FMS Foundation, Charleston
- \$ Chlorox Foundation

## **Finding Our Priorities**

Some priorities suggested included:

- \$ Maintenance of existing gages
- \$ Education/Cross-training
- \$ Web page upgrade to include data accessibility through single web site switching station to link to other web sites
- \$ 4 hour change over to 1 hour transmission
- \$ Research effort to determine user priorities (develop a matrix)

## **Adjournment**

Dave Bassage, WVDEP, motioned that the meeting be adjourned. Tamara Vandivort seconded.