

**West Virginia Stream Gaging Council**  
**December 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			
WV Division of Natural Resources			Danny Bennett
WV Department of Environmental Protection			Dave Bassage; Pat Campbell; Nick Schaer; Mike Stratton
WV Conservation Agency			
WV Department of Transportation			
WV Office of Emergency Services			Jim Steele
National Weather Service			John Sikora
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers			
U.S. Geological Survey			Ron Evaldi; Hugh Bevans
Canaan Valley Institute			
WV Rivers Coalition			Liz Garland
Michael Baker Corporation			Ramesh Chintala

**Other Representation**

None

## **Points of Discussion**

Liz Garland called the meeting to order. In Tammy's absence Dave Bassage volunteered to record the minutes for the meeting.

## **Approval of 9/1/05 Meeting Minutes**

**Action:** Ron Evaldi moved to approve the 9/1/05 meeting minutes with corrections of changing 'Toyota' to 'Walmart' in the Walmart portion of the funding update on p. 3, and the deletion of '(see Figure 1.)' reference in the logo and stationary portion of p. 4. John Sikora seconded; all approved.

## **Upcoming Meeting**

Liz Garland has a conflict and will not be able to attend the March 2, 2006 meeting. Dave Bassage will chair the meeting in her absence.

## **New Participants Process**

Hugh Bevans inquired about the process of including other participants in our meetings as observers or voting participants. Subsequent discussion clarified that observers are always welcome and new Council members may be added as provided in the bylaws. Hugh Bevans suggested inviting the Natural Resource Conservation Agency to become a member of the Council.

## **Follow-up From September Action Items**

Meadow Gage: Liz Garland has a meeting tomorrow with the West Virginia Professional River Outfitters as a follow up to the meeting she and Ron Evaldi attended in September. WVPRO has a strong interest in better gage options on the Meadow since the present gage is at the bottom of a fairly large watershed and does not provide timely information of rapid changes in river flow. Ron Evaldi and Hugh Bevans had a 'stick' gage installed upstream in Rainelle. The low flows since then have not provided an opportunity to assess its usefulness. Liz Garland and Dave Bassage painted a simple gage on a bridge piling in Nallen as well. A new bridge is going in over the Meadow just upstream of the bridge Liz and Dave painted their gage on, and this would be an ideal site for a standard gage. Discussion ensued on how best to pursue funding of such a gage, including local officials and FEMA. There was general agreement that developing a gage priority matrix as previously discussed would greatly assist efforts to coordinate and prioritize new opportunities such as this one.

**Action:** Liz Garland will meet with WVPRO on December 2, 2005 to further explore options.

## **Funding Updates**

PACF proposal: not funded.

Other proposal status uncertain pending report from Tammy.

Liz Garland led a discussion seeking input from each participant on current and potential funding streams that may present opportunities for future gage support and improvement. The need was acknowledged to mesh a needs assessment with existing and potential funding sources, although the point was raised that such a strategy is more applicable to private than public funding streams.

**Action:** John Sikora will look into potential NOAA and NWS funding. Jim Steele and Ramesh Chintala will investigate FEMA potential.

## **Fact Sheet and Logo**

No new action has taken place on either of these initiatives.

**Action:** Dave Bassage will work on logo applications such as envelopes and business cards, and work with Tammy to edit the fact sheet.

Nick shared an equipment opportunity to use wireless gage technology. He will keep us posted as more information becomes available.

## **Gage Status**

### National Weather Service

John Sikora reported that NWS has two units now reporting on one hour intervals: Camden on Gauley and Grantsville. Two more are coming: Daly and Phillipi.

The Sissonville river gage will be coming soon. Sand Fork is pending.

### U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

John Sikora also reported that USACE will be putting in one hour units on the Tug Fork and Levisa Fork as soon as frequencies get approved.

### U.S. Geological Survey

Ron Evaldi reported that new groundwater wells in the Eastern panhandle to be funded

by the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin have been cut, and others are in danger of being cut. The flow gage at Jones Springs has also been lost. Berkeley County will keep operating and add Tuscaroras Creek in Martinsburg. On the Ohio River the Marietta gage will be discontinued after Winter. There is a New gage at the mouth of the Muskingam River. Ron feels that the statewide groundwater program will probably be cut. Turbidity is online at Springfield.

#### Office of Emergency Services

Jim Steele, OES, reported that they are still seeking property owner permission, which is expected, for their Mercer County project. They have eight tubes in the ground and one stream gage at Greenwood.

New meteorological stations will be coming in at Spruce Knob and Snowshoe. They anticipate it will take two years to establish two stations in each county. Seven counties currently have no stations.

#### WV Department of Environmental Protection

Mike Stratton reported on water use issues. The act calling for survey of users and registration expires in 2006. The plan is for there to be 10 categories of informations. They have completed their survey for 2003-2004, including 1600 entities, and have information from all but 60. 2005 surveys will go out soon. Data does not exist to answer many of the questions the legislature asked. The final report is due out during 2006 and will have general responses, but be short on details. Marshall University has partnered on this effort.

#### **Next Meeting**

It was agreed that more focus should be put on developing the needs matrix at the next meeting, with more status information shared in advance via email.

Liz Garland will not be available for the next meeting, so Dave Bassage will chair.

**Action:** Liz will put together a draft matrix for the group to consider.