

**West Virginia Stream Gaging Council**  
**March 2, 2006**  
**10:00 AM - 12:00 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; Alyse Schrecongost
WV Division of Natural Resources			Danny Bennett
WV Department of Environmental Protection			Dave Bassage; Pat Campbell; Nick Schaeer
WV Conservation Agency			
WV Department of Transportation			
WV Office of Emergency Services			
National Weather Service			
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers			James Schray; Dave Meadows
U.S. Geological Survey			Ron Evaldi; Hugh Bevans
Canaan Valley Institute			
WV Rivers Coalition			
Michael Baker Corporation			

**Other Representation**

None

## **Administration**

### ***Call to order and agenda review***

Dave Bassage, WVDEP and WVVGC Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order and outlined the day's agenda.

### ***Approval of 12/1/05 Meeting Minutes***

Hugh Bevans, USGS, indicated that the minutes were lacking mention of the Natural Resource Conservation Agency as a potential new Council member under "New Participants Process" on page 2.

**Action:** Hugh Bevans moved to approve the 12/1/05 meeting minutes with above-mentioned amendment. Ron Evaldi seconded; all approved.

### ***Lack of Attendance***

There was some discussion over the lack of agencies in attendance at today's meeting.

**Action:** Tamara Vandivort will follow up with absentee agencies to find out why they did not attend today's meeting.

### **Follow up From December Action Items**

#### ***New Council Member***

**Action:** Hugh Bevans will follow up with the Natural Resource Conversation Agency to confirm their interest in being a member of the Council

**Action:** Tamara Vandivort will follow up on the procedure to add NRCA into the MOU (Memorandum of Understanding).

#### ***Fact Sheet***

Dave Bassage indicated that the WVVGC fact sheet has not progressed from previous discussions.

**Action:** Tamara Vandivort will look into getting a bid from outside publisher to create WVVGC fact sheet and get back to the Council on the quote.

## **Logo and Stationary**

Dave Bassage passed around examples of the stationary with the logo selected by the Council in a previous meeting.

**Action:** Dave Bassage will get an electronic copy of the selected logo to Council Secretary/Treasurer, Tamara Vandivort, to send out to Council members with a caveat that the logo is to be used for WVVGC promotional purposes; that official correspondence needs approval of either the Chair (Liz Garland) or Vice-Chair (Dave Bassage) prior to usage.

## **Funding Status**

### ***Conservation Agency***

Hugh Bevans stated that the Conservation Agency asked for a one time funding of \$125,000 for this fiscal year. Dave Bassage indicated they might have support from Stephanie Timmermeyer, WVDEP, going to the cabinet level of the legislature. Hugh Bevans stated this might be due to the formation of the Council; that it would be helpful to have Russ Campbell's perspective. Pat Campbell, WVDEP, said August is the time to check and see if gaging is in the budget. Hugh Bevans thinks [funding] is good for another couple of years.

### ***Groundwater Network***

Ron Evaldi, USGS, mentioned the Groundwater Network (Mike Stratton work). The intent is to keep what is existing on-going and try to keep things operational through the year. It is possible they might start stripping [gages] from the eastern parts of the state so gages are more evenly distributed geographically. Ron pointed out that groundwater is low now; that we are in a potential draught situation; and that streams are lower than normal; there is a need to evaluate. Hugh Bevans mentioned real time groundwater data useful also; that Stratton said a better network is needed. Hugh mentioned groundwater gages costing about 1/3 that of stream gages. Hugh also mentioned that USGS is putting more emphasis on gaging again in FY07.

### ***USGS 104g proposal***

Tamara Vandivort discussed a proposal entitled *Identifying Water Gaging Data Needs in WV, VA, and MD*, WVVRI submitted to the USGS 104g program to support some of the activities of the WVVGC. The USGS 104g program is highly competitive; of the 61 proposals received in this round, they expect to fund only 6.

**Action:** Tamara Vandivort will get more detailed information on this proposal to the Council members.

### ***USGS 104b proposal***

Alyse Schrecongost, WVVRI, described the proposal, *Systematic Determination of Water Resource Data and Information Management Needs in WV*, submitted by WVVRI to the USGS 104b program. This proposal is being awarded. Funding is expected to arrive by the end of March, 2006.

**Action:** Tamara Vandivort will get more detailed information on this proposal to the Council members.

### ***Unger Interest***

Alyse Schrencongost discussed her recent meeting with Senator Unger and his expression of interest in the Council.

**Action:** Alyse Schrencongost will develop a brief writeup on the highlights of this meeting and get it to Tamara Vandivort to distribute to the Council.

### ***Parkersburg Community Foundation***

**Action:** Tamara Vandivort will follow up with the Parkersburg Community Foundation to see if there is any potential interest there in funding the proposal submitted in 2005.

### ***Appalachian Regional Commission***

Hugh Bevans discussed the value of stream gages as a step in valuing ecological services; how do we put a value on stream gages? There is one year funded with an end date of September 2006. Hugh wants to bring in economists and develop more in-depth proposal. He also said he can give information on the number of hits to the USGS gage data [on line.]

### **Gage Status**

#### ***USACE***

Jim Schray, USACE, gages are currently in place; are moving up to 1 hour transmission: Wilham, Welse, Bradshaw, Hayshaw, and Kermit. The USACE is taking up to 4 months to approve a channel assignment.

Dave Meadows, USACE, said there is a need to improve equipment to handle necessary modeling but funding cuts continue

Partnership is as follows:

USACE: stage record: 1/3  
Another agency: discharge: 1/3  
USGS: other 1/3

## **USGS**

Ron Evaldi discussed the Pittsburgh ACE concentrating on reservoir projects, locks and dams now; next year river gages. May cut headwater sources; mainly on the Mon. The NTSET program has a marginal increase. He is working with Pittsburgh [USACE] to move to 1 hour transmission equipment.

## **Organizational Issues**

### ***Council Decision Process***

Dave Bassage raised the issue to the Council for discussion. The need for a decision process became apparent when the risk of losing gage support from Office of Emergency Services arose and the Council discussed drafting a letter on behalf of the Council to draw attention to the situation. Discussion included moving “big vote items up the food chain within an agency;” that is; getting high level Council agency support. Also, for such important issues, the Council needs forewarning ahead of any meetings on the subject.

### **Gage Assessment Process**

Dave Bassage and Pat Campbell introduced for discussion a way to assess the priority of gages. They distributed a draft survey developed by Liz Garland (Attachment A). In addition, Bassage and Campbell displayed a draft score sheet by gage using Excel. Suggested parameters included:

- \$ stage
- \$ temperature
- \$ historical
- \$ high flows
- \$ normal flows
- \$ low flows
- \$ chemical
- \$ turbidity
- \$ real time
- \$ regular mandate
- \$ flow management
- \$ flow/discharge
- \$ real time

Suggested values included:

- \$ ph
- \$ turbidity
- \$ DO
- \$ conductivity
- \$ nutrient
- \$ navigation
- \$ recreation
- \$ water supply
- \$ water quality
- \$ flood management

Ron Evaldi suggested ranking gages based on importance. It was also suggested to include tourism on the survey for recreational users.

**Action:** Ron Evaldi is to provide Tamara Vandivort with a sample of 10 specified gages to distribute to the Council to use as practice run to determine what parameters and values are important.

**Action:** Council members are to use the handout provided by Liz Garland and the 10 gage sample provided by Ron Evaldi to do a practice run on identifying what parameters and values are important for each agency and get comments to Tamara Vandivort prior to the next Council meeting.

### **Adjournment**

Dave Bassage, WVDEP, motioned that the meeting be adjourned. Hugh Bevans seconded. The meeting adjourned at approximately 12:00 PM.