

June 1, 2011 West Virginia Water Gaging Council Meeting Minutes

Roll-Call by secretary

Roll Call by Secretary Ed Cox. Quorum was established.

Chairman Calls meeting to order

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Hugh Bevans at 1311.

Review of Agenda

Ed Cox made a motion to receive minutes from the previous meeting, without changes.

John Sikora 2nd the motion and the minutes were approved.

Unfinished or Continuing Business

Ed Cox reported on the Gaging Council Webpage

110 day period, 173 hits. Direct traffic 16.18%, Search Engines 33.95%, Referring Sites 50.87%.

I didn't follow all of the figures, but I'll assume that you have them.

Brian Carr provided an update on Water Use

Mike Stratton has retired and sent his well wishes for the WGC in the future.

WVDEP has most of the 2010 water use data in hand, including figures for hydropower, hydro-fracking, with the report to be available online in the near future.

Watershed meetings have been held in the following basins: Little Kanawha, Upper Ohio, Middle Ohio. The Middle/Lower New meetings are scheduled for the fall.

The online water withdrawal tool is working.

Flood inundation project with the Corps of Engineers on the New River fell thru, but moneys are still being sought to do this work. There was discussion by Pat Campbell regarding available LIDAR data for the New River that was flown in support of work being done at Bluestone Dam.

The USGS in-stream flow work, by Terry Messinger, was discussed. There was an extensive literature review, with a report to follow. Unfortunately, the work is unlikely to proceed because no strong correlations were found.

Hugh Bevans discussed the flow model being developed by the Baltimore Corps of Engineers and ICPRB. Brian Carr will send along information via email to council members.

WV LIDAR coverage was discussed. The WVDEP has completed much of the southern coal fields. Five counties are known to be completed. The USGS Mapping division has completed LIDAR on the Opequon and parts of the lower Shenendoah.

New Business

Jerry Gilbert demonstrated the use of the "myfloodalert.com" web page, which is a tool being developed to display flood inundation maps. Currently, 3 areas are available and include Charleston, Wheeling, and Philippi. Jerry's hope is to complete coverage for all 45 of the NWS flood prediction sites by August, but is seeking funding. The tool was discussed by council members and suggestions were made to improve it's utility. Field verifications will need to be made to confirm the accuracy of the model. It was mentioned that the Pittsburg COE district has a program in place to survey marks after significant high water events. This would be a great data set to use to help verify the model.

Jeremy White of the USGS discussed the upcoming CHIDER conference in Pittsburg, PA. This conference is designed to be an informational exchange of ideas amongst hydrologists and hydrologic technicians of the USGS. Formal trainings will be offered along with presentations by USGS staff from across the country.

On Friday, June 10th, the Pittsburg COE has scheduled a meeting with USGS personnel that work in the Pittsburg COE area to discuss the cooperative program and to serve as a means of improving networking amongst all of the parties involved.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been signed by the USACE, the NWS, and the USGS to foster improved communication between the different agencies in an effort to better understand the water resources of the US.

Pat Campbell mentioned that the Stony River gage has been discontinued, but that data are being collected by the power company at Mount Storm. That data is available upon request from the WV DEP.

The Potomac River Non-Tidal monitoring network is planning to add three new stations in the basin, including two new stream gages. Sites include Rockymarsh Run at Scrabble (at existing gaging station), and a site on Warm Springs Run (near Berkeley Springs), and Mill Creek (trib to Opequon Ck near Bunker Hill).

Adjournment

Ed Cox made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

John Sikora 2nd the motion.

The meeting was adjourned at 1445.

Attendance:

Ed Cox, WVCA

Pat Campbell, WV DEP

Brian Carr, WV DEP

John Sikora, NWS

Hugh Bevans, USGS

Jeremy White, USGS

By Phone:

Angela Greene, NRCS

Tim Curran, USACE, Huntington

Dana Moses, USACE, Huntington

Shanda Minney, WVRC

Todd Miller, CVI

Mohiuddin Shaik, Michael Baker Jr., Inc.