

West Virginia Water Gaging Council
April 5 2007
10:00 AM – 11:40 AM
West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection Offices
Charleston, West Virginia

Meeting Notes

Member Attendance

Organization	Represented By
WV Division of Natural Resources	Danny Bennett
WV Department of Environmental Protection	Mike Stratton
WV Conservation Agency	Russ Campbell Edward Cox
WV Division of Highways	Doug Kirk
U.S. Geological Survey	Ron Evaldi
WV Rivers Coalition	Liz Garland

Meeting Focus – River Gaging Program Funding Shortfall

The meeting began with a brief discussion on the status of the Hazards Mitigation and the Statewide Flood Protection plans.

Liz Garland's email of 4/3/07 and updates provided by each agency representative summarizes responses to the Gaging Council letter for a funding initiative:

WVDHSEM: The Director has said the agency will not provide a contribution to the shortfall.

WVDEP: The Secretary supports providing up to \$32,000 contingent upon the contributions of other agencies.

WVDNR: Despite support from the Assistant Chiefs, DNR is unable to provide support with a \$25,000 contribution this year.

WVDOH: The State Highway Engineer and Deputy are committed to contributing \$25,000 annually to support the use of gages for bridge and highway design.

WVCA: The Director is willing to provide \$25,000 if (and only if) the remaining \$100,000 short fall is contributed from other sources.

Further Discussion–

The WVCA initiative to seek legislative support for the river gaging program will require other agency support. WVDHSEM, WVDEP, WVDOH, and WVDNR will

all support this effort. Legislative initiatives will target FY09. Shortfall funding is targeted for both FY07 and FY08.

WVDNR funds are tight. Although WVDNR personnel use gages, the use may not justify an additional \$25,000 investment beyond the annual commitment of \$12,000. Danny Bennett will pursue the topic further with WVDNR management.

USGS will match State funds at the 50/50 level, but there are no other sources of funds available to offset the cooperative program funding shortfall. USGS has prepared a targeted list of gages that may be affected by the shortfall. The entire list was distributed at the Council's March meeting. Leading the list of gages to be affected are: Cabins, Bowden, Cheat Bridge, and Rowlesburg. These equate to a value of \$53,500 for USGS to provide maintenance and discharge information. If unfunded through this program, DHSEM would likely continue to provide stage information.

The WVCA \$25,000 contribution remains dependent upon the provision of other sources contributing the remaining \$100,000 shortfall. The WVCA will discuss the gaging topic at their next meeting, April 17th.

Solutions to the shortfall beyond the immediate efforts within each state agency may be necessary. Liz offered to call Secretary Spears. Council members agreed to address agency heads with the update outlined in these minutes before pursuing other alternatives.

A conference call was set for April 12 at noon at (718) 222-0029 code 192.