

West Virginia Water Gaging Council
December 7, 2006
1:00 – 4:00 PM
West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection Offices
Charleston, West Virginia

Meeting Notes

Member Attendance

Organization	Present	Absent	Represented By
WV Water Research Institute			Jennifer Fulton
WV Division of Natural Resources			
WV Department of Environmental Protection			Mike Stratton Nick Schaer
WV Conservation Agency			Edward Cox
WV Division of Highways			Doug Kirk
WV Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management			
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 Public Participants

Dave Bassage

1. Administrative Business

- a. WVVGC Chair Liz Garland called the meeting to order and outlined the meeting's agenda. Liz noted that because the meeting was not

officially announced, minutes could not be adopted until publicly noticed.

- b. Minutes from June and September's meetings were reviewed and finalized. Liz moved to approve the revised June minutes, and Mike seconded. All voted in favor. Ed moved to approve the September minutes upon correction of typos, and Ramesh Seconded. All voted in favor.

2. Updates

- a. The group revisited the "to do" list developed at September's meeting.
 - i. DHSEM meeting – Liz will set up a meeting for early January in order to see if DHSEM has a continued interest in the Gaging Council. Ideally, the meeting should take place before the first day of legislative sessions on January 10. Liz will email interested Council members, who can then respond with available dates for the meeting. The members agreed that the meeting should be educational, focusing on the different uses of water gages. The meeting should show DHSEM why it benefits them to stay involved with the Council.
 - ii. NWS funding – up to \$400,000 in NWS grant money (10 grants, each up to \$100,000) is available for gages in the IFLOWS network. The application is available in June, and due in October. This should be mentioned at the DHSEM meeting to minimize overlap and possibly develop collaboration.
 - iii. Outreach – Ramesh suggested addressing the Society of Military Engineers, who meet monthly at the Huntington District. Ron volunteered to present an overview of the Gaging Council to this group in January. Ramesh also suggested addressing the ASCE and ACEC.
- b. Agency reports
 - i. USGS – WVCA has \$50,000 this year to contribute towards gages. (Last year, WVCA was able to provide \$175,000 to the gaging program.) Due to the reduction in funds this year that WVCA can provide, the result translates to the loss of \$125,000 (\$250,000 with match) of funding. This may translate into the loss of approximately 20 gages. Ron handed out a spreadsheet of possible gage cuts. Liz will call Stephanie Timmermeyer to see if she will assist as she has offered to do in previous years.
 - ii. NWS – nothing to report
 - iii. WVCA – giving \$50,000 to USGS for gages
 - iv. DEP – Nick reported on the development of a database that houses georeferenced flow data. This database will have a GIS interface in the future. DEP is developing new

equations and tools with WVU and USGS that will allow the use of gages with partial data.

- v. DOH – funding bankfull regression work with USGS, and trying to capture more gage funding next year

c. Working documents

- i. Fact sheet – should be given a final check for errors
- ii. Solicitation letter – the Council needs to identify the audience, and then find key contacts. After letters are sent, the Council members should follow up with these key contacts. We can use Mike’s water users list after it becomes public information. This list contains approximately 200 users, so a subset of the list may be used.
 - 1. Industry – the last two paragraphs should be condensed. The last paragraph should say that we will contact them, not vice versa. Nick and Hugh will update this letter, adding information to emphasize how gages directly affect industry (i.e. use in $7Q_{10}$ calculations and NPDES permits).
 - 2. Watershed groups – Liz will update this letter, making the message clearer and more directly applicable to watershed groups and concerned citizens.
 - 3. Legislative – Dave will update this letter, which will include a mention of the USGS match.

d. WVU Gage Prioritization Tool development

- 1. Mike commented that he sees potential difficulty in comparing gages within different watersheds using this tool. He also noted that nothing is included in the tool to deal with dedicated funds. Liz commented that the tool was too agency focused, with not enough focus on users. Ramesh suggested pairwise gage comparison. The members agreed that the tool should be more functional, and able to deal with prioritization in the more typical situation where gages need to be cut due to lack of funds. The group will ask Alyse to present the finalized tool at the March 1st meeting.