

West Virginia Water Gaging Council

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday July 7, 2009

1:00 P.M.

Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)

Headquarters, Kanawha City

Council Membership Representation

Organization	Present	Proxy	Represented By
WV Conservation Agency (WVCA)	X		Russ Campbell
U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)	X		Hugh Bevans Ron Evaldi
WV Department of Environmental Protection (WVDEP)	X		Mike Stratton Brian Carr
WV Division of Highways (WVDOH)			
WV Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHSEM)			
WV Division of Natural Resources (WVDNR)	X		Danny Bennett
WV Water Research Institute (WVWRI)	X		Dave Saville
National Weather Service (NWS)			
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)	X		
Huntington District			Stephen Porter
Pittsburgh District			Robert Yue
Baltimore District			
U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)			
WV Rivers Coalition (WVRC)	X		Shanda Minney
Canaan Valley Institute (CVI)	X		Todd Miller
Michael Baker Jr., INC. (MBJ)	X		Mohiuddin Shaik

Other Representation

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Administration

Roll-Call

The Secretary conducted a Roll-Call of the member organizations. Upon conclusion of Roll-Call, the Secretary notified the Council Chair that a Quorum had been established.

Call to Order and Introductions

Russ Campbell, West Virginia Conservation Agency and Council Chair (Chair), called the meeting to order at 1:02 P.M.

Agenda Review

Campbell, Chair, asked if there were any additions to the Agenda. Hugh Bevans moved that a discussion about meeting attendance should be added. Stephen Porter seconded the motion, and the motion was approved by voice vote.

Approval of 3/12/09 Meeting Minutes

Campbell, Chair, asked if there were any additions, corrections, or comments to the minutes. Todd Miller noted the correction that he had attended the meeting. Russ then asked if there was interest in accepting the minutes as corrected. Stephen Porter moved to approve, Danny Bennett seconded, and the minutes were approved by voice vote.

Unfinished Business

1. Council Webpage – Record of use:

Russ Campbell reported that the Council's web page had 623 hits since January 2009. Ron Evaldi noted that the "Switching Station" needed to be updated and hoped to accomplish this task by next meeting. Hugh Bevans asked all agencies to report additional or discontinued gages. Ron Evaldi will send out a reminder on this to the council membership.

2. Water Resources Protection and Management Act:

Mike Stratton reported that much work has been accomplished such as construction of two new gaging stations, addition of wells to the State network, and purchase of equipment for four additional wells. Mike wishes to increase the number of wells in the network over time. Five of the network wells were logged this year and logging of another five is planned for next year. Mike also noted that a web based reporting sheet on Marcellus shale well development waste-water disposal will soon be established.

Russ asked for clarification on the extent of the present state groundwater monitoring network and Ron responded that 12 wells are currently available and 4 more will soon be added. At least 2 wells are located in each of the State's six climatic zones. He also reported that groundwater conditions across the state are near normal and that it is unlikely that we will encounter groundwater drought conditions this summer or fall. Mike Stratton added that the WVDEP report to the Legislature calls for a gage network for drought monitoring that includes reservoir gages, monitoring of soil moisture and additional groundwater wells. Hugh pointed out that Pennsylvania has such a network and Mike responded that the Pennsylvania network is the model that is being followed.

3. USACE & DHSEM upgrade of gage equipment initiative:

Stephen Porter updated the Council on the 205 Project trying to get funds for high-data-rate transmitters, IFLOWS transmitters, and for real-time flood inundation mapping. The funding level sought is about \$550,000 with an additional \$500,000 possibly available. A partnership agreement with the Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHSEM) needs to be completed in order to proceed further and a meeting for this purpose is set for July 20, 2009. The State portion of the match needed is 35% with only 5% needed in cash (about \$20,000). The project is for adding gages, improving existing gage equipment, and conducting some flood inundation mapping. Equipment upgrades will be aimed at IFLOWS gages. It was noted in general discussions that the original 2001 proposal was for equipment upgrades for all gage types, but that some had already been upgraded thru other means and that the project needs to be rescoped based on present needs. It was noted that last year some Federal funding was not secured because of lack of state cost-share funds. It was discussed that if DHSEM does not wish to participate further in the 205 Project process that another state agency might be found to do so. A motion was offered by Hugh Bevans that the Council membership should consider participation in the 205 Project if DHSEM declines further participation at the July 20 meeting. The motion was seconded by Mike Stratton and passed by voice vote.

New Business

1. Letter requesting congressional support of gages:

Hugh Bevans reported that the Council membership was polled about sending a letter to the State's Congressional representatives similar to that by 53 organizations reported on at the March 12, 2009 meeting. A letter was sent by the Chair and Congressman Mollohan responded stating his understanding of the importance of gages. Hugh expressed his appreciation for the support from the Council membership. Russ Campbell reported that he had spoken with Congressman Mollohan in April about gages and natural stream restoration, and that Mollohan had showed considerable knowledge about water resources in West Virginia.

2. Community Collaborative Rain, Hail & Snow Network:

Ron Evaldi provided copies of the web page for the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail & Snow Network which is a network of volunteer weather observers. He offered to provide a link from the Council's "Switching Station" to this group's web site the next time an update is performed.

3. Monongahela River QW Monitors:

Dave Saville described progress of the West Virginia Water Research Institute to identify and compile current water-quality data for the Monongahela River. Locations for 13 monitoring stations have been established and sampling for major ions and metals will be done every 2 weeks. These data will be distributed publicly on a web site. West Virginia Division of Natural Resources will report on fishing success with a color-coded map. The purpose of this effort is to compile water-quality data from all available sources along the Monongahela River including water-treatment facilities, government agencies, and others. Hugh Bevans suggested that the Council provide a link from it's' web page to this site.

4. National Groundwater Monitoring Network:

Ron Evaldi described efforts by the federal Advisory Committee on Water Information (ACWI) to develop a National Groundwater Monitoring Network. The framework report produced by the ACWI subcommittee on groundwater is available at <http://acwi.gov/sogw/pubs/tr/index.html>

5. West Virginia Water-Gaging Council Meeting Attendance:

A general discussion on meeting attendance resulted in a plan to have the Acting Secretary prepare a report for the Chair listing member attendance for the last 2 years of meetings. A letter will be drafted to those members that have not met the attendance requirements of the bylaws. The goal of this action is to encourage greater meeting participation.

6. Nomination of WVGWC Officers:

Hugh Bevans asked if anybody would like to volunteer for the Chair or Vice-Chair position but received no response. Russ Campbell indicated that he would accept nomination to serve again as Chair and was nominated by Hugh Bevans. Russ then asked for nominations for Vice-Chair. Hugh indicated his willingness to serve again but encouraged others to participate. Hugh then nominated Brian Carr but Brian declined because he is not eligible as Mike Stratton is the principal WVDEP representative. Hugh nominated Mohiuddin Shaik but Mohiuddin also declined because of other pressing assignments. Mike Stratton nominated Hugh Bevans and Hugh accepted the nomination. Nominations were closed. Election of officers will be held at the next Council meeting.

7. Other New Business:

Todd Miller reported that in April there was an organizing meeting to form a group for Floodplain Managers. Todd volunteered to serve as an intermediary between the Floodplain Managers group and the WVGWC.

The next meeting of the WVGWC was set for the 3rd or 4th week of September.

Meeting adjourned at 2:36 P.M.

Respectfully submitted

Ronald D. Evaldi
Acting Secretary