

# West Virginia Water Gaging Council

## Draft Meeting Minutes

Wednesday April 28, 2010

Natural Resources Conservation Service

State Office, 1550 Earl Core Road, Morgantown, WV

### Council Membership Representation

Organization	Present	Proxy	Represented By
<b>WV Conservation Agency (WVCA)</b>	X		Ed Cox
<b>U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)</b>	X		Hugh Bevans Ron Evaldi
<b>WV Department of Environmental Protection (WVDEP)</b>	X		Mike Stratton Brian Carr
<b>WV Division of Highways (WVDOH)</b>			
<b>WV Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHSEM)</b>	X		Bill Wood
<b>WV Division of Natural Resources (WVDNR)</b>	X		Danny Bennett
<b>WV Water Research Institute (WVWRI)</b>	X		Dave Saville Jen Fulton Malissa O'Neal
<b>National Weather Service (NWS)</b>	X		John Sikora
<b>U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)</b>	X		
Huntington District			Stephen Porter Ken Woodward
Pittsburgh District			Robert Yue
Baltimore District			
<b>U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)</b>			Ron Wigal
<b>WV Rivers Coalition (WVRC)</b>	X		Shanda Minney
<b>Canaan Valley Institute (CVI)</b>	X		Ed Watson
<b>Michael Baker Jr., INC. (MBJ)</b>	X		Mohiuddin Shaik

### Other Representation

<b>West Virginia Rural Water Association</b>	Erica Johnson
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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

Hugh Bevans, Vice Chair (Chair), called the meeting to order at 1:31 P.M.

## Agenda Review

Bevans, Chair, asked if there were any additions to the Agenda. Hearing none, Hugh Bevans suggested addition of a discussion on the potential 5% State budget recission.

## Approval of 1/20/10 Meeting Minutes

Bevans, Chair, asked if there were any additions, corrections, or comments to the minutes. Corrections were offered by the membership. Mike Stratton moved to approve the amended minutes, Danny Bennett seconded, and the minutes were approved by voice vote.

# Unfinished Business

## 1. Council Webpage:

Ed Cox reported that the web page had 776 visitors during the period Mar. 1, 2009 to Apr. 26, 2010. The site roughly averages about 60 visits per month but there was a greater number of visits during the last couple of months, possibly because of high-water conditions. Ed also reported that the web page and Council MOU have been updated to show all 13 Council members.

## 2. Water Resources Protection and Management Act:

Mike Stratton reported that he has received WVDEP approval to pursue the flood-inundation mapping imitative with the Corps of Engineers and this effort is progressing. Stephen Porter added that the upgrade of gage equipment remains part of the 205 program but that mapping cost estimates must be obtained before the amount of equipment funds that may be available will be known. The Corps is under some pressure to proceed with the program but legal review may take some time.

WVDEP GIS will have 41% Lidar coverage of the State for the flood inundation mapping. If funds become available then additional lidar coverage may be flown. Danney Bennett offered that the Bever Creek area in Tucker County and upper Shavers Fork may be available from DNR. WVU may be flying the Cacapon River basin near Wardensville to check streambank stability. A question was raised about the availability of the present lidar data and Mike offered to check on this before the next Council meeting.

Mike also reported that the following water protection and management sites are now available on the WVDEP website ([www.dep.wv.gov](http://www.dep.wv.gov)):

- a) Water Withdrawal Guidance Tool – developed to help individuals know when it is environmentally safe to withdraw water from a stream.
- b) Frac Water Reporting Form – for Petroleum Companies to report if they used over 750,000 gallons of water to hydrofrac a well.

- c) Annual certification for large quantity users – forms and instructions for large quantity water users to complete annual user certification.

AI: Hugh Bevans moved and Stephen Porter seconded a motion to put a link to the WVDEP Water Withdrawal Guidance Tool on the WVGWC web page.

Mike indicated that WVDEP will soon be mailing out water-use surveys and that hydropower usage data will be included. Other Protection and management Act efforts include developing water-management training sessions for county officials, and holding watershed meetings (7 HUC8 watershed meetings have already been held). Mike also mentioned that WVDEP and USGS are cooperating on a study of “in-stream” or “environmental” flows. In-stream or environmental flows are the amount and timing of water flows required to maintain the species, functions, and resilience of freshwater ecosystems and the livelihoods of human communities that depend on those healthy ecosystems.

### **3. Floodplain Managers Group:**

Ron Evaldi reported that the West Virginia Floodplain Manager’s Association will be holding a conference May 12 and 13 at Canaan Valley Institute near Davis. A preparation class and exam will be available May 14 for certification as a Floodplain Manager. A business meeting will be held during the conference to adopt a charter for the West Virginia organization and to elect a Board of Directors. Ron will be giving a talk about the current and future direction of hydrologic gaging programs in West Virginia that will include a description of WVGWC activities.

## **New Business**

### **1. Monongahela River Water Quality Study:**

Presentation by Dave Saville – The West Virginia Water Research Institute is undertaking a comprehensive water quality monitoring and reporting project for the Monongahela River. Bi-weekly samples are being collected and lab-analyzed with the resultant water quality data organized and presented via a website utilizing a GIS map and database. The project website is [www.MonWQ.net](http://www.MonWQ.net).

### **2. 2010 West Virginia Water Conference:**

Presentation by Dave Saville – The West Virginia Water Conference is the annual statewide event that combines exceptional educational programs with outstanding opportunities for researchers, policy makers, regulators, agencies and the public to share in the latest information, technologies and research relating to the state’s water resources. The conference will be held Oct. 6-7, 2010 at the Waterfront Place Hotel in Morgantown. It is hosted by the West Virginia Water Research Institute with support from the U.S. Geological Survey. The conference website is [www.wvwaterconference.org](http://www.wvwaterconference.org).

### **3. ASDSO Conference:**

Presentation by Ron Evaldi - The Southeast Region of the Association of State Dam Safety Officials invites you to attend its 2010 Biennial Regional Conference on May 3-5 in Charleston, West Virginia. The program will focus on issues of importance to dam owners, government officials and engineers in the Southeast States. Ron will present an overview of the Reservoir gage network that USGS operates in cooperation with the WVCA and previewed the presentation for the Council membership.

#### **4. Potential 5% State Budget Recision:**

Hugh Bevans noted that Governor Manchin has asked for a 5% budget rescission for FY11. He also noted that the Federal Government is to have a freeze on domestic programs. He suggested that the membership be prepared to discuss potential gage program funding problems at the next Council meeting. Ed Cox suggested that a table be prepared that shows the funding source of each gage for next meeting because the Council is to help guide any program changes. Hugh assigned preparation of the gage funding table to Ron Evaldi.

#### **5. Other New Business:**

Mike Stratton inquired if Council members had historic flood elevation information. Ron Evaldi mentioned the USGS Peak file available on the web and also mentioned Pittsburgh Corps information that USGS Ohio is working to organize. Stephen Porter added that Huntington Corps has information from the southern coalfields and other flood information might be available.

#### **Next Meeting:**

November 4, 2010 at WVDEP Headquarters in Kanawha City.

**Meeting adjourned at 3:53 P.M.**

#### **ACTION ITEMS:**

1. Ed Cox to add link from Council webpage to the WVDEP Water Withdrawal Guidance Tool.
2. Ed Cox to place the Monongahela presentation on the WVGWC web page.
3. Ron Evaldi to prepare gage funding table for next meeting.

*Respectfully submitted*

Ronald D. Evaldi  
Acting Secretary