

**Subcommittee on Sedimentation (SOS)  
Meeting Minutes of January 9, 2008  
Teleconference at 1:00 – 2:40 EST**

Submitted by Tim Randle January 14, 2008  
Reviewed by Jerry Bernard, John Gray, and Paula Makar

**1:00 PM<sub>EST</sub> Welcome, roll call, and review agenda**

Conference Call Participants:

Mark Walbridge	ARS-USDA	Jerry Bernard	NRCS-USDA
Jeff B. Bradley	ASCE	Mary Greene	OSM-DOI
Marian Muste	CUAHSI	Tim Randle	Reclamation-DOI
Jim Renthall	BLM-DOI	Paula Makar	Reclamation-DOI
Ted Yang	CWRRI	John Bartholic	UCOWR
John Potyondy	FS-USDA	Jerry Webb	USACE-DOD
Peter Wilcock	NCED	Jack Davis	USACE-DOD
Jeffery Marr	NCED	Lisa Hubbard	USACE-DOD
Bill Jackson	NPS-DOI	John Gray	USGS-DOI

No agenda items were added.

**1:10 PM<sub>EST</sub> Reservoir Sedimentation Data Base**

John Gray gave a brief synopsis of the data base and three options making it available to the public (see proposal by John Gray, Jerry Bernard, Tim Randle, and Jerry Webb dated 12/5/2007, version to S.F. Blanchard, as an attachment to these minutes):

- I. Provide web access to the existing RESIS-II information. This option would also provide the MS-Access data base files for downloading.
- II. Includes Option I, plus on-line querying of the MS-Access data base, and updating of the reservoir sedimentation survey data through selected agencies.
- III. Option I, on-line querying of the MS-Access data base, plus direct on-line updates with assured quality control.

Eric Sundquist and Kate Ackerman are USGS Geologists from Woods Hole, MA and the latest scientists to work on the data base. John Gray is expecting to receive the MS-Access data base from Sundquist and Ackerman within weeks. After John has received the data base, he anticipates a decision from his Steve Blanchard, Chief, Office of Surface Water (the unit of the USGS that is considering posting RESIS-II) on whether or not the USGS will have the budget to host the data base on their website.

The Subcommittee is interested in the data base (the Advisory Committee on Water Information – ACWI – was supportive of the concept when then-SOS chair John Gray presented the concept at their Fall 2003 meeting). Several questions were raised about

uncertainty and a suggestion was made by Peter Wilcock to have additional discussion on this topic at the May meeting.

John Gray will convene a meeting of the RESIS-II workgroup after he obtains the data base from Sundquist and Ackerman and a decision by the USGS on hosting the data base on their website.

#### RESIS-II Workgroup Participants

- John Gray (USGS)
- Jerry Bernard (NRCS)
- Tim Randle (Reclamation)
- Jerry Webb and Lisa Hubbard (USCOE)
- Peter Wilcock (NCED) (added 1/9/2008)

The consensus of the Subcommittee was that option I be implemented and that options II and III be implemented as resources become available.

John Gray also noted that the RESIS-II data base, describing storage characteristics of about 1,820 reservoirs, is but a small subset of U.S. reservoirs. For example, the National Inventory of Dams ( <http://crunch.tec.army.mil/nidpublic/webpages/nid.cfm> ) contains about 79,000 dams (and, presumably, that many reservoirs, even if run-of-the-river, or silted in). Information from the USGS National Hydrography Dataset (<http://nhd.usgs.gov/> ) and from Bill Renwick, Miami of Ohio (<http://www.users.muohio.edu/renwicwh/> ) indicate that there are at least 6-million impoundments in the U.S., most of which are probably stock ponds. Hence, the RESIS-II data base might be considered a starting point to more fully understand the sediment-trapping capacity of U.S. impoundments.

#### **1:30 PM<sub>EST</sub> Progress on planning for the 9th FISC**

Jerry Bernard reported that the Site Selection Committee, including himself, Doug Glysson, Paula Makar, and Donald Frevert (Reclamation); visited prospective hotels in Las Vegas and Reno, Nevada, to assess costs and accommodations. Doug Glysson will visit a prospective hotel in Orlando, Florida. The Site Selection Committee expects to have a recommendation by the end of January.

#### **1:40 PM<sub>EST</sub> Dam Removal Workshop Proposal**

Tim Randle briefed the Subcommittee on a workgroup proposal to host a dam removal workshop (see version dated 1/9/2008, as an attachment to these minutes). The workshop objective would be to develop a decision framework to assist in determining the types and amounts (level) of sediment data collection, analysis, modeling, and monitoring that are needed for a successful dam removal or sediment sluicing project. The dam removal decision framework can be used as a tool to help assess the probable impact of dam removal, and subsequently, the level of required mitigation. The necessary level of investigation and mitigation would depend on the type of action being considered (e.g.,

full or partial dam removal, reservoir sediment sluicing) and the size of the dam and quantity of stored sediment.

The proposed decision framework would be applicable to sediment release from reservoirs as a result of dam removal or sediment sluicing or flushing. Effects of sediment release would be addressed within the reservoir and both upstream and downstream of the reservoir. The intent is to make the decision framework applicable to dams of all sizes (drop structures to large dams) and all regions of the United States.

#### Dam Removal Workgroup Participants

- Tim Randle (Reclamation)
- Jerry Bernard (NRCS),
- Jim Renthall (BLM),
- Lisa Hubbard (USACE)

At least two workshops are planned. The first workshop will result in an initial decision framework and the second workshop would update that framework based on information from implementation. Draft and final reports would be produced by workshop organizers after each workshop. These reports would be reviewed by the workshop participants and then by independent peer reviewers. A computerized version of the decision framework is a possible product. The Subcommittee on Sedimentation could recommend the final report to the parent ACWI which could adopt the decision framework as a guideline.

The consensus of the Subcommittee was to sponsor the initial workshop during fall 2008. Each member organization of SOS would nominate specialists to attend the workshop who have expertise regarding the sediment effects related to sediment release from reservoirs and the time and interest in working on the decision framework. SOS member organizations would financially support the participation of nominees from their respective organizations.

A proposal by the USGS's Oregon Water Science Center in Portland, and nearby Cascades Volcano Observatory, Vancouver, WA, to host the workshop was accepted by the Subcommittee. Potential cost-sharing among SOS organizations such as the USGS, BLM and Reclamation – and/or with support of the Subcommittee's Federal Interagency Sedimentation Conference fund – was suggested. Some of these agencies may be able to fund travel expenses for participants who do not work for SOS member organizations.

Mary Greene said the OSM has already developed some evaluation procedures for reservoir sediment and would share those with the dam removal workgroup.

#### **2:40 PM<sub>EST</sub> Other Business**

No other business was discussed.

#### **2:40 PM<sub>EST</sub> Adjournment**

**Attachment 1: Proposed [Host, Maintain, and Update the Revised Reservoir Information System \(RESIS-11\)](#), December 5, 2007**

**Attachment 11: Proposal by [USGS Oregon Water Science Center to host the First Reservoir Sediment Management Workshop: Decision Framework for Dam Removal](#), January 9, 2008**