

DATE: February 23, 2009

FROM: Subcommittee on Sedimentation Chair Jerry W. Webb
and Vice Chair John R. Gray

TO: The Record

SUBJECT: Minutes of the February 19, 2009, Conference Call

1. Attendance:

1. Jerry Webb, USACE (SOS Chair)
2. John Gray, USGS (SOS Vice Chair)
3. Jerry Bernard, NRCS-USDA
4. Craig Goodwin, BLM
5. David Kirschtel
6. Bill Jackson, NPS
7. Michael Shannon, ARS
8. Tim Randle, Reclamation
9. Doug Glysson, USGS
10. Marie Garsjo NRCS-USDA
11. Jeff Bradley, ASCE (WEST Consultants)
12. Joseph P. Schubauer-Berigan, EPA
13. Matt Collins, NOAA
14. John Potyondy, FS
15. Blair Greimann, BR
16. Doug Curtis, NPS
17. Marian Muste, CUAHSI
18. Chester Watson, CWRRI
19. Jorge Pagan, FHWA

Chairman's note: This is the best attendance for an SOS meeting in quite some time.

2. Membership Status:

- Remove Mary Greene as OSM representative- Seek a new representative
- TVA- Potential new member- Jerry Webb will contact agency to establish representation

3. Query on Co-Convening "Particle Workshop": The President of Sequoia Scientific, Inc., asked USGS (John Gray) to consider co-convening a Sept. 10-11, 2009, "Particle Workshop" (<http://www.sequoiasci.com/Articles/ArticlePage.aspx?pageId=158>). USGS declined to do so, so the invitation was extended instead to the SOS. Two questions were posed to the Committee:

- Does the SOS want to be represented at this meeting?
- Would the SOS want to be a no-cost Co-Convener of the workshop?

Decision: Participation by SOS members is encouraged but SOS respectfully declines to be a workshop co-convener or to otherwise sponsor the workshop.

4. Update on Upcoming FISC (Webb, Bernard, Glysson): Doug Glysson indicated that there will be multiple additional mailings of the Call for Papers. It is anticipated that the mailings will occur in mid-March and May. Jerry Webb requested that recommendations for session topic/roundtables be sent to him for consideration in setting up the agenda. Some topics that were mentioned as special sessions include Reservoir Surveys and related protocols databases, Geomorphic databases and protocols; and New Sediment Technologies. Sessions on each of these topics as part of the FISC are anticipated.

5. RESIS-II and RESSED (Gray, Bernard, Stewart): This entry summarizes the January 29, 2009, RESIS-II/RESSED Workgroup Phone Conference and current status. The background on this project can be gleaned from 2008 SOS meeting summaries, and RESIS-II workgroup summaries, posted on the SOS website (<http://acwi.gov/sos/minutes/index.html>).

RESIS-II Report and Database: The report and database are available at: <http://pubs.er.usgs.gov/usgspubs/ds/ds434> [the summary of the Feb. 19 discussion on this subject was superseded by release of the RESIS-II product].

RESSED Website: The RESSED website is completely separate from the RESIS-II product to be put on the USGS Publishing Warehouse website. RESSED uses a copy of the RESIS-II Access Database, but the RESSED database will include new reservoir information (above and beyond the 6,617 surveys for 1,822 reservoirs in the static RESIS-II Access database). The RESSED internal website version April 2008 is being revised to reflect information gained over the last 10 months on RESIS-II. When it is provisionally revised, we will make the database discretely available to SOS members for review and comment. John Gray will accept SOS comments, make revisions as needed, and then submit the website to the Chief, USGS Office of Surface Water, for formal approval. Upon receipt of formal approval, the website will be available for general public access. The ASCE Magazine wants to run an article on the database, and an article will probably be published in AGU's EOS by Jerry Bernard, John R. Gray, and others.

Updating RESSED: Considerable effort has been directed toward HTML-coding the original SCS Form 34 (vintage 1953) as the primary means for updating the RESSED Access database. However, there is no direct historical link between Form 34 and RESSED (i.e., the Access database was converted by Jay Atwood, NRCS, in 1994, from an Informix database apparently containing all 6,617 surveys in the Access database). Unfortunately, the linkages between the 49-field Form 34 and the 400+ fields in the Access database have not been fully resolved.

The RESIS-II/RESSED workgroup has identified 3 web-based HTML options for capturing bathymetric-survey data from "the field", to wit:

1. Capture and store in a separate database -- inaccessible to the public, at least initially - information from the 49: Form 34 fields. Do not perform any calculations, hence store no calculated results.
2. Above, but enable storage only of all calculation results that can be certified to be correct.

3. Above, but include as part of the software the capability to fully populate the Access database with both primary and calculated values.

The workgroup's original goal, #3, is proving to be too problematic. We have opted to try to achieve option #2, but failing that, fall back on option #1.

Database Manager: It has become clear to the Workgroup that a funded database manager is essential to the medium- and long-term viability of the RESSED effort. The current programmer, Karen T. Ray of the USGS, is amenable to providing database management support in FY09. She estimates that up to \$17K is needed for the FY09 effort. Marian Muste indicated that CUAHSI might be able to provide database management support using student labor.

Long-Term Needs: Recognizing the need for a more flexible database structure amenable to new reservoir survey data types, the RESIS-II/RESSED workgroup proposes that a group be organized to identify the key elements of such a database and protocols. John Gray has initiated this effort within the USGS, but it will not become active until the RESSED website is up.

6. Update on Development of SOS-sponsored Geomorphic Database (Gray):

John Gray described a movement between USGS/NRCS/F&W that is looking at putting together a database that could be used to store geomorphic data. SOS is establishing a new workgroup on "Geomorphic Databases" that will be headed by the Vice Chair. Members that indicated interest in participating includes Joe Schubauer-Berigan, EPA; Marion Muste, CUAHSI; Matt Collins, NOAA; Tim Randle, USBR; and Jerry Bernard, NRCS. There will be significant coordination requirements to reduce redundancy with agency efforts and those efforts by other subcommittees of ACWI on ecological parameters.

A SOS workgroup lead by John Gray was formed to evaluate SOS organization perspectives on the subject, and to make recommendations on the ways and means, if appropriate, to initiate development of a geomorphic database.

7. Status of SOS award series (Webb/Gray):

Carol Lewis received the first SOS Outstanding Support Award (see Sept. 18, 2008, SOS meeting minutes, pp. 5-6) at the ACWI meeting on 11 Feb 2009. Congratulations to Carol for this well-deserved award!

8. Update on the Dam Removal Analysis workshop (Bernard/Randle):

A brief on the workshop was provided at the recent ACWI meeting and the brief has been posted on the ACWI website.

http://acwi.gov/acwi2009/slide.lib/bernard_%20acwi_sos_021109.pdf

9. Discussion: There is interest in comparing agency policies regarding reservoir sediment surveys and reservoir sediment management. Tim Randle indicated that Reclamation doesn't have any policies on reservoir sedimentation information.

Tim Randle requested any information on policies from other agency on the topics of reservoir sedimentation surveys and sediment management. In light of the long-term needs associated with RESSED, it was requested that each member prepare a 1-2 page white paper that discusses current programmatic policies that are used within their organization associated with sediment management. These papers will be used to identify needs from a national perspective. The workgroup established for RESSED may be able to coordinate this activity.

Action Item For Members: Prior to our July meeting – Compile the Agency White Paper concerning Sediment Management and provide to Chair, SOS.

10. Next SOS Meeting: July 9, 2009 Las Vegas, NV @ Riviera Conference Center. The SOS meeting will be held amid other SOS-sponsored meetings at the Riviera Conference Center that week, possibly including meetings of the SOS RESSED workgroup and the newly formed SOS Geomorphic Database workgroup. Check the SOS website (<http://acwi.gov/sos/>) for updates.