

SUBCOMMITTEE ON SEDIMENTATION MEETING MINUTES

February 16, 2010 -- WebEx

The winter meeting of the Subcommittee on Sedimentation (SOS; <http://acwi.gov/sos/>) took place by WebEx and teleconference from 12:00-1:40 p.m. EST. The following minutes summarize the salient discussions and outcomes from the meeting. The meeting agenda appears as an appendix to these minutes.

NEXT SOS MEETING: June 24, 1:00-4:30 PDT, and June 25, 8:30-12:00 PDT, Riviera Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada, as prelude to the 9th Federal Interagency Sedimentation Conference. We will try to arrange for Webex and conference-call capability.

NEXT ACWI MEETING: To be determined as of date of posting of these minutes (3/2/10)

WEBEX ATTENDEES, FEB 16, 2010: John R. Gray, USGS, Chair; Matt Römken, ARS, Vice Chair; Jerry Webb, USACE; Tim Randle, Reclamation; Marie Garsjo, NRCS; Marion Muste, CUAHSI; Doug Glysson, USGS; John Potyondi, Forest Service; Jeff Bradley, ASCE; Doug Curtis, NPS; Ted Yang, CSU; Joe Schubauer-Berigan, EPA; Rick Hooper, CUAHSI. Mike Eiffe, TVA, participated as a guest.

SUMMARY OF DECISIONS:

- Synopsis of the SOS: Matt Romkens suggested that a brief history of the SOS would benefit any new and prospective members, especially to explain the relationship between the SOS and the ACWI and its subcommittees. By June 1, Glysson, Bernard, and Gray agreed to draft a ~1 page summary of the SOS for website posting that will provide a succinct introduction to the SOS, and more or less answer the question, “why join SOS.” An organizational chart might be included.
- Office of Surface Mining Representation on SOS: Gray will contact past-representative Mary Greene (who transferred to the NRCS) inquiring if she can help bring OSW ‘back to the SOS table.’
- Federal Energy Regulatory Commission: Samuel Lin will be asked to participate in the summer SOS meeting.
- CUAHSI status on the SOS: The status of all three of those listed as being associated with CUAHSI is “liaison.” CUAHSI is encouraged to join the SOS with a member and alternate representing the organization.
- Database issues and CUAHSI/David Maidment: Per information from Rick Hooper and recent email to the Subcommittee on Hydrology, propose putting this on the summer SOS agenda, and to ensure that a representative from CUAHSI is available for the presentation.

MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 30, 2009, SOS MEETING: The minutes previously were approved by email and posted on the SOS website (<http://acwi.gov/sos/index.html>).

MEMBERSHIP: We were pleased to have Mike Eiffe (rhymes with “beef”) of TVA participate in the phone conf. Mike works for Janet Herren, Reservoir Operations, TVA. Mike's and TVA's current interest in the SOS focuses on sedimentation issues, especially with reservoirs, and therefore has potential interest in the activities of at least two SOS Workgroups – Reservoir Sedimentation, and Mississippi River Basin Sediment and Nutrient Monitoring. Mike plans to discuss the potential for TVA to rejoin the SOS after a decade+ hiatus (TVA was one of the founding members of the SOS, as indicated 1940 Federal Interagency Sedimentation Project Report No. 1 (<http://fisp.wes.army.mil/Report%201.pdf>).

Samual Lin, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, was invited to participate, but indicated that he was unavailable.

The SOS roster (http://acwi.gov/sos/SOS_Membship_List_11-05-2009-rev.pdf) was off-line for unknown reasons during the meeting, but was on-line by Feb. 17. Members should consult this website to ascertain if their agency is correctly represented.

WORKGROUP SUMMARIES

9th FEDERAL INTERAGENCY SEDIMENTATION CONFERENCE (9FISC):

The 9FISC (part of the 2nd Joint Federal Interagency Conference on Sedimentation and Hydrologic Modeling) will be held June 27 through July 1, 2010, Rivera Hotel, Las Vegas, NV. Conference registration site is to be up and running by Feb. 17 via jfic.us , along with other information about the conference.

A total of 132 technical papers are sponsored by the sedimentation side of the conference (9th FISC). Additionally, the 9FISC is the umbrella for parts of the total of about 60 JFIC poster presentations, 12 student poster presentations, 11 models and demonstrations, 4 field trips including the "Grand" Grand Canyon tour, and 10 short courses. Other information shared about the 9FISC included:

- A spousal program is also being organized.
- Student competitions for posters and papers will be conducted with cash prizes awarded at the conference.
- Some vacancies still exist for those interested in chairing sessions (contact Jerry Bernard).
- Booth space in the Exhibit Hall is now being offered. Participants in the conference are urged to make their hotel reservations as soon as possible. Proceedings of the conference will be provided at the conference as printed abstracts and a CD containing the full proceedings.
- Post-conference, a CD will be prepared with all 9 of the FISCs Proceedings and offered for download or sale from the jfic.us website, and copies provided to member agencies.

RESERVOIR SEDIMENTATION DATABASE (RESSED)

John Gray provided an update on the joint USACE-USGS project to develop RESSED updating capabilities and to generate consistent-format reports. The Access data that were ported to the Oracle environment (James Stinson, USACE, Vicksburg, MS) were found to be truncated at 50 characters, and had to be reloaded. However, before that could be done, a revised and unequivocally logical schema needed to be developed in the Oracle environment. Kevin Laurent, USGS, has completed the schema and is in the process of re-loading the RESSED Access data into Oracle.

The project includes development of data-entry capability, and production of reports describing salient characteristics of RESSED reservoirs. The data-entry and reports project is on-going and scheduled for completion in July 2010.

The Data Types and Data Uses sub-workgroup met via teleconference in January. The other RESSED subworkgroups -- Database Architecture, and Data-Collection Protocols – have not been formed. It is possible that Kevin Laurent's schema may be sufficiently robust and flexible as to obviate the need for the Database Architecture subworkgroup.

The RESSED workgroup plans to meet from 1:30 – 5 p.m. Friday, June 25.

DAM REMOVAL SEDIMENT ANALYSIS

Tim Randle noted that the Dam Removal Analysis Guidelines (a product of the 2008 and 2009 SOS workshops in Portland, OR, and State College, PA, respectively) are being finalized and will be presented as a technical paper at the conference. The guidelines will begin their peer review at about the time of the 9FISC.

GEOMORPHIC DATABASE

John Gray reported that no substantial activity took place under this workgroup this year, but that a workgroup meeting will be planned in Las Vegas as a prelude to the 9FISC – probably for Saturday, June 26 from 8:30 to noon, PDT.

MISSISSIPPI RIVER BASIN SEDIMENT AND NUTRIENT MONITORING AND INFORMATION PROGRAM

A 6-page synopsis of an 18-page proposal on a National Sediment and Water-Quality Monitoring Network piloted in the Mississippi River Basin was presented at the USGS-USACE Quarterly Meeting, Feb. 2, 2010, USGS National Center, Reston, VA. Both versions of the proposal are available at: ftp://ftpext.usgs.gov/pub/er/va/reston/jrgray/mrb_proposal/. John Gray gave a PowerPoint presentation on the proposal (also available at that ftp site above) as part of the February 16 Webex.

The national program is estimated to cost \$75M-\$90M annually. The Mississippi River Pilot Program would cost about \$18M in 2010 and about \$14M annually thereafter. These costs are nigh insignificant when the following examples are considered:

- Sediment damages in North America are estimated to range from \$20B-\$50B annually.
- ~\$1B in annual USACE dredging allocations, and
- The proposed expenditure of ~\$0.5B per flow diversion structure (as few as 2-3 and as many as 20 such structures) to rebuild coastal wetlands in Louisiana that are being lost at an average annual rate of ~25 mi².

Even a 1% reduction in sediment damages/costs as a result of such a monitoring program would pay for national program many times over.

The program in part would be predicated on technological advances in monitoring using optical, acoustic, and laser technologies. In addition to the USGS and USACE, NOAA, USEPA, and USDA were identified as being among potential collaborators/partners on this badly needed program. No funding has yet been identified.

OTHER BUSINESS

2010 AGU Soil Erosion and Meeting of the Americas

Matt Römken reported that the 2010 AGU Soil Erosion and Meeting of the Americas will be held from Aug.8-13 at Foz do Iguassu in Brazil. Dr. S.S.Y.Wang, Director of the NCCHE at the University of Mississippi and I are co-conveners of session(s) on Soil Erosion and Sediment Transport Modeling. The session proposal was accepted by the AGU Meeting Manager, Suzanne Keeley. We do not know at this point whether there will be more than one session. This may depend on how much interest there will be on this topic. Matt believes a limited number of formal invitations will be extended to participate in this meeting. Who and in what manner those will be made is not yet established.

See the SOS conferences website for information concerning abstract submission, guidelines, and deadlines.

APPENDIX: CONDENSED AGENDA, SOS FEB. 16, 2010, SOS WEBEX

- WELCOME: 2010 SOS Chair John R. Gray and Vice-Chair Matt Romkens
- ROLL CALL AND REVIEW ROSTER:
- MEMBERSHIP:
 - TVA and FERC contacts
 - OSM contact
 - Other
- WORKGROUP SUMMARIES:
 - 9FISC
 - Reservoir Sedimentation Database
 - Geomorphic database
 - Mississippi River Basin Sediment and Nutrient Monitoring
- SOS AND RELATED ACTIVITIES, JUNE 24-JULY 1, LAS VEGAS
- DAM REMOVAL WORKSHOP UPDATE
- NEXT MEETING JUNE 24 @ 1300-1500, JUNE 25 @ 0830-1200 PDT, LAS VEGAS
- ADJOURN