

SUBCOMMITTEE ON SEDIMENTATION MEETING MINUTES

November 30, 2009 -- WebEx

The Fall meeting of the Subcommittee on Sedimentation (SOS; <http://acwi.gov/sos/>) took place by WebEx from 12-2 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 CONFERENCE CALL/WEBEX: February 16, 2010, 12–2 p.m. EST.

SUMMER SOS MEETING: June 24, 1– 4:30 p.m. and June 25, 8:30 – 12 PDT, Riviera Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada, as prelude to the 9th Federal Interagency Sedimentation Conference.

NEXT ACWI MEETING: February 10–11, 2010, Herndon, Virginia. Summaries of all subgroup activities will be presented at the meeting (Chair John Gray).

ATTENDEES, NOV 30, 2009: John R. Gray, USGS, Chair; Matt Romkens, ARS, Vice Chair; Jerry Webb, COE; Tim Randle, Reclamation; Marie Garsjo, NRCS; Marion Muste, CUAHSI; Paula Makar, USBR; Doug Glysson, USGS; Mike Shannon, ARS; Matt Collins, NOAA; John Potyondy, Forest Service; Jeff Bradley, ASCE; and Doug Curtis, NPS. Ted Yang, CSU, joined the meeting near its conclusion.

Joe Schubauer-Berigan (EPA) and Brian Cluer (NOAA) indicated in advance that they would be unable to participate in the meeting. Bill Jackson (NPS) called shortly after the meeting apologizing for missing the meeting.

SUMMARY OF DECISIONS AND MOTIONS:

- Motion Passed (unanimous): Conduct SOS business primarily through workgroups in FY2010.
- Motion Passed (unanimous): Form a Mississippi River Basin Sediment and Water-Quality Monitoring/Information workgroup, led by John Gray (USGS) to initially include Jerry Bernard (NRCS), Jerry Webb (COE), Joe Schubauer-Berigan (EPA), and Brian Cluer or Matt Collins (NOAA).
- Motion Passed (unanimous): Form 3 sub-workgroups under the Reservoir Sedimentation Database (RESSD) Workgroup, as follows:
 - Data Types and Data Uses (being formed Dec. 2009)
 - Database Architecture
 - Data-Collection Protocols
- Decision Accepted: Organizations that fail to participate in at least 50% of SOS meetings in a Fiscal Year will be designated “inactive” on the SOS roles. Any organization designated “inactive” for a 2-year period will be removed from the SOS. Notification of “inactive status,” or permanent removal from SOS roles is made by letter or email from the SOS Chair to the Organization and the ACWI Executive Secretary.

MINUTES OF THE JULY 9, 2009, SOS MEETING: The minutes were approved and subsequently posted on the SOS website (<http://acwi.gov/sos/index.html>).

MEMBERSHIP: TVA had been contacted and indicated interest in membership in the SOS. Don Dycus is the TVA representative on the Subcommittee on Hydrology. After the meeting, John Gray asked ACWI Executive Secretary Wendy Norton to initiate contact with Mr. Dycus to assist in identifying a TVA representative to serve on the SOS (this is ACWI protocol; the SOS is not supposed to contact Mr. Dycus directly). Mr. Dycus' contact information follows:

Don Dycus
Tennessee Valley Authority
Environmental Science, Technology, and Policy
(423) 751-7322
dldycus@tva.gov

The SOS roster (http://acwi.gov/sos/SOS_Membship_List_11-05-2009-rev.pdf) will be modified to remove Forest Service SOS representative Sherry Hazelhurst; John Potyondi will act in this capacity for the Forest Service until Sherry's replacement is identified. Other alterations to the roster include correct email addresses and other editorial-type changes.

SOS TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR ACWI PARTICIPATION: The meeting roll call identified several organizations that have not been represented at recent SOS meetings. The Terms of Reference (TORs; see page 3 at: http://acwi.gov/sos_TORS_9_23_2003.pdf) state that organizations not represented at 50 % of the meetings in a fiscal year will be removed from membership, with earliest reinstatement to the SOS one year later. This rule has yet to be enforced.

A decision was made to modify the TORs to create an "inactive membership status" for organizations that have not participated in a SOS meeting in a fiscal year. Organizations earning this dubious distinction will be identified by letter or email to the Organization and the ACWI secretary. Any organization designated as "inactive" for a 2-year period will be removed from the SOS roles.

WORKGROUP SUMMARIES

9th FEDERAL INTERAGENCY SEDIMENTATION CONFERENCE

Doug and Paula reviewed the latest version of the website, jfic.us. The complete "First Announcement: Joint Federal Interagency Conferences on Sedimentation and Hydrology, 2nd JFIC 2010" is available as a .pdf file under the "Conference Info" button. Most of the information in the announcement will be cut apart and added under the appropriate buttons. The technical program and author's instructions will be provided as separate hot link .pdfs under the Sessions, Demos, Posters, and Presentations Button. Information on the guest program will be added to a combined Field Trips and Guest Program Button.

Paula will send out more information on the changes for organizing committee approval by Dec. 2. The complete website is expected to be available by December 11 except that Registration will be available by January 1, and possibly sooner.

Jerry Webb reminded all that the student information was still incomplete and that he is getting many questions. He will send out an email list of student participants and Doug will contact Pete Hawkins. A student luncheon on Monday will include ~ 5 minute presentations by Federal Agencies on career opportunities. Please contact Cassie Klumpp (cklumpp@usbr.gov) if you wish to volunteer to represent your agency.

RESERVOIR SEDIMENTATION DATABASE (RESSED)

John Gray provided a synopsis of RESSED progress and plans as part of a PowerPoint file via Webex. The static RESSED website (<http://ida.water.usgs.gov/ressed/>) has not changed since going on-line in the Spring of 2009. The only access to the digital data is by downloading the entire Access database.

However, Jerry Webb and John announced the initiation of a joint COE-USGS project to develop RESSED updating capabilities and to generate consistent-format reports. The Access data are being ported to the Oracle environment (James Stinson, COE, Vicksburg, MS), and a front-end for data entry is being developed in FilemakerPro database format (Jerry McFaul, Kevin Laurent, Dave Stewart, USGS). The Bureau of Reclamation has graciously agreed to address the 'reverse engineering' requirement necessitated by the fact that the values in a number of the 300+ fields in the RESSED Access database remain a mystery with respect to the values in the original 47 fields in SCS Form 34. The Bureau also intends to participate directly in the project. The data-entry and reports project is on-going and scheduled for completion in July 2010.

As a follow-up to other calendar year 2009 RESSED workgroup discussions on the long-term need for a robust, national reservoir sedimentation database (that could not be met efficiently with the current Access database), three RESSED workgroup Ad Hoc Sub-Workgroups were formed, as follows:

- Data Types and Data Uses (being formed Dec. 2009)
- Database Architecture
- Data-Collection Protocols

DAM REMOVAL SEDIMENT ANALYSIS

The objectives of the guidelines are to provide a decision framework to determine the type and level of data collection, analyses, modeling, and monitoring necessary to assess dam removal impacts related to sediment. The guidelines will suggest that the necessary evaluation level correspond to the scale of the reservoir sediment.

The workgroup has convened two successful workshops to produce the sediment analysis guidelines for dam removal.

1. October 14–16, 2008 in Portland, Oregon
2. October 27–29, 2009 in State College, Pennsylvania

The first workshop was convened to produce the draft decision criteria for the analysis guidelines. The SOS Workgroup (Tim Randle and Jennifer Bountry) produced the draft guidelines and e-mailed them to workshop participants for review and comment. The second workshop was convened to test and improve the draft guidelines by applying them to 20 case studies in small groups of four to five participants.

The next major steps are for the SOS Workgroup to incorporate the comments obtained at the second workshop, retest the updated guidelines, and obtain independent peer review. The plan is to seek SOS and ACWI review during the later part of 2010.

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.

NEW WORKGROUP: PROPOSED MISSISSIPPI RIVER BASIN SEDIMENT AND NUTRIENT MONITORING/INFORMATION PROGRAM

John Gray provided a synopsis of the origins, endeavors, and goals of this proposed program as part of a PowerPoint file via Webex. The proposed program was conceived in the Summer of 2009 by a USGS Ad Hoc committee led by John. USGS Assistant Director for Water, Matt Larsen, and COE Director of Civil Works, Steve Stockton, have asked John and his USGS and COE colleagues to expand on their draft concept proposal (dated July 23, 2009 and available from John upon request) toward developing a full proposal for submission to Matt Larsen and Steve Stockton on or before February 2, 2010 (the date of the next USGS-COE Quarterly Meeting, to be held at the USGS National Center in Reston, VA).

The proposal will include a pilot project to test surrogate technologies (turbidity, hydroacoustics) for continuously monitoring suspended-sediment transport at a number of Mississippi River Basin gaging stations. Most of these stations are already being operated to monitor streamflow and selected water-quality constituents as part of the USGS NASQAN program (<http://water.usgs.gov/nasqan/>).

John is the workgroup chair, and is joined by Jerry Webb (COE), Brian Cleur and/or Matt Collins (NOAA), Joe Schubauer-Berigan (EPA), and, unbeknownst to him, Jerry Bernard (NRCS).

APPENDIX: CONDENSED AGENDA, SOS NOV. 30, 2009, SOS WEBEX

1. Welcome from FY2010 SOS Chair John R. Gray; introduction of Vice Chair Matt Romkens
2. Role Call; Review/update roster at: http://acwi.gov/sos/SOS_Membship_List_11-05-2009-rev.pdf
3. Agenda review, other issues?
4. Minutes of the July 9, 2009, SOS meeting -- submitted here for approval (vote or request postponement of vote)
5. Summary of Extant SOS Workgroups/Leads (Gray)
6. Format of SOS meetings in 2010 -- Workgroup Driven if we concur (Gray)
7. Future minutes of this and summer meeting -- from workgroup chairs
8. Perpetually absent SOS organizations -- identify, query, resolve?
9. TVA membership? Other members?
10. 9FISC update (Makar, Glysson, Webb)
11. RESSED progress -- PPT (Webb, Gray)
12. Added during meeting: Dam Removal Workgroup (Randle)
13. Mississippi River Basin Sediment and QW Monitoring/Information -- PPT (Gray)
14. ACWI meeting/SOS presentations, Feb. 10-11, 2010 (Gray)
15. Summer 2010 SOS meeting, June 25, 2010, Las Vegas
16. Other issues?
17. Next conference call – Feb. 16
18. Adjourn