

2006 International Council Meeting

World Environmental & Water Resources Congress 2006.

Environmental & Water Resources Institute (EWRI)

Sunday, May 20, 2006. Hilton Omaha Hotel. Washington City Room. Omaha, NE.

Participants:

Ximing Cai (Secretary) Hal Cardwell (Chair), Shou-shan Fan, Arun Goel, Ricardo Hernández, Mohammad Karamouz, Stacey Langsdale, Mark Killgore (EXCOM Representative), Pete Loucks, Daene Mckinney, Shengwen Qi (Visiting International Fellowship winner), Laurel Saito, Kyle Schilling, Cris Surbeck (Vice-Chair), Udai Singh, Marty Teal, Jianpeng Zhou

Members who sent regrets: Miguel Orozco, David Eaton, Jack Day, Lisa Bourget (Past-Chair)

Items

1. Approval of Agenda, Welcome and Introductions
Meeting agenda was approved. Introductions were made.
2. Review and Comment on 2005 Anchorage Meeting Minutes
2005 International Council Meeting minute was approved. No comments or reviews.
3. Governing Board Report
Udai Singh: need to replace the EXCOM representative from the International Council (IC); encourage planning for the 5th World Water Forum (WWF) early, more exposure from ASCE/EWRI will be expected; request feedback on EWRI 2006-2007 strategic plan.
4. EXCOM Report
Mark Killgore: Summarized New Delhi conference preparation; discussed article to be prepared for *Currents* about the activities of IC; gave brief description of the organization structure of the Institute, including the duties of the Governing Board, Executive Committees, Councils, and Task Committees.
5. Task Committee Reports
 - a. Visiting International Fellowship

Laurel Saito: This year there are four Visiting International Fellows: Dr. Shengwen Qi of China, Dr. Ramakar Jha of India, Dr. Marwan Haddad of Palestine and Mr. Haider A. Al-Hemairi of Iraq (not sure if Mr. Al-Hemairi could come due to visa issues).

The VIF program has received some exposure, but there are still problems finding hosts for the Fellows, perhaps for lack of exposure in the possible host community. More effort needs to be made to publicize the program and expose the need for hosts.

There is no database for rejected applications, although rejected applicants are encouraged to apply again the following year. Most of the rejected applications are due to the lack of a host who may help them meet the requirements; others due to unsatisfactory proposals. Most of the information inquiries and applications come from China and India. Some inquiries have come from African countries, but no satisfactory proposal. Latin

America has been so far relatively inactive. It was suggested that relations developed in the Transboundary Environmental Management Task Committee be used as a first step in involving Latin American applicants.

This is the last year of the Visiting International Fellowship Task Committee as a Task Committee. A proposal to transform it into a Permanent Committee has been submitted. The Council votes in favor of that proposal. This year Laurel Saito is going to finish her responsibility as the chair of the International Fellowship Task Committee. Cris Surbeck and Stacey Langsdale will take the responsibility and co-chair the Permanent Committee. Hal Cardwell will verify that the Permanent Committee has been established within EWRI and has funds for the fellowship administration for 2006-2007.

b. Transboundary Environmental Management After NAFTA

M. Killgore is vice chair of this Task Committee. David Eaton is chair. A DVD is being made to show how NAFTA has improved the quality of life in the US Mexico Border with respect to water and wastewater infrastructure. Brian Parsons approved this approach. The task committee will seek comments from the IC about the product. A short monograph will also be developed that will go to EPA.

c. Fourth World Water Forum (WWF)

Daene McKinney reported the EWRI/ASCE participation of the Forum. The IC's lead in the planning of activities and presence in the Forum was deemed positive and beneficial, although the programs planned did not fully materialize due to the Forum organization. In the Forum, Daene McKinney gave a presentation, Hugo Loaiciga joined a panel; Laurel Saito, Kate Berry and David Watkins developed a seminar on student involvement in international water issues; Mark Killgore presented the revisions to the Border International Water Quality Standard.

Comments were made on the organization of the Forum and the lessons learned from the previous participations. Each WWF seems to have its particular organization process hence no specific guidelines can be set yet for the preparation of participation. However for future Forums EWRI (IC would take a leading role pending EWRI approval) should attempt more exposure and more participation on behalf of ASCE. It was suggested that EWRI or IC needs to raise a voice in ASCE's planning and decision about the participation of future Forums, particularly the 5th Forum in 2009 Istanbul, Turkey. It was proposed that the Task Committee for the World Water Forum be continued and should be prepared early, and more financial aid should be sought from ASCE and other organizations (more discussion on the preparation of the 5th Forum is put in the new activity section). McKinney agreed to chair the 5th World Water Forum Task Committee with Killgore as his vice chair. Laurel Saito and Pete Loucks also expressed interest in serving on the committee.

6. Participation in 2006 Omaha Congress

a. International Track and other relevant sessions

There are 11 sessions starting Monday afternoon: (1) Mathematical Models in International Water Management, moderated by Stacy Langsdale; (2) – (8) Seven China Sessions, China I through China VII, moderators Shou-shan Fan and Ximing Cai; (9) International Fellowship Panel Discussion: "Water Management Challenges and

Sustainability: An International Perspective” moderator, Laurel Saito, with all four fellows (if Mr. Al-Hemairi makes it on time); (10) Student Involvement in International Issues in Water Development, moderator, Laurel Saito; (11) EWRI Water Standards with Transboundary Management, presenter, Mark Killgore and moderator Conrad Keyes. Note: All China sessions were cancelled at the last minute. The Chinese participants did not come to the Congress because of the visa problem.

b. Recognition of International Fellows

Recognition of the International Fellows will be conducted during the International Fellowship Reception and Ice breaker at 6:00pm on Sunday May 21, 2006.

c. Participation in Sessions

Members of the group announced their presentations. Many sessions hosted by other Councils and Committees have strong international involvement.

7. Liaison with Other Organizations and Committees

a. Mexican Hydraulics Association (MHA) relationship

Mark Killgore: long-term relationship with MHA through the Transboundary Water Management task and other activities (including publication in English and Spanish); further development will be maintained particularly in technical exchanges and joint conference sessions.

b. IWA

Laurel Saito made some contacts through USA National Committee of IWA, but not much progress has been achieved to strengthen the relation between IWA and EWRI. Given the fact that IWA is a much acknowledged international organization, IC representing EWRI may seek collaboration with IWA in the future. IWA’s 2010 general conference (as well as some specialty conferences) is planned to be held in the continental United States, which provides an opportunity for EWRI and IWA to work together. There also might be an opportunity for EWRI and IWA to co-host the Congress. Jianpeng Zhou, the new member of IC has been an active member of IWA and has participated in many IWA activities, including their upcoming Congress in Beijing. He is willing to help establish contacts between the two organizations. Laurel Saito will also work with him to try to establish a better linkage.

Pete Loucks mentioned that the International Water Resources Association (IWRA) may find its executive director in Cornell University (IWRA’s administration is with the position). If that occurs, he and other Cornell colleagues will help to build up a closer relation between the organization and EWRI.

c. International Activities Committee (IAC) of ASCE

In order to emphasize water resources issues, IC has endorsed Daene McKinney’s application as a corresponding representative from IC. The application will be approved this Fall. Laurel Saito has contacted Michael Sanio and Brian Parsons about the possibility of having an official committee member on the IAC from EWRI to improve the linkage between the two committees. She is interested in being the representative if such a position can be established.

8. Proposed New and Continuing Activities (2006-2007)

a. Existing Task Committees

Visiting International Fellowship Task Committee (it is proposed to be a permanent committee under IC beginning next year), chaired by Laurel Saito; see above for report of activities.

World Water Forum Task Committee chaired by Daene McKinney

International Activities data base chaired by Lisa Bourget

b. Status of VIF – transition from Task to permanent committee

Laurel Saito will take the lead to convert this task committee into a permanent committee; IC backs up that proposal.

c. New Task Committees

Laurel Saito proposed a task committee on enhancing students' involvement in international water and environmental issues, which might be co-sponsored by the Education and Research Council. Decision to submit a proposal to create this task committee will need to consider the outcomes of the session on Student Involvement in International Issues, appearing in the 2006 Congress.

Engineers w/o Borders proposed by Mark Anderson, being considered for future establishment.

d. 2007 EWRI Congress – International track coordinators, IC-sponsored sessions

Mohammad Karamouz (lead), Pete Loucks, Mark Killgore and Shou-Shan Fan will be the coordinators of the International Track. Sessions may include: International fellowship session; conflict resolution in international water management; integrated river basin management – international experiences, and Int'l Hydrological Programme (IHP) -7 (next stage planning) (liaison- Kyle Schilling).

Given its proximity, IC should find some ways to encourage people from Latin America to attend the Congress. Some special sessions might be recommended (Mark Killgore).

e. Symposia and conferences

i. 5th World Water Forum Istanbul (2009), Daene McKinney

After the experiences in the organization process and participation in the 2006 Mexico World Water Forum, a substantially more active approach needs to be taken towards the 2009 Istanbul WWF. It is better to get into the planning process early. EWRI needs to get someone in the ASCE organization board that would allow more participation and decision-making powers regarding the WWF. Daene McKinney will continue the task committee on WWF to plan the participation of EWRI at the 5th WWF. Pete Loucks, Mark Killgore, Laurel Saito and Ximing Cai will remain in the committee.

ii. Seminar on Water Resources Management-March 2006-Merida, Yucatan, Mexico; (Proposed)March 2008- Ho Chi Minh City and surroundings, Viet Nam

The Mérida workshop occurred but no one in attendance at the Omaha meeting participated. Jack Day proposes the next Seminar for Viet Nam. The committee voted to approve this seminar. EWRI and some IC members will have active participation to these seminars and workshops.

Here is a message from Jack Day about the seminars: Jack and Rob Montgomery had participated in the Merida, Yucatan seminar that was held in mid March.

Jack proposed a seminar to be held in Viet Nam sometime in March 2008. He had some contacts with locals about the possible meeting during December 2005/January 2006 when he was a Fulbright Senior Specialist for five weeks in Viet Nam. Recently his local host at the University of Agriculture and Forestry also named Nong Lam University informed him that the Vice Rector had approved the participation of their school as the local host. Nong Lam is located in Ho Chi Minh City so it is a good location for the seminar. It has 17000 students so there are plenty of students, faculty and staff to help make the meeting a success. Jack would put some information to the IC website with the help of Laurel. **This activity needs to be endorsed by IC**, which will give the meeting some legitimacy. All expenses are paid by the individual participants. No ASCE funds are involved in these small meetings. ASCE benefits from the publicity.

iii. India EWRI Conference

Udai Singh and Mark Killgore: EWRI - New Delhi conference has been settled down with participants from 28 countries, twice as many as expected.

iv. Conferences in general

Members of IC are encouraged to inform Laurel Saito about any international water conferences and she can put the information on the website (www.ag.unr.edu/saito/ic.htm).

f. "UNESCO-IHP" interactions- IC contacts, Kyle Schilling

Kyle Schilling and Mohammad Karamouz will organize some sessions on IHP-7 next stage planning in the 2007 Tampa Congress. IC should follow up the new development of IHP and coordinate it particularly from the standing of the U.S.

g. Others

Interactions with other Councils and Committees should be enhanced. During the meeting a representative from the Watershed Council requested an IC representative to attend their meeting on international watershed management issue. Cris Surbeck attended their meeting. Thomas Richford, a member of Water Council will become an IC member.

9. Consideration of Officer and Core positions

Officer positions will remain the same for the next year. Existing core positions will remain and the meeting agreed to have Daene McKinney and Jianping (Jim) Zhou as new core members. Jim Zhou's assignment was confirmed later with current core members who have attended the meeting.

10. Entries for *Currents*

Mark Killgore is to prepare an article for *Currents* about the activities of IC; Lisa Bourget may prepare some submission too.

11. Award Nominations and Other Business

Laurel Saito received the 2006 Outstanding Achievement Award in appreciation of her efforts on the Visiting Fellow program and other IC activities.

Last year the IC meeting talked about the establishment of an “International Impact” Award as a council-level (not monetary) award. The proposal was submitted to Autumn Richter who was to forward it to the Awards Committee for approval. We have not received word on the outcome of the proposal.

The IC voted to keep Mark Killgore’s nomination for Service to the Institute alive for one more year. Walter Grayman is spearheading the effort.

The Environmental and Water Resources Systems Council is going to nominate Ximing Cai (current Secretary of IC) for the Huber Research Award. The IC will back up the nomination.

12. Review of Commitments

Commitments for future work were reviewed:

- Laurel Saito has already submitted a proposal to convert the International Fellowship Task Committee into a permanent committee under IC; Cris Surbeck and Stacey Langsdale will be co-chairs of the Committee.
- Daene McKinney will continue to chair the WWF task committee and is going to organize new activities for the participation of the 5th WWF
- Mohammad Karamouz (track chair), and co-chairs Pete Loucks, Mark Killgore and Shou-shan Fan will organize the International Track and sessions for 2007 Tampa Congress; Kyle Schilling will assist in coordinating the IHP-7 sessions.
- Laurel Saito is going to look at the possibility of preparing a task committee to enhance students’ involvement in international water and environmental issues
- Laurel Saito and Jianpeng Zhou will search for more collaboration with IWA
- IC will make more effort to bring people from Latin America and Africa to the EWRI activities including the Int’l Fellowship program and the Congress.

13. Adjournment

With no further issues, the meeting was adjourned.