

2005 International Council Meeting Environmental and Water Resources Institute

Sunday, May 15, 2005, Anchorage, Alaska

MINUTES

(Finalized on July 22, 2005)

1. In attendance (in alphabetical order): Mark Anderson, Lisa Bourget (chair), Phil Burgi, Ximing Cai, Hal Cardwell (vice-chair, by phone), David Eaton, Shou-shan Fan, Vinio Floris, Katie Gorscak, Walter Grayman, Mark Killgore, Guilherme Marques (Visiting International Fellowship winner), Daene McKinney, Kevin Nielsen, Don Phelps, Laurel Saito, Kyle Schilling, Jerry Sehlke, Udai Singh, Cris Surbeck (secretary), Marty Teal
2. Approved agenda, introductions were made.
3. Approved 2004 Salt Lake City meeting minutes
4. Governing Board Report. U. Singh, Chair of the Institute Operations EXCOM reported on recent happenings. Now there are only two areas under EWRI: Technical Operations and Institute Operations. Our council has been renamed International Council (previously International Cooperation Council) and belongs to Institute Operations (previously belonged to Member Services excom). The Products Development executive committee has been deleted. There are 7 committees and councils under the Institute Operations EXCOM. The International Council needs to update its information for the ASCE registry. We also should look for a better way to interact with the technical councils. L. Saito suggested on the PAES forms that the Councils have to fill out, that there be a check box added to indicate if an activity is international. Then a list could be generated of international activities that could be forwarded to the IC and we can contact the relevant committees to see if they would like our assistance with anything. The IC decided to ask Brian Parsons to check with ASCE to see if this was possible. It also discussed sending an e-mail message to other councils to ask them to alert the IC to any international activities they may be conducting. U. Singh stated that the International Council is empowered to do anything we want, but need to convince Brian Parsons (who is concerned about benefits to institute, in dollars or benefits). It is better to propose new activities in the beginning of the fiscal year, October 1.
 - a. EXCOM Report. M. Killgore reiterated the IC mission statement: *Our Council's mission is to undertake and facilitate a variety of technical and liaison activities in support of international collaboration and international promotion of the role of the Environmental and Water Resources Institute (Institute) of the American Society of Civil Engineers (Society). The Council will also encourage high quality products and services that are international in scope and are of value to the Institute and the Society in general.*

- b. Official register. The IC's mission statement, task committee information, and contact information needs to be updated by August 2005.
 - c. Getting more members. K. Gorscak will have sheet for people to sign up for committees during Salmon Bake.
 - d. Council Meeting in February 2005. L. Bourget reported that there is a desire for the IC to take a more proactive stance in reaching out to the technical committees. We should contact the technical committees more often and stay informed on technical committees' international activities. We should find out if there are areas in which the technical committees would like assistance or advice from the IC. We should try to link to ASCE's International Activities Committee (IAC), but the IAC's structure is very different from the IC's.
5. Task Committee Reports
- a. Visiting International Fellowship. Dr. Haddad, one of the VIF winners, was not able to join us because Israel closed its border to Palestine, and he could not catch his plane. L. Saito is drafting a guideline report to have a permanent committee established to carry out the fellowship activities. She reported that each year a selected individual will be in charge of interacting with future conference organizing committees to facilitate incorporation of the VIF programs into the conference.
 - b. Transboundary Environmental Management After NAFTA. D. Eaton reported that this task committee has been revising the 1995 volume of the NAFTA handbook for water resources managers and engineers. The goal is to have a draft by end of the year. Some parts are written, and some work in the field is happening right now (along US/Mexico border). He asked the committee what process to use to vet that document. In 1995 there were only 2 reviewers from committee. Last November, this task committee was a co-sponsor of a transboundary conference in Arizona and signed agreement of cooperation with Asociacion Mexicana de Hidraulica. A workshop is scheduled in El Paso for transboundary standards. The task committee has also been funded by a bank to produce a documentary for distribution in English in the U.S. and in Spanish in Mexico. It is being shot simultaneously with the field work and is U.S./Mexico focused. The goal is to have it ready by the World Water Forum in 2006.
 - c. Engineers without Borders. This is currently an unfunded, exploratory task committee. M. Anderson reported that last year a draft of memo of understanding was signed between ASCE and EWB with the purpose to provide an opportunity for professionals to work with students in the U.S. and work together to design projects, travel, and construct projects with help from community members of developing countries. M. Anderson has had discussions with EWB and ASCE (Larry Roth) on whether the IC is a good home to steward this memo of understanding? It was brought up that a committee of volunteer services would be a better fit since this activity is not likely to have revenue. In a meeting in Cleveland in April it was discussed that the hope is that EWRI can potentially provide technical training; help provide creation of training modules for engineering in developing countries; and provide resources and contacts to help support ASCE and EWB by extension. Phil Burgi is in the committee for

developing training modules. It is important to educate ASCE/EWRI about opportunities and requirements for participating in EWB. There is a need for more detailed guidance for potential volunteers to provide an opportunity for people to gain experience to be qualified to do the work (design, working with students, etc.). M. Anderson was asked to discuss this here and make contact with other ASCE institutes and also include non-engineers. In essence, the need is for development of training modules. C. Surbeck suggested that a potential role for the IC is to provide training that is country specific about professional practice (procurement, construction materials, etc.). D. Eaton suggested looking at similar groups, such as Engineers for Sustainable development (Ithaca, NY) and International Association for the Exchange of Students for Technical Experience (IAESTE, Columbia, MD). L. Saito suggested that we do an inventory of what exists already and where we can fill gaps.

A formal task committee was proposed and accepted for the purpose of assessing international volunteer organizations and determining what opportunities exist for EWRI involvement. This task committee is broader than just investigating linkages with EWB. M. Anderson will write the proposal. L. Saito agreed to be on the task committee.

- d. Fourth World Water Forum, March 16-22, 2006. A higher level committee was created, the North American Council of Civil Engineering, composed of ASCE, the Canadian Society of Civil Engineers, and the Mexican Federation of Civil Engineering Societies. M. Killgore attended the meeting in July of last year and presented proposal that EWRI drafted. EWRI is the lead in representing ASCE at the WWF. The current ASCE president will be there. Within the EWRI proposal, we hope to get our technical message out. Hugo Loaigacia will promote U.S. systems researchers to have technical content in WWF. M. Killgore passed out copies of the latest newsletter. This task committee's meeting will be tonight. Another pre-meeting of the WWF4 planning committee will be in Jamaica in October, but it wasn't decided if anyone from the task committee would attend.
 - e. Mexico workshop. W. Grayman reported on the next international workshop to be held in 2006. The workshop is being organized by Armando and Julia Pacheco, Civil Engineering Dept, Universidad Autonoma de Yucatan, Merida, Yucatan (pavila@tunku.uady.mx) and Jack Day (dayj@uwgb.edu). They will be coordinating with Daene McKinney concerning exact dates for consistency with the Mexico City World Water Forum. This workshop is an informal meeting of about 20 professionals (and often spouses) to conduct paper presentations and tours on selected environmental and water resources topics.
6. Participation in 2005 Anchorage Congress
- a. International Track. 4 sessions starting on Monday: (1) Climate changes; (2) VIF panel (V. Floris moderating, plus 2 fellows, N. Wickramanayake (past VIF recipient), Kyle Schilling, and the Secretary General of Saudi Arabia Prize for Water; (3) Transboundary water issues (moderated by L. Bourget); and (4) Emerging technologies (moderated by X. Cai).

- b. Recognition of International Fellows. Will be conducted at reception at 6 PM on Sunday.
 - c. Participation in Sessions. Members of the group announced their paper presentations.
7. Liaison with other organizations. Last year we established the start of a relationship with the International Water Association (IWA). Currently, IWA's interest in a relationship is unknown. Brian Parsons of ASCE has been in contact with Paul Reiter of IWA. Dale Jacobson has ties with Paul Reiter. L. Bourget will ask Brian Parsons for a list of EWRI's agreements with other international organizations. We should look at the example of ASCE's GeoInstitute, which has a significant international effort with a significant budget.
8. Relations with other countries and other international conferences. U. Singh, India conference co-chair, announced call for papers. EWRI is in the lead for this conference, which will last 2 1/2 days in December 2006. A co-chair is from the Indian Institute of Technology. Mark Killgore is in the steering committee. Current activities are focusing on finding financial sponsors, mostly non-commercial types, like USACE, USAID. EPA is almost committed. Mark is getting help with coming up with sponsors and putting their names on the second call for papers, due out in the fall. Conference committee needs help with publicity, suggestions on well-visited websites and blogs with international focus. L. Saito will enter the announcement on the IC website. M. Killgore will send L. Saito the pdf for the India conference call for papers. The main focus of the conference is on issues outside of North America. Conference organizers are looking for suggestions on content, keynote speakers, panelists.
9. Proposed new and continuing activities (2005-2006)
- a. Existing Task Committees. H. Cardwell is VIF representative on organizing committee of Omaha conference for facilitating VIF activities.
 - b. New Task Committees. Task Committee on assessing international organizations for IC/EWRI volunteer opportunities (title to be determined).
 - c. Symposia and Conferences. 4th World Water Forum, March 2006, Mexico.
10. 2006 EWRI Congress (Omaha). H. Cardwell volunteered to be lead of Visiting International Fellowship with the Omaha organizing committee. We discussed whether it makes sense to have an international track. S. Fan had previously volunteered to organize one. We discussed at length how to organize one. We came up with several specific themes (sessions) to hold under an International Track. Sessions themes discussed were: (1) China's water transfer project/sand storm; (2) Transboundary water issues, Canada/US; (3) Transboundary water issues, US/Mexico; (4) Interstate transboundary water issues; (5) International (general); (6) Reconstruction in war-torn countries; (7) Visiting International Fellows panel. We have no volunteers for the transboundary water issues track. M. Killgore and D. Eaton will head a transboundary water quality session. We still need someone to spearhead the track, possibly H. Cardwell because he is in the organizing committee.

11. Consideration of officer and core positions for 2006-2008. Beginning October 1, 2005, H. Cardwell will be chair, C. Surbeck will be vice-chair, X. Cai will be secretary. X. Cai will replace Morris Israel on the list of core group members. The ten core members are: M. Anderson, L. Bourget, X. Cai, H. Cardwell, S. Fan, M. Killgore, S. Langsdale, T. Lee, L. Saito, and C. Surbeck.
12. Awards
 - a. L. Saito suggested that the IC consider nominating someone for an EWRI award. She mentioned considering Jack Day and search for an appropriate award to bestow on Jack in Omaha in 2006. It was mentioned that Jack may have already won an EWRI award. Another idea is to establish a council-level award (not monetary) in the name of Jack Day. W. Grayman and D. McKinney will talk with Jerry Stedinger about rules for establishing an award in the name of Jack Day and have him be the first recipient. We can support the development of a council-level “Jack Day International Impact” award, ideally with a small token of appreciation. The award will be given out at the International Reception.
 - b. W. Grayman wants to nominate L. Saito and M. Killgore jointly for the Planning and Management Service to Society award. He will collect letters of nomination for each of them. The formal nomination will come from L. Bourget, chair of the IC.
13. Adjournment