MINUTES

2012 International Council Meeting

Sunday, May 20, 2012 from 5:30-9:30pm

Fiesta I & II
Albuquerque, NM

1. Welcome and Introduction of members attended, regrets (Mohammad)

Mohammad welcomed everyone; Introductions


2. Approval of 2011 Minutes and the Agenda – update the Roster (David)

Roster circulated for attendance/update. Anyone not attending or sending regrets for two years will be removed from the roster (may rejoin upon request). As of May 20, 2012, IC has 90 active members (Attachment A).

Mohammad motioned to approve the 2011 minutes, Zia seconded, approved.

3. Leadership Weekend Meeting Report

Mohammad presented a copy of minutes from the Feb. 8, 2012 conference call, which mainly provided a report of the WWCA committee. Minutes were approved (Attachment B).

4. Report from the Governing Board.

No report.

5. EXCOM Report

Mohammad proposed to EXCOM a re-organization of the IC in order to be more active in organizing international conferences and promoting international participation in EWRI. EXCOM was very supportive of the proposal (Attachment C).

6. EWRI Program Committee Report
See 8.a.

7. Existing and proposed Committees & Task Committees

a. Visiting International Fellowship

Carmen and Laurel provided a report. One Visiting International Fellow, Muna Abu Dalo, and her host, Aline Cotel, were in attendance. Vinio Floris (another potential host) was also in attendance, but his fellow could not attend the conference. There were 8 applicants. The Visiting Fellow panel discussion is on Tuesday afternoon.

b. World Water Council Activities Committee (Dale)

North American regional forum at the 2011 Congress was very successful. Participated in Stockholm International World Water Week and the Americas Regional Process meetings in Mexico City and Medien, Columbia. The World Water Forum in Marseilles, France in March, had about 35,000 people in attendance. EWRI hosted the U.S. Pavilion, adjacent to Mexico and U.N. pavilions. Pavilion had heavy traffic, and EWRI is considering hosting again in the future. Participation was also good at the thematic sessions.

Korea selected to host the 7th World Water Forum in March 2015. Committee is looking forward to staging activities for the next event.

EWRI could host panel discussions to get other agencies, the private sector, and foundations involved. No immediate tasks, however, until the World Water Council forms a framework for the 2015 forum, and then the Committee essentially “reacts” in order to organize participation appropriately.

Additional resources are needed to support more U.S. involvement. EWRI should look for opportunities for outreach to expand involvement.

c. Task committee on post-NAFTA impacts on water planning (David Eaton).

Task committee produced several products, discussion on-going regarding broader dissemination. David suggests a documentary (DVD product), but multi-media products are not being distributed by ASCE. IC will consider ways to promote, such as an article in EWRI Currents and/or a session at the 2013 Congress.

Investment funds have now dried up, but needs still exist. U.S. and Mexico governments have agreed to work together for joint water quality management, despite different water quality standards. A future task committee could evaluate technological and institutional challenges and opportunities. David Eaton is to propose a task committee (Action).

d. Informal International Workshop (Walter)

2-3 day workshops, featuring small groups, informal presentations, conversation, and low registration fees. Previous workshops have been in Mexico, Vietnam, Beijing and Peru. The next workshop is being planned near Barcelona, Spain, in Summer 2013.
8. New Standing Committee and Task Committees

a. International Participation Standing Committee (Mohammad) – The EWRI Program Committee is responsible for recommending international conference locations to the Governing Board, but there is a need for broader efforts to promote international participation in EWRI. One product would be an annual report evaluating and making recommendations to promote international participation.

There is some concern about overlap with the Program Committee. However, the Program Committee would like IC to play an active role in recommending conference locations.

Another possible product would be a web-based session at each Congress to involve international participation.

Proposal for new standing committee was approved unanimously (Attachment E).

Control group: M. Karamouz, J. Zhou, R. Peralta, Z. Hosseinipour, L. Kalin, C. Howard, J. Ryu, C. Bernedo, Sajjad Ahmad, K. Madani

b. Richard Peralta proposes new Task Committee (topic TBA)

Task Committee on Reducing Conflict through Water-Energy-Land (Food) Sustainability (WELS). Committee would organize sessions at international conferences, special issues of a journal following each conference, host a public web-site, and recognizing outstanding contributions through awards.

Some proposed outcomes were considered challenging, particularly special issues of a journal on a narrowly focused topic. The suggestion was made to consider the UNESCO World Water Development Report, and how the IC could contribute in this area.

Richard will circulate the task committee proposal for comment (Action).

c. Laurel Saito and Aline Cotel proposes new Task Committee on the Women-Water Nexus (Aline Cotel)

This proposal builds on previous research collaboration and positive experiences with the International Visiting Fellows program. The goal is to promote the participation of women in EWRI and research collaboration.

The task committee proposal was circulated for comment and approved.

d. Jim Jianpeng/ Ximing Cai new task/standing committee

Ximing will send a proposal focusing on coordination of other task committees with international activities (Action).
9. Liaison with other organizations and committees  
   a. ASCE International Activities Committee  
      No report.  
   b. IWA (Jianpeng)  
      No report.  
   c. UNESCO-IHP interactions (Kyle)  
      No current activities.

10. Participation in 2012 Congress  
   a. International Council Sessions  
      4 sessions (15 presentations) at this Congress, along with 2 panel discussions.  
   b. International Fellows Reception

11. 2013 EWRI Congress – IC track coordinators, IC-sponsored sessions – Selection of New Track Chair  
    Paul Block will continue as Track Chair for 2013. Sessions are to be identified by June 18 and circulated to the members for suggestions/participation. (Action)

12. Symposia and Conferences  
   a. EWRI Int’l conferences (Phil Burgi)  
      2013 Turkey (Latif) – In Izmir, January 2013. June 17 is the abstract deadline. It may still be possible to propose sessions.  
      2014 Ecuador (Phil) – January 6-8 in Guayaquil or Quito; Working to get agreement between ASCE and national engineering organizations in Ecuador; also looking for U.S. universities to get involved.  
      2015 Sri Lanka – Approved by Program Committee, but no further planning has been done.

13. Entries for Currents  
    Jim agreed to serve as the IC editor for Currents articles.  
    Article on David Eaton’s documentary on post-NAFTA impacts of water infrastructure investments.  
    Article on activities of the IC.
Article on activities of the International Fellows Program. This has been written by the Int’l Fellow Committee every year, and we should contact the current chair for the article. (Action – David)

14. Award Nominations / this year’s recipients:
   
a. Service to the Profession award – Mohammad was nominated for the EWRI Service to the Profession Award by Lindell Ormsbee, and endorsed by the Systems Committee and IC.

b. Others – Nominations may be accepted after this meeting. We can also approve a service to the council/institute award.

   Walter Grayman is being nominated by Pete Loucks (Systems Committee) for the Julian Hinds Award. IC will endorse this nomination.

   David Watkins is being nominated for the Achievement Award by Ximing Cai, and endorsed by the Systems Committee and IC.

   Letters of endorsement should be sent to Pete, Lindell and Ximing. (Action)

c. Check the following website for information (Oct. 1 deadline):
   http://content.ewrinstitute.org/inside/ewri_instituteawards.html (EWRI Awards)
   http://www.asce.org/pressroom/honors/awards.cfm?prmid=1 (ASCE Awards)

15. Review of Council’s Responsibilities/Roles/Commitments-Revisit our Restructuring

   New Vision/Mission Statement (Zia H.)

   One goal is to promote scientific exchange of information among international professionals. Comments will be provided to revise the Vision Statement in order to add to the Mission Statement (Attachment F). (Action)

16. Other Business

   Udai Singh will be the chair of a 2016 ASCE-sponsored international conference in Hawaii. David Eaton: University of Texas-Austin, Univ. of Regina, the UN Water for Life Initiative in Canada, the North China Electric Power University and others are hosting a meeting in Banff, Alberta in October 2012 on water-energy security under climate uncertainty. ASCE/EWRI co-sponsorship is being requested to facilitate US participation. David will send a flyer to circulate to the committee. (Action)

17. Adjournment