CUAHSI Board Meeting Minutes

June 05, 2013, Washington, DC

Roll Call

- 10 members are present, needed 10 for quorum
- "X" indicates Director is present

Term expires 12/31/2013

David L. Freyberg, Stanford University (Education & Outreach Liaison) X

Brian McGlynn, Duke University

Jim McNamara, Boise State University (Observations Liaison) X

Todd Rasmussen, University of Georgia X

Ying Fan Reinfelder, Rutgers University X

Term expires 12/31/2014

Diogo Bolster, University of Notre Dame X

Peter Troch, University of Arizona

Scott Tyler, University of Nevada, Reno

Denice Wardrop, Pennsylvania State University X

David White, Murray State University X

Term expires 12/31/2015

Anne Carey, Ohio State University

Robyn Hannigan, University of Massachusetts-Boston (Chair) X

Carol Johnston, South Dakota State University

Witold Krajewski, University of Iowa (past-Chair) X

Brian Waldron, University of Memphis X

Officers & Staff Present: Rick Hooper (CUAHSI), Kayla Berry (CUAHSI), Jennifer Arrigo (CUAHSI), Adam Ward (Secretary), Alva Couch (CUAHSI)

Minutes prepared by Adam Ward

16:04 EST   Call to Order

1. Report on Status of Water Data Center—A. Couch

    a. Couch provided an overview of the Water Data Center status. He reported hiring of several staff: Steve Pilot (Senior Software Engineer), Marie Martin (Software Engineer), Jon Pollak (User Support). He has two students currently working on-site at the Water Data Center. He reported that work is in progress on the HIS Central "HydroCatalog", and software to manage releases. Updates websites include wdc.cuahsi.org and his.cuahsi.org. Students are working on data access pages for users, and developing a system-wide health monitor for the HydroServers.

    b. Couch summarized short-term goals of the data center including movement of hiscentral.cuahsi.org to Azure and associated upgrades, creating a website and media to explain the role of the data center, and improving the user interface.

    c. Couch reported improvements in the ability to distribute HIS Central to other locations, and to capture data in a central location across multiple servers.

    d. Hooper noted that Couch will provide a more detailed update at the July Board meeting.

    e. McNamara clarified that the Water Data Center is an organization, and that the HIS is a software system. Couch noted that a primary charge to the Water Data Center is to continue implementation and improvement of the HIS, and that HIS will continue to be supported for users.

    f. McNamara questioned whether servers would need to be maintained locally in the future, or if all data would be stored in the cloud. Couch reported that HydroServers can remain in their current locations, but that storage in the cloud will be possible. He noted one limitation in the cloud is real-time data streaming. He further requested that if any servers are taken offline that he be notified such that data could be centrally hosted.

    g. Wardrop requested that some additional vision of the proposed workplan be discussed at the July board meeting. Couch noted that FAQs are already posted online.

2. Brief Reports on CUAHSI involvement in EarthCube Building Blocks proposals—J. Arrigo

    a. Arrigo reported that several people have contacted CUAHSI about the ongoing NSF EarthCube efforts. Through several steps, a general solicitation was released. Amendments for this call have been issued, including the request for "Building Block" proposals that build upon current cyberinfrastructure successes to coordinate across a broader group of the geosciences. Arrigo reported many requests for support in relation to this solicitation.

    b. Arrigo summarized the efforts of CUAHSI related to this effort, including:

      i.   Four proposal with CUSHSI letters of commitment related to HIS databases, community engagement, and accessing services from the Data Center;

      ii.   Two cases where CUAHSI is a sub-awardee (one with Hooper as a co-PI, one with Arrigo as a co-PI), both of which involve leading community workshops, publicizing activities; and

      iii.   One case where CUAHSI would provide randomized, anonymous user logs related on cyberinfrastructure via a contract.

    c.   Arrigo noted that letters of commitment were aligned with core activities of CUAHSI, and the Executive Committee approved the two cases with CUAHSI as a sub-awardee.

    d.   Hooper reported that because staff time was included in some of these proposals, he has notified NSF program managers of the added burden on staff to begin a discussion about how this might affect individual proposal funding or the CUAHSI renewal proposal.

3. Approval of CUAHSI appointment to Federal Advisory Committee on Water Information (ACWI)--R. Hooper [Background document: Invitation]

    a.   Hooper was invited by the USGS for CUAHSI to join the Federal Advisory Committee on Water Information as a member. Hooper has served for about 3 years on the ACWI Subcommittee on Water Quality. The commitment is for 1 in-person meeting per year (2 days) and 2-3 telephone conferences over the year. Hooper reported this is a formal federal advisory committee. He reported that this effort is well-aligned with CUAHSI's mission, and would be a good place to discuss the ongoing Water Data Center efforts. He will request the Executive Committee to act on this.

    b.   Rasmussen expressed support of this commitment.

4. Report from Regional Meetings—R. Hooper

    a.   Hooper reported that regional meetings have gone well. He reported graduate students attended one meeting in large numbers, and that they expressed an interest in learning more about CUAHSI. He suggested that more direct marketing to graduate students should be considered in the future. Hooper reported that he is achieving a dialogue with a broad cross-section of members that has been informative.

    b.   McNamara questioned how many meetings are still pending. Hooper reported at a total of 8 additional meetings are scheduled in the first two years of the renewal proposal.

5. Report on Lets Talk About Water Challenge Grant Experience—K. Berry

    a.   Berry summarized what an LTAW event entails, including the basic structure (a film symposium and panel discussion). The objective to keep the jargon minimized and emphasis on local or regional water issues with a broad audience. She reported this activity fits within CUAHSI's educational and outreach plans. To-date, CUAHSI has been involved in 12 LTAW events, and that three upcoming events are scheduled. Funding for these events comes from the Johnson Family Foundation, totaling $94,712 since 2010. Berry summarized LTAW activity budget items, noting a typical range of $9,000-16,500,

with larges fees associated with panelists, room and theatre rental fees, and LTAW consultant fees.

b. Hooper noted that the Johnson Family Foundation does support CUAHSI overhead at the standard rate. Berry noted that NSF-supported staff time for Hooper and Berry is allocated to education and outreach activities.

c. Berry reported that 6 LTAW activities are planned for 2013 and 3 for 2014. For the 2012 Matching Grant program CUAHSI provided $1:1 matching funds (up to $3,000). Ten applications were received with a wide range of applications and applicants.

d. Berry summarized challenges to implementing LTAW events and lessons learned at the events conducted to-date. She continues to refine her ability to assist in planning and executing these events, including: facilitators guides for some topics and films, an archive of past panelists and experts, an archive of films that can be shown.

e. Berry will explore publication avenues to share results and experiences with a broader community (e.g., Eos). She is exploring opportunities to establish sustainable funding sources for this program including foundation support, corporate support, or federal support.

f. Hooper noted that he has concern about pursuing NSF funding with our current model. He feels that a "pre-packaged" event with specific films and panelists may be more appealing to federal or corporate sponsors.

g. Wardrop suggested that corporate funding may be complicated based on needing to identify mutual benefit with public-private partnerships and clarify branding.

6. Plans for July Board meeting—R. Hooper [Background Document: Developing the CUAHSI Science Plan]

a. Hooper reported that the NSF Renewal Proposal is currently under review. He proposed that updating the CUAHSI Science Plan would be the focus of the July Board meeting. He presented a plan to spend 2-5 hours at the Board meeting to gather information to support updating the Science Plan. He noted that the objective of this document is to identify community needs to support the science of CUAHSI members.

b. Hooper proposed an approach that parallels the development of the updated *Challenges in Opportunities in the Hydrologic Sciences* (NRC, 2012). He requested that Board members read this document in preparation for the meeting. The report is freely available for download and posted on Central Desktop.

c. Rasmussen suggested that a large group discussion could be hosted at the Fall 2013 AGU conference (CUAHSI Town Hall meeting). Hooper agreed, noting that this July meeting would be a formative place to begin.

d. Waldron clarified that the focus needs to be on activities and infrastructure that supports the research community. Hooper re-stated this as "What cannot be done with awards to individual PIs?"

7. **Motion to Adjourn**
   a. **Motion: David Freyberg**

b. **Second: Brian Waldron**
c. **Discussion: None**
d. **Approval: Yes**
e. **Abstain: None**

17:04 EST Adjourn