



CUAHSI Board Meeting Minutes February 10, 2016

Roll Call

- 11 members present, 10 needed for quorum – quorum is met

Present:

David Hyndman
Holly Michael
Todd Rasmussen
Al Valocchi
Erkan Istanbuluoglu
Matt Cohen
David Genereux
Gordon Grant
Erich Hester
Steve Loheide
Jeanne VanBriesen

Not Present:

Michael Gooseff
Scott Mackay
Kamini Singha
Scott Tyler

Officers and Staff Present: Rick Hooper (CUAHSI), Liz Tran (CUAHSI)
Minutes prepared by Liz Tran

Item 1: Vote to approve January Meeting Minutes (Ward)

Approve minutes pending change from "Board appoints Martin Seul as Director": to "Board authorizes the Executive Director to appoint Martin Seul..."

Motion: Al Valocchi

Second: Holly Michael

Discussion: No discussion

Vote: Approved (unanimous)

Item 2: Extension of term of Acting Director of WDC

- Martin prefers to remain Acting Director pending appointment of new Executive Director
- Potential restructuring of Senior Management as part of Business Plan
- Compensation of Senior Management--revise procedure

Discussion on extending the Acting Director position pending hiring an Executive Director.

Hooper expressed Martin Seul's concern about the hiring of the new executive director and marketability of his position as well as CUAHSI. Seul would like to retain his Software Engineer and Acting Director title while CUAHSI searches for an



Executive Director. This brings into consideration of what the structure of senior management is as part of the Business Plan.

Hyndman brought up the point of how other staff are not operating with an end date so is there a need to do anything more and not single out Martin?

Hooper says it is an issue with Acting Director. There is no need for motion. The Board was deeply involved with the search for a Director and were concerned about how CUAHSI is presented to NSF. Hooper wants the Board to authorize this as this is an acting position and this is different than what the Board was thinking.

Valocchi said it was fine to do that.

The CUAHSI Board authorizes the Executive Director to extend the Acting Director position pending hiring a WDC director

Motion: Al Valocchi

Second: Dave Genereux

Discussion: No discussion

Vote: Approved (unanimous)

Hooper brought up the discussion of the revising the procedure for compensation of senior management using the IRIS model. There needs to be checks and balances in place. The Board should look at what current senior management salaries should authorize the salary pool. Executive Director then has discretion and decision of how salary is decided or doled out. As organization thinks of senior management structure, need to think about compensation as these numbers grow and the budget grows. If CUAHSI gets an assistant director, it would be in the same group as senior management. When hiring new positions, need to consider using titles that are relevant and attractive to the candidate pools. CUAHSI needs to consider what it has done before and how it has attracted people – if the title attracts the appropriate person and if the compensation is right.

Valocchi mentioned that this is something to be considered further. If the senior management person is reporting to the Executive Director and the Executive Director has main responsibilities for compensation as opposed to board or board oversight. How does board assert fiscal authority? Board approves overall salary pool.

Hooper brought up that a salary survey would be ideal for Executive Director, WDC Director, and maybe add controller as a possibility to be considered. As candidates are being interviewed for ED, this might be an issue. This can be reviewed in the July board meeting but would need a salary survey to back up what CUAHSI is doing and how it is dealing with senior management compensation.

Item 3: Approval of request for Georgia State University to become member of CUAHSI

- See letter on iMeetCentral
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Hooper met with Katie Price at a previous CUAHSI event. Board needs to approve new member and then new member pays afterwards.

The CUAHSI Board approves the request of Georgia State University to become a member of CUAHSI with Luke Pangle, Katie Price, and Brian Meyer as representatives

Motion: Steve Loheide

Second: Dave Genereux

Discussion: No discussion

Vote: Approved (unanimous)



Item 4: Report of meeting with American Water Works Association (Van Briesen)

Van Briesen discussed how she went to the Government Affairs group with AWWA, a trade group for drinking water utilities through the U.S. Utilities pay members at AWWA for different things like lobbying, and has a water research foundation that uses user generated fees for drinking water research. She has collaborated with AWWA for a number of years. She discussed with AWWA on how AWWA can get raw data to be associated with the WDC. They never heard of CUAHSI and she gave a quick briefing of CUAHSI to AWWA and some other small NGOs. They discussed the possibility of working on data issues. There are data on drinking water plant intakes, but it is not published. There are some opportunities to use existing data on intake water as it is a rich data source but difficult to get a hold of. Utilities are hesitant to give the data out. Jeanne will follow up with Alan Roberson (AWWA) in a few weeks to discuss the possible interactions about data and CUAHSI.

The Board discussed how it would be nice to get the water industry, not individuals, but the whole group to get on board to giving access to the water data. The organization RAIN gets data from their intake and puts it out on the web and is shared among their network. It is a real-time system and data streamed to various locations. They were not aware that others would be interested It would be good if CUAHSI can get intake data and link to WDC.

Valocchi asked if USGS and EPA has some of this data or similar types of data, and how it would complement the existing data.

Van Briesen said that the WDC is already linked to USGS and EPA data. It would be a good idea to collect and curate data that is already digital that will extend utilities to other areas.

Gordon brought up the broader issue of if there is any effort in building a national inventory of water data – what data is out there and how much is digital and how much is available.

Hooper said there is no such effort. CUAHSI would need a project to work with to go after something like this. Join a drinking water group or something broader. The closest thing is the Shale Network where inventory is available for long-term data (fracking).

Gordon says that not many groups can play that role of assemblage of this type of thing. This is something CUAHSI might consider if the right ducks are lined up.

Hooper brought up the point of how do we make this real-time data easily attainable? Need to think about what's out there more strategically and the value of the WDC. This requires deep thought on strategy if CUAHSI were to do something like this.

Matt brought up that the AWA as a research foundation which solicits proposal for funding. This national inventory might be successful for funding.

Van Briesen said she has never been funded through AWWA or the Water Research Foundation. There are different categories for proposals – tailored collaboration, unsolicited, solicited. She has not seen RFPs for this year and cannot recall any RFP with a data focus but it could be a possibility.

5. Approval of Rick's travel (February-April)

- Feb 16-19 LTAW, Delft (already approved)
- March 8-9, Hydroshare All Hands meeting, Chapel Hill (on HydroShare grant_)
- March 14-15 SI, Tuscaloosa (on NFIE supplement)
- April 25-27, Workshop on Hydrologic Modeling, Bologna, Italy (already approved by NSF) (workshop description in meeting folder)



- NOTE: Vacation March 28-April 8.

Hooper said he sent the Workshop on Hydrologic Modeling to Tom at NSF and Tom has approved attending. He will not go to EGU but thought it would be valuable to go this workshop. He wants to contribute what the Summer Institute is doing. This is paid for out of the CUAHSI grant.

Motion to approve all travel outlined above by Hooper.

Motion: Valocchi

Second: Grant

Discussion: Hooper mentioned to the new board members that all his travel are approved by the Board.

Vote: Approved (unanimous)

Item 6: Standing Committees

- Review Director liaison appointments
 - E&O--Loheide
 - Instrumentation--Hester
 - Informatics--MacKay
- Update Charges to include strategic plan
- Confirm and Update membership

Hooper discussed that CUAHSI is trying update all the charges. For the listed liaisons, he will be in touch in the next week or so to work on draft documents. He wants all to look at membership and think about appointments of new people. There is some work coming up in the next few weeks to try and advance this plan to get moving on activities.

Matt said he didn't understand what the constituencies of the committees are. What is the constituency of the committee and what is the benefit of having a second Board Member?

Hooper gave a short rundown of what each committee does (e.g. E&O looks at training proposals, Instrumentation looks at instrumentation workshops and travel grants, Informatics oversees WDC, etc.) Overall, look at what plans currently say and what they should say. For Informatics, Martin Seul can always give a briefing of where CUAHSI is at.

Some work coming up in the next few weeks to try and advance this plan to get moving on activities. All committee members should be listed on website and updated as progress is made.

Item 7: Strategic Plan

- Plan uploaded to iMeetCentral (root folder: Strategic Plan), pdf and word versions
- SWOT analysis done last summer uploaded to same folder
- Next Steps

Hooper says that the Board has to determine the next steps and who is responsible for what, maybe work with small groups and get the Business Plan wrapped up. This can lead to broader work with the Strategic Plan. There needs to be time set aside at the Summer Board Meeting to make real progress on this. How fundamentally does CUAHSI want to reconsider the plan or tweak what we have?

Dave G. mentioned that in advance of the July meeting, Google Doc should be created to get a broader engagement of the Board. Can iterate on a Google Doc to get a broader engagement of the Board.



Dave H mentioned that the Board should get linked into anything they've worked on before the July meeting to get people talking about it.

Hooper said the challenge is balance. What is the most important services, infrastructure or whatever it might be. Must be practical on how we do it. For new people, what is the most important thing CUAHSI should do? PI is a niche CUAHSI does not fill. Think of strengths, weaknesses and threats.

Gordon and Rick will arrange a time to discuss before next meeting.

Dave G mentioned one possible point of entry to connect practical thinking and blue sky thinking. There are two pages of success metrics at end of strategic plan from 2010 where maybe we can go back and take a fresh look at it. Which have really panned out and blossomed and which not so much? He asked if Rick or staff had any specific feedback on it. Might be something to prime the pump for the Board.

Item 8: Updates on Action Items from January Meeting

- NSF budget for Year 3 approved as requested; still awaiting formal award letter
 - Hooper said CUAHSI got everything they asked for. No questions asked and no formal letter but expect it in time.
- Staff pages are updated as requested
 - Hooper said Liz updated as requested.
- Google Drive
 - Hooper says CUAHSI will send doc around to board. Before next board meeting, CUAHSI will assemble from board what their Google Account is. Google Drive would help with group editing. Central Desktop is complicated. It will simplified with Google Drive. Liz will be touch in getting Google account email or email her at etran@cuahsi.org. This will move towards using that through listserv for documents.

Motion to adjourn

Motion: Dave G.

Second: Gordon

Discussion:

Vote: Approved (unanimous)



Action without meeting: Approve the following language to be included in information from David Maidment at the White House Water Summit “A new National Water Model of the United States is being put into operation by NOAA National Weather Service, which will continually forecast streamflow discharge over the whole stream network of the continental United States divided into 2.7 million segments. The next step is to translate this into forecasts of flood water surface elevation and extent of flood inundation for each river and stream segment. The academic community of the nation is represented in this field by the Consortium of Universities for the Advancement of Hydrologic Science, Inc (CUAHSI) and the University Consortium for Geospatial Information Science (UCGIS). CUAHSI and UCGIS are committed to support the President’s White House Water Summit by coordinating the academic community to analyze the nation’s land surface elevation data to provide a first draft of a method and dataset to support near real-time flood inundation mapping for the continental United States.”

a. Vote – unanimous (11 by poll, 4 by email)

i. Email voters: (Hyndman, Tyler, Gooseff, and Istanbuloglu)