

Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Consortium of Universities for the Advancement of Hydrologic Science, Inc. (Held in the Washington Convention Center, Washington, DC on 28 May 2002)

The following representatives were present.

Participating were Directors Ana Barros (Harvard University), Emmanouil Anagnostou (University of Connecticut), Claire Welty (Drexel University), Steve Silliman (University of Notre Dame), Jorge Ramirez (Colorado State University Fort Collins), Jeff Dozier (University of California Santa Barbara), Ken Potter (University of Wisconsin), Witek Krajewski (University of Iowa), Chris Duffy (Pennsylvania State University), David Tarboton (Utah State University), James McNamara (Boise State University), Steve Gorelick (Stanford University), Michael Young (University of Nevada Reno), John Wilson (New Mexico Tech.), Dennis Lettenmaier (University of Washington), Peter Wilcok (Johns Hopkins University), Wendy Graham (University of Florida), Martha Conklin (University of Arizona), Frank Schwarz (Ohio State University), Miguel Medina (Duke University), Jim Smith (Princeton University), Robyn Hannigan (Arkansas State University), Thomas Meixner (University of California Riverside), John Selker (Oregon State University), Laura Toran (Temple University), Rafael Bras (Massachusetts Institute of Technology), Larry Band (University of North Carolina), Doug Kane (University of Alaska Fairbanks), Lisa Koenig (Arizona State University), Chunmiao Zheng (University of Alabama), Tom Piechota (University of Nevada Las Vegas), James Butler (University of Kansas), Tom Burbey (Virginia Tech.), Mike Barber (Washington State), Dan Larsen (University of Memphis), Larry Murdoch (Clemson University), Steve Jennings (University of Colorado at Colorado Springs), David Ahfeld (University of Massachusetts), Kurt Pennell (Georgia Tech University), Larry Smith (University of California Los Angeles), Praveen Kumar (University of Illinois), Larry McKay (University of Tennessee), Rick Allen (University of Idaho), William Johnson (University of Utah), Baxter Vieux (University of Oklahoma)

Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 7:30PM Eastern Daylight Time and roll was taken. A total of 46 out of 60 Representatives, Alternate Representatives or designated representatives of University Members were present satisfying quorum.

Approval of Minutes

Claire Welty moved to approve the minutes from the meeting of December 13, 2001. Steve Silliman seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Motion passed unanimously by acclamation.

Revised Mission Statement

Dennis McLaughlin presented a revised mission for CUAHSI-

To foster advancements in the hydrologic sciences, in the broadest sense of that term by

- *Developing, prioritizing and disseminating a broad-based research and education agenda for the hydrologic sciences derived from a continuous process that engages both research and applications professionals;*

- *Identifying the resources needed to advance this agenda and facilitating the acquisition of these resources for use by the hydrologic sciences community;*
- *Enhancing the visibility, appreciation, understanding, and utility of hydrologic science through programs of education, outreach, and technology transfer.*

Dennis noted that new mission emphasizes a broader role for CUAHSI by focusing on ushering of additional resources for the study of hydrologic science instead of only infrastructure development. While de-emphasizing the role of infrastructure development this remains an important role for CUAHSI in the area of acquiring additional resources for the hydrologic science community. Rafael Bras moved to approve the revised mission. Steve Silliman seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Motion passed unanimously by acclamation.

Affiliate membership

Steve Silliman discussed the deliberations of the Committee on Affiliate Membership. He offered the following motion after a presentation of the committee's deliberations:

The category of Affiliate Member be opened for membership to sub-cabinet level agencies of Federal and State governments with strong interests in the advancement of hydrologic science under the conditions specified in the Bylaws.

John Selker so moved. Dave Ahfeld seconded the motion. An extensive discussion followed. It is summarized below. Comments from discussion participants are included in the [attached](#). Merits of affiliation were discussed in terms of benefits to the consortium and the legalities of certain organizations (particularly federal agencies) being members. The particular role of affiliate membership was discussed. The discussion indicated that passage of the above motion at this time would be unwise.

Rafael Bras moved to table the motion. Dennis Lettenmaier seconded the tabling of the motion. The motion to table passed unanimously by acclamation.

Foreign Affiliates

Frank Schwarz presented the progress of the Committee on Foreign Affiliates. The committee felt that the following motion would help further the goals of CUAHSI:

The category of Foreign Affiliate be opened for membership to universities that would otherwise meet the requirements of Member Universities except for being chartered outside the United States of America and that the membership fee for Foreign Affiliates be set at one half that for Member Universities.

Frank Schwarz moved to open CUAHSI to foreign affiliates as described above. Chunmiao Zheng seconded the motion. Claire Welty asked about legal implications of this move. None were noted. David Ahfeld asked about quorum implications. There are none because affiliates do not vote. The motion passed unanimously by acclamation.

Hiring an Executive Director

John Wilson presented a motion as follows:

The authority for the selection, negotiation of employment, and the hiring of the Executive Director be delegated to the Executive Committee with advice from the Special Search Committee.

To avoid potential instances of embarrassment that could result in legal complications, the Executive Committee feels that the number of persons involved in the actual decisions, negotiations, and selection of the next Executive Director should be limited to a small number of responsible persons. The Executive Committee itself seems to be the ideal entity to conduct this business on behalf of the Board of Directors.

Steve Silliman moved that the authority be so delegated. Frank Schwarz seconded the motion. John Wilson asked everyone in attendance if they agreed that this motion made sense and was the proper course of action. No concerns were voiced by anyone in attendance. The motion passed unanimously by acclamation.

Reports from the Standing Committees

The presentation materials for each of the standing committee's presentations are available separately at the [CUAHSI Web page](#).

The plan for the Committee on Hydrologic Science was presented by Claire Welty.

The plan for the Committee on Measurement Technology was presented by Witek Krajewski.

The plan for the Committee on Hydrologic Information Systems was presented by Wendy Graham. People are still encouraged to participate in the survey that the committee has distributed via the web.

Larry Band presented the progress of the committee on Hydrologic Observatories.

Robyn Hannigan presented the progress of the Committee on Education & Outreach.

Jorge Ramirez presented an outline of what the Research Applications Committee's work might look like once the committee is organized and its membership is determined.

Retreat of the Board of Directors

It was proposed that the Board of Directors hold a retreat this summer on August 18- 21 at Snowbird Utah. No vote was needed on this item but general consensus was that the summer retreat would be valuable and well attended by those in attendance at this board meeting.

Time of Next Board Meeting

Steve Silliman moved that the next Meeting of the CUAHSI Board of Directors be held in conjunction with the proposed retreat of the CUAHSI Board of Directors (see above) or, if that is not feasible, that the next meeting be the Annual Meeting to be held in conjunction with the Fall Meeting of the American Geophysical Union in December 2002. Frank Schwarz seconded the

motion. There was no discussion. Motion passed unanimously by acclamation.

Information Items

The ninth item on the agenda was on the consortium activities at the UCOWR meeting in Traverse City Michigan July 26th. Marshall Moss, Frank Schwarz, and a science committee member yet to be named later will present the progress of CUAHSI to date at that meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM by general acclamation.

Comments From People Who Spoke In Response to the Report of the Committee on Affiliates

Dennis Lettenmaier -

Discussion in opposition to the motion centered on potential conflicts affiliates might have -- especially government agencies, and research organizations affiliated with government agencies -- that could arise from funding support that such affiliates might provide or be asked to provide for CUAHSI activities, and/or other activities that CUAHSI might engage in that support university research, such as lobbying. Those speaking in opposition pointed out that desirable collaboration between CUAHSI and such agencies or organizations could be promoted via alternative mechanisms, like cooperative agreements, such as are routinely used by member CUAHSI universities.

John Selker

The success of many of the key activities of CUAHSI depend on forming partnerships with the full range of non-university organizations engaged in hydrologic research. The example of the USGS is central, where they will need to join in our planning and execution of LTHO's. The DRI is another institution that has every reason to be engaged, and with whom we will gain from their association. We need to make the staff in these organizations know that they have the ear of CUAHSI, and that they have a commitment to the organization's success. For these reasons associate membership, or an alternative status which indicates partnership of agenda and resources would be greatly beneficial to the accomplishments of our objectives.

Herm Zimmerman

The relationship with government agencies: To my mind, the consortium was created to organize the academic community so that NSF would have a managerial entity able to create and maintain hydrologic facilities as a platform for advancing innovative fundamental research and educational activities. This would also allow other agencies to deal with the academic community as whole - rather than individuals. Some people confuse this consortium with a research initiative. The consortium is designed to serve the community in developing common needs of the academic research and education community.

CUASHI, as an independent corporation, cannot have governmental agencies (federal or state) as members. CUASHI may be requesting support from those same agencies. It is an obvious conflict. Further, I cannot imagine the general council of any agency allowing that agency to become a member (or even affiliate member) within a private corporation. And, I would expect that if the consortium were successful, it would on occasion give testimony to the Congress on the budgets of those same agencies. Although not "lobbying" as we have come to know it, having a federal agency within the body of the corporation will be an impossible situation.

I expect CUAHSI to develop infrastructure initiatives and, where appropriate, organize the community to develop large-scale research initiatives. I hope that they are smart enough to do so in consultation or partnership with mission agencies. The appropriate relationship should be developed by a proposal or an MOU -- rather than having the mission agencies become members of the corporation.

In addition to governmental agencies, there was also talk of affiliate membership for NGOs. I would strongly recommend against this. These organizations come to the table with an agenda that is quite different from that of the research community. It would defeat the science focus, introduce a divisive element into the organization, and would render the organization completely ineffective to have a political agenda competing with the science focus.

I might also mention state governments (or State Geologists). I applaud the work that these organizations do, but their research focus is on local problems, whereas the purpose of CUAHSI is to enable water research across a broad front. CUAHSI has to define its own interests and needs first for the community that it serves. I suspect that CUAHSI would welcome the participation of agency and NGO scientists in developing initiatives or in managing infrastructure projects -- but, not as members of the corporation. CUAHSI, in speaking for the academic community, should think of itself as an equal at the table with the mission agencies.

Rafael Bras –

The key concern is that government agencies that become affiliate members would find themselves in a conflict situation if requested to fund/support the effort. This belief was clearly expressed by NSF representatives who posed the question: why should any government agency be any different than NSF? The relationship with government agencies should be one of bilateral agreements for particular objectives.

Miguel A. Medina

My initial views on Affiliate Membership were rather liberal until I listened carefully to the comments made by: Doug James, Program Director, Hydrologic Sciences, NSF and Herman Zimmerman, Director of the Division of Earth Sciences, NSF. I recall that Doug remarked that NSF should not hold a status *vis-à-vis* CUAHSI any different from that of any other Federal agency, in spite of its financial support of CUAHSI. Then Herman observed that there were sufficient conflict-of-interest issues emerging, since these agencies were sources of funding, that would probably prevent the legal branches of these agencies from approving such affiliate membership status with CUAHSI. My remarks were that it seemed to me premature to vote on *Affiliate Membership* until we had a better sense of what constituted an acceptable relationship.

In retrospect, it may be prudent to devise language that would encourage any federal or state agency to participate in the process of advancing hydrologic science *through a research connection to a CUAHSI member university*. Such a connection would entitle agency investigators to access CUAHSI databases, etc. The delicate aspect is whether this connection requires a funded research project, or whether a long-term cooperative agreement to share hydrologic information suffices. Most hydrologic research is government-funded. Yet, is affiliate membership strictly for non-profit institutions? How do we handle large private companies (e.g., DuPont) that may fund hydrologic modeling efforts at CUAHSI universities because they must meet EPA discharge regulations *which are not well-defined in a scientific sense*: for example, because the receiving waters are in environments subject to complex interactions across phases of the hydrologic cycle? Ultimately, the language used has to provide for exceptions that can be reviewed on a *case-by-case* basis by the Board of Directors, or the Executive Committee.

We did discuss the issue of *non-university* foreign affiliates (e.g., UNESCO IHP and World Water Assessment Programs) in the Foreign Affiliates committee but Frank Schwartz

wisely decided to table it for later discussion. I know from personal communications with some of their program directors that they are very interested in CUAHSI. Thus, decisions made on Affiliate Membership will likely influence how we handle *non-university* foreign affiliates. I would recommend further consultation with non-university institutions before the proper language is developed.

Ken Potter

Ken Potter stressed the importance of providing some kind of official recognition of government agencies, whose cooperation is essential in achieving CUAHSI's objectives. He pointed out that all of the workshops emphasized the need for CUAHSI to work cooperatively with agencies such as the USGS in the planning, design, and execution of its proposed infrastructure initiatives.