



CUAHSI

universities allied for water research

Meeting Minutes

*CUAHSI Board of Directors
AGU Building, Washington DC
June 18-19, 2007*

Monday June 18, 2007

→ Symbols in the text are placed to draw attention to votes, action items and other priority agenda items.

**Notes for the meeting are recorded by the CUAHSI secretary (Kevin Dressler) as representation of the discussion topics and point and are not the opinion of the secretary

Call to Order (Claire Welty) – 8:10 am

Role Call of Current Board of Directors (BoD): “X” – **Indicates Present**

Term expires 12/31/2007

Wendy Graham, U Florida: X

Jeff Dozier, UC Santa Barbara: X

Claire Welty, UMBC: X

Laura Toran, Temple: X

David Tarboton, Utah State: Recently Resigned

Term expires 12/31/2008

Jay Famiglietti, UC Irvine: X

Praveen Kumar, U Illinois:

Venkat Lakshmi, U South Carolina: X

Greg Pasternak, UC Davis: X

Fred Scatena, Penn: X

Term expires 12/31/2009

Efi Foufoula, U Minnesota: X

Larry Murdoch, Clemson: X

John Selker, Oregon State: X

Fred Ogden, U Wyoming: X

Juan Valdes, U Arizona:

Officers

Rick Hooper, CUAHSI

Kevin Dressler, Pennsylvania State U

Others

Jon Duncan, CUAHSI

Meeting Procedures
Succinctness
Relevance to Thread of Discussion
Big Picture
Jon as Facilitator

→ Approval of Agenda (Claire)

Motion to Approve: Venkat Lakshmi

Second: Jeff Dozier

Discussion: The BoD should be approving or developing strategies? The BoD should be approving but right now the progress is to a point such that the BoD is developing them, at least in part. Additional discussion on specific agenda items and then what their extended details are. HIS/HMF activities are not on the break-out groups. Revisit details of break-out groups around 1 pm.

Approval: Yes

I. Strategic Planning: History, Goals, and Vision

Setting the Stage: Lessons Learned (Rick)

Zimmerman's Vision (IRIS Model)

Expectations of the Community

Current Reality

Goals (Business Principles)

- Active (rather than reactive), independent mode of action from NSF
- Establish credibility with NSF as community spokesman
- Re-establish relevance and importance of CUAHSI to the community
- Broaden funding base beyond NSF

Actions

- Define boundaries between CUAHSI and NSF
- Crisper decisions
- Community engagement
- Specificity of reports (limits to consensus)

Open Discussion on CUAHSI Role and Proposal Content

- CUAHSI can articulate activities but it needs to show some products
- Hydrologic Prediction is a good concept to lead from in terms of a community goal
 - Decide how to pitch it so that all types of prediction are included

- Standard predictability (distributed hydrologic models – rainfall runoff prediction and routing)
 - Chaos based nonlinear approach to modeling complex systems
 - Simple rules over large populations
 - Mechanistic measurements where we have no models – experimental and field basis for predictions (understand first and then try an equation, for example)
- CUAHSI's role: CUAHSI as a facilitator for identifying and formulating community need versus CUAHSI as a doer (submitting proposal)
 - When CUAHSI is a facilitator it has no real oversight of proposals or post-award input
- Series of workshops related to a particular thrust (e.g. Modeling Platform) will enable cohesion and deliverables
 - Using NCAR as an example, a modeling platform (e.g. MM5, WARF) was used to advance prediction and scientific understanding in the atmospheric community
 - Their science agenda was integrated with their product
 - However, they had infrastructure to continue and support this effort, CUAHSI really does not have these vast resources at this time

Discussion of Business Principles and Actions (5-yr Horizon)

- None

Presentation of Current Proposal Ideas (Hooper)

- The HIS support personnel in the proposal would provide user support of the HIS tools and data curation activities
 - Discussion on whether the time is right for CUAHSI to provide support for transferring HIS tools to community teams
 - The feeling is that this is a good idea but the personnel role must be discussed and refined
 - Big shift in using some of our core dollars to “do” something as a service to the community
 - Task of HIS support person to make sure that the CUAHSI data comply with the EAR data policy

Prioritization/Addition of Activities

- What about the synthesis center/activities?
 - In the proposal right now there is a language for a need for evaluation of both projects and for a another workshop that fuels solicitation for a synthesis center
- Core HMF activities

II. Renewal Proposal

General Discussion on the Major Thrusts to Include in the Renewal Proposal

- What products, if any, would CUAHSI produce
- Charting of a CUAHSI Core Element Life Cycle (e.g. A progression of workshop, then white paper, then solicitation or not, then Pilot, then Development, then implementation) for each thrust is desired
 - Have an ongoing effort with this life cycle that continually evaluates where we are with each CUAHSI core activity

Core Element Life Cycle	Observatories	Instrumentation	HIS	Model Platform	Synthesis	E&O	Special Opportunities
Workshop							
White Paper							
Solicitation or not							
Pilot							
Development							
Implementation							
Assessment/ Redirect							

Plenary Discussion on Thrust Area Specifics

Take the three thrust areas (i.e. Modeling Platform, Campaign Workshops, WATERS/CZO) and apply them to the life cycle format

Modeling Platform

What cannot we do right now? What do we need?

The community is ready now to go through the process of a new starting point, will interface with CSDMS, will start providing the platform within which HIS products can be applied. This will guide observatories

Must recognize other community hydrologic efforts (NCAR’s CLM, NASA’s GLS which also supports CLM)

Technology discussion may need to go first (e.g. model representations in CSDMS versus OpenMI)

- Need something that serves as a benchmarking for alternative model representations

What motivated people in the past after workshops (e.g. HIS and HMF) was that there was follow-on pilot opportunity that was funded by CUAHSI core funds

A series of two workshops would flush out several different approaches that are hydro-centric and multi-scale (look at aspects of technology and the general objective is to have multiple representation of processes and be a scientific tool for the community to evaluate their models and data)

- Going to acknowledge an initial scoping workshop
- Budget a pilot activity

The proposal should lay out the vision and goals of the Hydrologic Modeling Platform and workshop series

- ■ Jay Famiglietti to collate information from Venkat Lakshmi, Fred Ogden, and Fred Scatena
- Should go so far as implementing on the current testbeds
- 1 week from now

Campaign Workshops

Focus on regional scale, bigger than what a PI group can do, around a specific topic designed around data collection and integration of existing field sites to answer larger questions

- Short term science product
- How do we manage the activity (compensation, who how)
- Structure would be to have 4 topics each having two workshops
 - Sentiment to stay away from workshops and just go to the campaigns
 - Would not cost too much b/c people will have their own equipment
 - Write a solicitation for proposals for travel funds and a workshop to write-up the results
- ○ Form a sub-committee to gather information and solicit individuals for campaign ideas and proposals (not workshops)
 - Claire Welty to ask Larry Band
 - Greg Pasternack to look at Geomorphology
 - Laura Toran to look at Karst
 - Fred Ogden to look at Soil Moisture
 - Report back to Rick in a week

WATERS/CZO's

WATERS project office ends at same time the existing CUAHSI grant ends

- Need to make some statements on how CUAHSI is dealing with the extension of WATERS and why it is important to keep up the effort
 - Provide a bridge of commitment and how much we can afford to put forth to this effort over the next 2-3 yrs
 - Need to point out some small activity like workshops or some small salary to prepare for the CDR in December, 2008
 - To address this, do we assemble CUAHSI staff time to retrieve information from the CZO's and the testbeds? How much?

Critical Zone Observatories

- Seed funds for CZO's
- Graduate student funds for CZO's
- Provide and show how CZO's can be integrated as part of the greater CUHASI "network" through HIS and maybe even synthesis activities
- CZO call did specify open data, so CUAHSI could participate through HIS

Adjourned – 5:05 pm

Tuesday June 19, 2007

IV. Additional Business

Call to Order: 8:05 am

Approval of Minutes from April meeting

Motion to Approve: Selker

Second: Graham

Discussion: No

Approval: Yes

CUAHSI Annual Meeting (Fred Scatena)

Report

- Debate about the value of an “annual” meeting
- \$70K allocated
- Should it be stand alone?
 - One option is multi-day stand alone
 - Invite keynote speakers from agencies or academia
 - Peter Eagleson (maybe be the Plenary speaker at 2008 Annual Meeting)
 - Another option is to coordinate with an existing meeting

Date/Location

- August 2008 in WDC
 - Want to highlight student participation with posters
- AGU for off years

Feeling that we could do biannual meetings with odd years having a special session and a reception at AGU or GSA

- The annual meetings serve to create two-way input

Suggested Sessions at the Annual Meeting

- Linking the Hydrosphere and Biosphere (Steve Running, Rafael Bras, Ignacio Rodriguez-Iturbe, Bob Costanza, Rob Jackson, McKnight)
- Upscaling hydrologic, biogeochemical and geomorphic processes (Siva, Kirchner, Syvitski, Dunne, Dietrich)
- Predicting the effects of climate change and human development on water resources (Vorosmarty, Peter Gleick)

Suggested Agency Keynotes at the Annual Meeting

- Hirsch (USGS)
- Bartuska (USFS)
- Garamendi (Lt. Gov, California)
- Rick Anthes (UCAR)
- AD Geosciences

- Lucia Tsaoussi (NASA)
- Lou Uccellini (NOAA)

Regional Meetings at the Testbeds

- To benefit a larger group than the university representatives
- One idea is to do an open house at the Test Bed sites and/or coincident with NEON sites if feasible

Fall/Winter Calendar

- Fall BoD Oct. 24, 3 pm
- Membership Meeting w/ Elections, December 3, 3pm
- Winter BoD, January 8-9, Washington, DC
- Nominations Committee (August 15 Select Committee; Potter, Vogel and Shuttleworth were on it last year) – Efi Foufoula indicates that she would like to be on the nominations committee
- June 2008 BOD Meeting (trying for Silver Falls, Oregon for 3rd week of June – try to avoid Father’s Day)

Synthesis status (Murdoch)

- Project has started last week
- Internal and joint meetings so far (refinement of their plans – down to 4 topics)
- Really two separate projects but they are exploring their overlap
- Should be reporting progress at the 2008 annual meeting

NEON Discussion

- Deferred, Dave Schimel had family emergency

V. Renewal Proposal Redux

Path forward on proposal

Schedule

- June 25-26 – requested pieces from board member
- Complete internal draft by Monday July 2nd for Board markup
 - Have a list of people for this informal review for Doug so that there is no conflict
- Board to Return draft comments in one week (July 9th)
- Hooper to reformulate by July 16th to put out for wider friendly review
- Review back, July 31
- August 7th pass to Doug James
- Brief Art Goldstein in early August after Doug has seen the draft
- August 31st submission to NSF

→ Two near-term Actions for Hooper:

1. Show Doug the above schedule and see where he would like to plug in
Be open and post the draft on the CUAHSI website

2. Send an email to the general membership (of proposal highlights) to show the connection with the science plan and general rationale

Possible Draft Reviewers: Ken Potter, Wilf Brutsaert, Rafael Bras, David Goodrich, George Hornberger, Dara Entekabi, Murugesu Sivapalan, Peter Troch, Ana Baros. Jerry Schnoor, Jenny Jay, CAREER Awardees

Suggested Formal Reviewers: Defer to Doug James

“Government Advisory Council” (look at CUAHSI activities)

- Bob Hirsch (USGS)
- Mark Hamilton (EPA)
- Ann Bartuska (USFS)
- Gary Carter (NOAA-NWS)
- “No Name Yet” (USDA ARS)
- CSREES – Mary
- River Basin Commissions/State Agencies on rotation
- Steve Parker (NAS)

“Research Applications”

- Constantin Georgakakis

“Senior Observers/Advisors”

- Invite them periodically to BOD meetings in retreat settings
- Marco Borga
- Jim Reichman
- Eric Barron
- Fred Molz
- Vijay Gupta
- Ed Sudicky
- John Cherry
- Wayne Swank
- Tom Dunne
- Frank Schwartz
- Richard Sparks

Liaison with on-going efforts (invite project chiefs; e.g. LTER, NEON)

- LTER—Fred Scatena
- NEON – Jay Famiglietti
- NCAR – Efi Foufoula

Reminder: Next Meetings

BoD October 24, 2 pm ET

Membership, December 3rd, 3 pm ET

BoD, January 8-9, 2008

Adjourned – 1:45 pm