



CUAHSI

universities allied for water research

CUAHSI Board Meeting Minutes

January 5-6, 2010, Washington, DC

**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

Tuesday, January 5, 2010

Welcome (Larry Band)

- Paul Thrasher (CPA) was introduced
- CUAHSI Office staff were introduced to BOD during lunch hour

Roll Call (Kevin Dressler, Secretary)

- 12 members are present, needed 10 for quorum
- “X” indicates director is present

Term expires 12/31/2010

David L. Freyberg, Stanford University
Patricia Maurice, University of Notre Dame
Jim McNamara, Boise State University X
Kenneth Potter, University of Wisconsin X
Claire Welty, University Maryland - Baltimore County X

Term expires 12/31/2011

Larry Band - University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill X
Jay Famiglietti, University of California – Irvine X
Tissa Illangasekare - Colorado School of Mines X
Jennifer Jacobs - University of New Hampshire X
Scott Tyler - University of Nevada - Reno

Term expires 12/31/2012

Robyn Hannigan – University of Massachusetts-Boston X
Carol Johnston – South Dakota State University X
Witold Krajewski – University of Iowa X
Larry Murdoch – Clemson University X
Aaron Packman – Northwestern University X

Officers Present: Kevin Dressler (Penn State University), Richard Hooper (CUAHSI)

Others: David Kirschtel (CUAHSI), Paul Thrasher (part-time CPA for CUAHSI)

Approval of Minutes (Nov. 24 Board Telecon)

Motion to Approve: Jacobs

Second: Band

Discussion: No

Approval: Yes

Role of Board, Chairs, Officers, Staff (Larry Band/Rick Hooper)

Part 1. The Big Picture

- Hooper discussed NSF flow chart and articulated how CUAHSI fits into the overall structure
- Also discussed funding streams and how cross-section or cross-division projects may occur
- The institutional memory at NSF can be rather short due to the nature of rotating positions

Role of CUAHSI as a community consortium:

Background and prospects: Who are we as a community and what do we do? Why and how do we do it?

- Hooper showed the CUAHSI presentation he does at universities
- CUAHSI should operate facilities and provide services but should not undertake science
 - Given past successes and failures, is this the correct approach? (the question the board needs to explore)

Role of Board in cycle:

Standing Committees review existing and suggest new activities

The Board prioritizes the activities

CUAHSI Staff executes projects and produces an annual status report

What are our prospects and opportunities for the next five years? Lessons learned since 2002.

Part 2. Where we are today: Status Reports of Activities

Context: As part of the strategic planning process, we recommend that standing committees be re-instituted with a charge to review a Status and Outlook report (in most cases), and to provide input to the strategic planning process.

More broadly, the Standing Committees will provide annual reviews of "Status and Outlook" reports to provide input for Board prioritization.

Action Required: Board liaisons to identify Committee Chair and to actively assist in populating committees to accomplish initial review by April 21 Board retreat.

Informatics

- Most Evolved so far
- CUAHSI Water Data Services (HIS Project) – 5-yr \$4.5M Award
- Community Hydrologic Modeling Platform (CHyMP)
 - Scoping workshop (March 2008)
 - Science Workshop (March 2009)
 - Third, funded workshop

- Outlook
 - Develop Hydrologic Data Center
 - Develop functional requirements
 - Scope facility needs
 - Present to NSF for approval to develop proposal
 - Select operating partner (?)
 - Develop and submit full proposal by end of 2010

Aaron Packman brings up the point that there needs to be a better definition of CUAHSI's role as an operator of facilities or simply as an integrator for the community voice

- CHyMP
 - Release of climate initiative requires quick response
 - Reports must be completed and decisions made
- Standing Committee (Carol Johnston – liaison)
 - Fully populated and operational
 - Suggestion to add Jin Huang from NOAA as advisory

Aaron Packman points out that there are two roles

1. Oversight
2. Future Directions

Aaron's point was that the PIs on the HIS grant should not be excluded from the "future directions" role of the committee (they don't necessarily have to be a member of the committee but must have a mechanism for providing their input for this item)

- Hooper indicated that currently the project PIs are present at the meetings of the standing committees anyway, therefore, they do not need to be a member of the committee but need to provide information in the form of a presentation and/or a formal report to the committee so that they can better make decisions whether it be on oversight or future directions

Instrumentation

- Developed three reports (Geophysics, Biogeochemistry, Water Cycle)
- Standing committee/Allocation committee funded (hands-on workshops funded)
- Operational and Proposed Nodes
- Outlook
 - Peripheral role for CUAHSI (allocation, education)
- Need a champion for instrumentation
 - Soliciting workshops
 - Identifying needs
 - Larry Murdoch is liaison
 - No chair yet
- Suggestion from McNamara to combine the instrumentation committee with the Observations committee
 - Also suggested that the observations effort be a sub-effort within instrumentation
 - Murdoch states that these efforts are too different to be in the same standing committee

Observations

- WATERS
 - MREFC unlikely to move forward
- Bottom-up Design based on Water Data Services
 - Catchment Comparison Exercise 2010
 - Boston Harbor Demo Project
 - ICEWATER
- Critical Zone Observatories
 - Six currently funded
- Paths Forward
- Standing Committee (McNamara liaison)

Synthesis

- Synthesis Activities at CUNY and UIUC
 - Different project styles: CUNY – Interdisciplinary; UIUC – Thematic systems approach
- Lessons Learned
 - Importance of resident post-docs
 - Need for data gathering/synthesis support
- Outlook
 - Opportunities in NSF Solicitation 10-521
 - Ecology focus, no formal GEO/SBE involvement
 - UVM (and UMB?)
 - NEON, Inc considering response
 - UCSB/NCEAS, preparing proposal, may be interested in a partnership
 - Suggestion for an adhoc committee to pursue these partnerships and the nature of these partnerships in proposal form
 - Advocate for GEO release of solicitations
 - Engage with CZOs, geochemists, geomorphologists
- Suggestion for three areas for the committee to deal with (Packman)
 - Continue to develop ideas and advocate for community needs
 - Facilitate synthesis activities (e.g. cross-comparisons)
 - Match making (facilitate communication, etc)
- Standing committee
 - Committee unpopulated, no liaison yet

Education and Outreach

- Independent vs. Support Activities
- Development of Education Plan
- Standing Committee populated
- Action: Add Ben Ruddell (Arizona State University) as committee member

Research Applications

- Research to Practice
- No report from prior committees
- Ken Potter (Liaison), Allen Bradley (Chair)
- Committee not fully populated, BOD to make suggestions

Funded Year 3 Activities

- Biennial Conference (Welty)
 - Scheduled for July 2010
 - Chris Mille has agreed to be the Keynote
 - Named lectures are secured
 - Instrumentation workshop on Thursday
- Pathfinder Fellowships (Freyberg)
 - 13 applications received
- Dahlem Conferences (Kirschtel)
 - Criteria
 - Interdisciplinary conference
 - Future-oriented
 - Up-to-date
 - International interest
 - Process
 - Solicitation of proposals to program advisory committee, development of discussion papers (6 months ahead of meeting), distribution of papers (3 months ahead of meeting), questions from conference participants
 - At Conference
 - Meeting of working groups, coordination of activities/focus, second meeting of groups with guests from other groups, preparation or workgroup reports, plenary sessions, final meeting report
 - Adhoc committee (decided tomorrow)
- Cyberseminars (Hooper)
 - How to formalize
 - Had a board member formalizing in the past
 - Use the E&O committee to formalize
 - Jim McNamara volunteers to do the cyberseminars in Fall 2010
 - Jennifer Jacobs volunteers to do the cyberseminars in Spring 2011

Part 3. Where we are going: Strategic Planning

Context: Management review from NSF indicated that development of strategic plan is important. Initial meeting has been held with Roy Savoian, a facilitator for developing strategic plans. He worked with UNAVCO in developing their strategic plan (in the briefing book).

Overview of Process (Band/Famiglietti)

The proposed schedule is in your briefing book. Today we wanted to discuss the mission statement. Background information is provided in your briefing book.

Discussion of Mission Statement

Mission Statement—Draft Revisions

Facilitating major advances in hydrologic science through:

- support of the academic research community and engagement with state, national and international agencies, applications professionals and the public and private sectors
- identifying the scientific infrastructure needed to advance hydrologic research and facilitate its acquisition and access for use by the hydrologic community
- enhancing the visibility, appreciation, understanding and utility of hydrologic science through programs education, outreach and technology
- Discussion needs to be continued as no unanimous statement or structure of statement was approved

Part 4. Business and Finance

Financial Reports

Purpose: Review financial condition of corporation, financial management, explore strengths and vulnerabilities of corporation

Project Year 1 Expenditures/ Budget vs. Actual

- Unallocated budget of \$67K

Year 2 Budget as awarded and supplemental request

- Supplemental request of ~\$65K for the University of Arizona for Geophysics facilitation

Year 3 Budget: Incomplete coverage of Hooper and Kirschtel salary

- Need to speak Lina Patino either about reconstituting time for current activities or additional activities that require staff time to cover this salary

Unrestricted Funds

Context: No recurring source of unrestricted funds (membership dues are one-time payment) yet recurring expenses on the order of \$15,000 per year.

- Form ad-hoc subcommittee to recommend options (by Spring BOD meeting) for recurring dues, corporate sponsorship, corporate affiliate members (Brian Waldron to chair, Scott Tyler, Larry Band, Larry Murdoch members)
 - Report of the findings will be given in advance of the Spring Telecon for distribution
- Need to deal with redrafting the bylaws in terms of corporate affiliates, for example
 - Voted on by full membership
- Need to deal with recurring member dues, corporate memberships
 - Need to lay out the guidelines for these as well
 - Report to BOD for votes

Development of programs with other agencies

Context: How do we broaden funding base beyond NSF? What can a consortium offer that PI's cannot do?

Requested Action: Identify existing grantees of various agencies to review CUAHSI projects and to explore interest in other agencies for funding

- Hooper and staff to give presentations to various groups in the near-term (Spring 2010)

Engagement of Member Representatives

Context: How do we better engage member representatives to get the word out on their campuses of CUAHSI activities? What would incentives member representatives to do this? Potential approaches: providing standard slide set for representatives to present to water faculty; development of water faculty list serves on all campus; provide small grants for representatives to host seminars

Requested action: Recommend approach(es) to staff to further develop or appoint committee to develop recommendations

- Hooper to address the population of the CUAHSI List serve and possibly separate it out by institution so that members could see who else needs to subscribe
- Hooper to direct development of two presentations
 - One is the BOD “elevator” speech about what CUAHSI is doing
 - Second is a presentation on what CUAHSI is doing and providing for the general membership and/or community
- Hooper to explore how to do an accounting of who is represented on the listserv
 - That is, not just the institutions but the expertise that is represented so that CUAHSI knows better what their constituency really is “on paper” to do an assessment of who else to reach out to or to just generally assess the current “community” CUAHSI is communicating with

Development of regional coalitions

Context: Funding opportunities are arising for regional modeling of climate change from NSF (and maybe NOAA). CUAHSI Water Data Services offer a service that universities could coalesce around. This potentially could be combined with previous item of member representative engagement. Hooper is working with Boston area universities on Boston Harbor Demonstration Project as an example.

Requested action: Recommend approaches that can be replicated around the country

- No formal approaches recommended

Part 5. Other Business

Meeting Schedule for 2010

Tuesday April 6, 2010: Spring Telecon, 3:30-4:30 pm ET

April 21-22 Board Retreat, Irvine

July 17-18th 2010, Summer Board Meeting (Suggestion to move it to the beginning of the CUAHSI biennial meeting for efficiency of time and money)

- Fly in on the 16th

Sept 14th 2010: Fall Telecon at 3:30 pm ET

December 7, 3 pm ET, Annual Membership Meeting

December 14, CUAHSI Meeting at Fall AGU

Wednesday, January 6

Closed Session: Compensation Committee Report for Executive Director

Procedure for the compensation committee

- Has been documented in the past, will review those documents and get it in a calendar year track
- Past Chair will most likely chair

- Committee for this period (Potter, Famiglietti, Band, Freyberg)
 - Discussed with people on CUAHSI, Staff, board members and even some NSF
 - Hooper discussed what changes have been made since the last review in 2007

- Suggested 3.4% salary increase for Hooper
Motion to make raise retroactive to July 1 2009 and effective through December 31st 2010: Welty
Second: McNamara
Discussion: This motion puts the evaluation annually in January and the compensation changes on the calendar year
Approval: Yes

Part 6. Elections

Election of Chair Elect and Election of At-Large Executive Committee Members

- Nominations for Chair Elect and Two At Large Executive Committee Member
 - Larry Murdoch (second, Hannigan), for At-Large Executive Committee
 - Potter declines nomination
 - Jennifer Jacobs (second, Illangasekare), for At-Large Executive Committee
 - McNamara (second, Welty), for At-Large Executive Committee
 - Hannigan declines
 - Larry Murdoch (second, Hannigan)

- Larry Murdoch elected as Chair-elect with a unanimous vote
- Jennifer Jacobs and Jim McNamara elected as At-Large Executive Committee members with a unanimous vote

Election of President

- Nomination of Richard Hooper (Second, Johnston)
 - Hooper is elected with a unanimous vote

Part 7. Cooperative Agreement Execution

Engagement with NSF

- Management of Cooperative Agreement
- Achieving consensus on role of CUAHSI
 - Manage joint efforts
 - Communication and community building to offering that voice to NSF and other agencies
- Raising the profile of hydrologic science within GEO Directorate

Joined by NSF: Lina Patino, Richard Cuenca, Tom Torgersen, Doug James (retired)

Discussion with NSF

- Cooperative agreement
 - Lina Patino – conditions set at the beginning
 - Big difference with regular award, the budget is set year-to-year to give more flexibility on the activities either by addition or subtraction
 - Quarterly reports

Year 2 Plans (currently funded)

- Discussed in depth tomorrow between CUAHSI and NSF
- HMF Geophysics – Amendment
 - The current document lacks specificity (modeling, instrumentation)
 - Concept was to provide the connection between geophysics and the hydrologists
 - In this light, Patino and Cuenca indicate that they are more clear on the proposal and will review and return decision in about two days

Proposed additional Year 2 activities

- Discussed tomorrow between CUAHSI and NSF

New activities and Year 3 Budget justification

- Final Agreement on Year three activities by September 30, 2010
- HDAC, Field Campaigns, assistance in facilitating the CZOs as a community resource

Role of CUAHSI

- What role does CUAHSI have to play in coordination or services to the CZOs?
 - Originally it was not seen as appropriate for CUAHSI to manage funding that would be going to the CZOs
 - No additional funding for WATERS at this time

Patino spoke specifically about the following topics

- Dear Colleague letter to have a joint postdoc with EAR and NCAR
 - CUAHSI to advertise the position
 - Also to connect students with NCAR and navigate the process
- CRADA expires shortly, so CUAHSI needs to re-explore the connection
- Succession plan needs to be in place for the next proposal
- Evaluation of split office
 - Provide the process for the evaluation, not necessarily the evaluation itself

Motion to Approve the minutes of the August 31-September 1 BOD Meeting: Potter

Second: Welty

Discussion: No

Approval: Yes

Adjourned: 2:15 pm