

**INTERAGENCY HYDROLOGY COMMITTEE FOR ALASKA**  
**Spring 2004 Meeting Agenda**  
**April 8-9, 2004**  
**Pikes Waterfront Lodge, Fairbanks, AK**  
**Phone (907) 786-3474**

Fall '03 - Fall '04 Officers  
Chair - John Trawicki, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
Vice Chair – Emerson Krueger, Alaska Army National Guard  
Secretary - Jon Zufelt, Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory

Mailing Address:  
c/o John Trawicki  
1011 East Tudor Road, Anchorage, Alaska 99503  
Phone 907-786-3474; Fax 907-786-3901; Email [john\\_trawicki@fws.gov](mailto:john_trawicki@fws.gov)

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**Thursday April 8, 2004**

**5:30 pm      Opening of Meeting**  
Agency Representative Identification & Introductions

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**Sign-in/Address List distributed - (\* = Voting Representative):**

Chuck Denton-US BLM  
\*Steve Frenzel-USGS  
\*Joe Klein-AK F&G  
\*Larry Hinzman-UAF  
\*Jeff Hock-ADEC  
\*Lee Koss-US BLM  
\*Emerson Krueger-AK DMVA  
\*Rick McClure-USDA/NRCS  
\*David Meyer-USGS  
\*Dave Mierzejewski-USACE  
\*Christy Miller-AK DCED  
Bill Rice – USF&WS  
\*Larry Rundquist-US NWS  
\*John Trawicki-USF&WS  
\*Jon Zufelt-USACRREL

**Guests**

None

## Changes to Agenda & meeting times **none**

### **5:45 pm Secretaries Report**

#### *Review & Approval of Minutes from Fall 2003 Meeting*

The Fall 2003 minutes were approved with changes. It was moved that the agencies who did not provide reports would be deleted from the appendix (no placeholder stating "no report"). The desired plan is to have the executive committee approve the draft minutes one week after the meeting and then they can be posted on the website. In the Fall 2003 meeting minutes we already said the above except that it goes to all the meeting members present (once a quorum of meeting members present has approved the minutes, they can be posted).

#### *Status of IHCA Member Database*

The database is updated by suggestions of existing members to include new names and old names are taken off when emails are returned as undeliverable. There is still no replacement for Nancy Deschu at the NPS but at least the Database is pretty much up to date.

#### *Status of the web site*

@ <http://ak.water.usgs.gov/ihca>

The website is continuing to be maintained by Dave Meyer at USGS.

### **6:00 pm On-going Project/Committee Reports**

#### *Federal Legislation/Regulation Update (Trawicki)*

John went over the items (handout) that were AK-oriented (a lot of Corps-type items) including the WRDA (Water Resources Development Act) of 2003. There was a handout provided that is included in the Appendix. Also some news of the transportation bill and what would go to AK.

#### *State Legislation/Regulation Update (Prokosch)*

There was a handout from Gary Prokosch which includes the State legislation items. This item is included as an electronic report in the Appendix. SB 35 has \$3.4M and education bill has \$450K for Shismaref for erosion control. The Corps will do the areas in front of the school. SJR 25 is a resolution for both houses to waive cost-sharing for Federally funded projects. One hearing has happened and not sure how it was received.

### **6:15 pm Old Business**

#### *TP-47 Project Update (Rundquist)*

Larry had a handout. (included in the Appendix). There was a background sheet about the AK Precipitation Frequency Study. The Federal Advisory Commission on Water Information (Subcommittee on Hydrology) has bought in on this effort. NRCS and COE have agreed to kick in some money on the nation wide efforts. NWS wants to have 5-6 Feds kick in for about \$1M/yr for 3-4 years. We should put pressure on our own agencies at the national level and AK should be asking our congressional delegation to support this. If we are helpful in asking, AK might get bumped up in priority. Bill Rice, representing AWRA, presented a letter that is written to go to Congressman Young and Senators Stevens and Murkowski. It sends the info from Larry and requests help in getting this funded, to be signed by the President of AWRA and The Chair of IHCA. This letter could also be shared with ASCE to see if they would participate and sign this letter as well. We would like to get it done in the next month or two. There was some

discussion about agencies concerned that we can't do this legally. We felt that we should take the \$ amounts out of the letter but include a statement that says the fact sheet was developed from information supplied by the National Office of the NWS. We also discussed sending this letter to others, like agency heads. Bill Rice will make up a new version before we adjourn tomorrow for signatures. Motion passed to do this as quick as possible.

*IHCA Letter to Governor Regarding FERC Gaging Requirements (Klein/Hock/Trawicki)*

From the previous Fall 2003 meeting, no one knew who had the last copy of this letter. Jeff Hock had the letter and sent it forward and never heard anything back. It was sent to Governor Knowles. We should resend this letter under a new signature to the new Governor. Then there was a question of whether this was still relevant. It is and we should probably send it to FERC. It previously was a letter for the governor requesting the governor send a letter to FERC to change a FERC policy. So we should pull the dust off the letter and then revamp it. We are the Interagency Hydrology Committee for Alaska so there was a question of whether this was political, especially as a mandate back to the state. Joe recommended sending the letter just to FERC. Right now we think that FERC still has the option to require gaging on all projects with insufficient hydrologic information to provide a scientifically, sound basis for applicant designs and economic considerations, agency recommendations/prescriptions, and FERC decisions. The letter probably needs to be beefed up and the fact sheet needs to be beefed up as well. Joe could provide some examples that show this policy change wasn't in the best interest of the state to do this. Maybe we should send it to FERC and the person who is heading up the state changes to licensing (Kevin Klendo). Action item for Jeff to send the existing letter to Joe and John. Also advise not to drag out too long and we'd do a vote to get going on getting it sent before the next meeting.

*Interagency Flood Data Sheet Update/Agency Distribution (Rundquist)*

No more received so far (other than the one that came in last summer). We sent this out again to everyone on the list. I will send it off to the AWRA listserv so they can send it out.

*Groundwater Data Collection Standards (Miles/Prokosch)*

No report

*National Environmental Methods Index (Hock)*

Jeff gave an update and hand out. This was based on a database of sample collection and methods used in Alaska. Jeff found a NEMI site and thought it could serve as a basis for a database rather than recreate a new thing. NEMI was created by USGS as a searchable database of environmental methods. At first there was about 600 analytical methods for water quality-type methods. It was a beta version of the concept. Since then, Jeff talked to Dan Sullivan from the NEMI and it's now an open system so that people can add methods. NEMI recognized that there was this analytical bias and Jeff asked if it now could include field methods. Jeff browsed and there was a category for stream hydrology and found no methods. Dan said they are at the point of getting some sort of protocol for submitting methods and that they are peer reviewed some way. John T. will send Dan Sullivan a quick email to say this is good and to continue the great work, etc. [djsulliv@usgs.gov](mailto:djsulliv@usgs.gov)

*Climate Reference Network (Rundquist)*

Larry gave a handout and it is included in the Appendix. He also ran through the NWS effort on Climate so the background on this is in the handout. Current status of the network is \$1M to put in 18 stations in Alaska over 5 years including maintenance. To locate where the stations

should be placed, NWS may do a loose Monte Carlo grid and then modify locations based on electricity and access. NWS may begin in 2005 for site selection or 2006 for actual construction. The proposed stations list will be posted for comment at some time in the future. Right now, they are pretty widely spaced. The primary parameters are temperature and precipitation but will have multiple temperature sensors and multiple precipitation gages, solar, etc.

*FEMA Flood Map Modernization (Miller)*

No handout but there is a draft of the latest of what FEMA wants the state to produce, more of a business plan for modernization. Christy thought we were done in 2002 but FEMA wanted a more refined business plan. No funding came to the state or any community. This FY, Christy thinks FEMA will fund Anchorage to update flood maps in Girdwood, Juneau, and maybe a small project in Talkeetna. Less than \$250K in all for these three projects. DCED did the business plan and the Federal agencies who might be partners should work with Christy as there may be money. State will handle small communities but large ones may have funding going to the boroughs for the mapping. Of \$200M FEMA nationwide, Alaska gets \$250K. DCED would like to sit down with Corps, NRCS, USGS to work with them on projects. The current push is that all new maps will be digital. FEMA is having a training session on new tools to automate digital flood rate maps, and this will be web-accessible training. Christy will get this out to everybody (send to me and I'll send out to everybody). Looks like the April 29-30.

*GAO Flooding & Erosion study (Miller)*

GAO was directed in a tag-on to the '03 military construction appropriation bill to look at the problem of flooding and erosion for Alaskan native villages and was directed to work with Corps, NRCS, and HUD to come up with estimates to address the problem specific to 9 communities. GAO traveled out to 4 communities. Included in the Congressional directive were: Barrow, Bethel, Kaktovik, Point Hope, Kivalina, and Unalakleet. Three more were added (Newtok, Shismaref, and Koyukuk) based on discussions with Federal and State agencies familiar with flooding and erosion problems. Recommended to Congress that Denali Commission take on another activity to address this severe erosion and that the Federal cost-sharing requirements for these projects be waived. The GAO Report can be viewed at <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-04-142> Some legislation has been drafted from Senator Stevens' office to add a commission to look at erosion (patterned after land use commission) maybe as a tack-on. Dave Mierzejewski listed some more info with \$7M to look at these problem sites and answer a bunch of questions on erosion rates, etc.

*Electronic Versions of Agency Reports (Zufelt)*

The Agency Reports will now be included in an Appendix. All agencies should try to get their reports to the Secretary before the meeting. Agencies that are not at the meeting or who do not provide a report will not be included in the Appendix. The body of the Minutes will still list all agencies, however, and if they provided a report in the Appendix.

*IHCA Minutes and Records Storage at ARLIS/ Ex-Chair Executive Report (Trawicki)*

John took the materials that were at USGS over to ARLIS to catalog and deposit. Past secretaries can take old minutes or materials to Celia Rozen at ARLIS for additional archiving.

*Other Old Business*

None

## **Friday, April 9, 2004**

**8:00 am Agency Reports** (*up to but no more than 10 minutes per agency. Highlight important issues and projects in your agency; please prepare a written summary prior to meeting and bring minimum of 20 copies for distribution.*)

### **FEDERAL**

*U.S.Army Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory (Zufelt)*

An electronic report is included in the Appendix.

*U.S.Army Corps of Engineers (Mierzejewski)*

An electronic report is included in the Appendix.

*U.S.D.A. Forest Service (Crotteau)*

Mike Crotteau was supposed to come but was unable due to sickness. An electronic report is included in the Appendix.

*U.S.D.A. Natural Resources Conservation Service (McCLure)*

An electronic report is included in the Appendix.

*U.S.D.C. National Weather Service (Rundquist)*

An electronic report is included in the Appendix.

*U.S.D.C. National Marine Fisheries Service*

No report provided.

*U.S.D.I. Bureau of Indian Affairs*

This is Keith Kahklen who still does not have email and only has FAX. I don't have his FAX number right now but may have someone who signed up at the AFE.

*U.S.D.I. Bureau of Land Management (Koss)*

An electronic report is included in the Appendix.

Bill Rice gave an intro for a new committee on bioengineering like IHCA. He handed out two things about proposed bylaws and a notice about their first meeting that was held March 3, 2004. Some discussion about NGO's and permittees. Big initiator was that some things are met with resistance.

*U.S.D.I. Fish & Wildlife Service (Trawicki)*

An electronic report is included in the Appendix.

*U.S.D.I. Geological Survey (Frenzel)*

An electronic report is included in the Appendix.

Also handed out a letter to ask for help in gage funding and also a new report/fact sheet on the 2002 Kenai Peninsula floods.

*U.S.D.I. National Park Service*

We never got a replacement name for Nancy Deschu and need to see who would be appropriate and from what group since NPS no longer has a hydrologist.

*U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*  
Not present and no report provided.

## **STATE**

*Department of Community & Economic Development (Miller)*  
An electronic report is included in the Appendix.

*Department of Environmental Conservation (Hock)*  
An electronic report is included in the Appendix.

*Department of Fish & Game (Joe Klein)*  
An electronic report is included in the Appendix.

*Department of Military and Veterans Affairs - Div of Emergency Services or  
Alaska Army National Guard (Krueger)*  
An electronic report is included in the Appendix.

*Department of Natural Resources (Prokosh)*  
An electronic report is included in the Appendix.

*Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (Miles)*  
Mark Miles was not present but an electronic report is included in the Appendix.

Division of Governmental Coordination  
This unit does not really exist anymore since the reorganization under the Murkowski administration so we will drop this report in the future.

*UAA/ENRI (Zufelt)*  
An electronic report is included in the Appendix.

*UAF (Hinzman)*  
An electronic report is included in the Appendix.

## **LOCAL, BOROUGH, AND TRIBAL**

### **11:00 am New Business**

*Electronic Versions of Agency Reports (Zufelt)*  
Already covered earlier.

*Other New Business*  
No other new business.

### **11:30 am Officer Elections**

Emerson Kruger agreed to move up to Chair, Jon Zufelt to Vice Chair, and Lee Koss to Secretary. Motion was approved unanimously. These officer assignments become effective at next meeting.

**11:45 am      Announcements**

*Next Meeting*

The AWRA meeting next spring will be in Cordova and we probably will not meet with them. This meeting (Spring 2004) was pinched for time and the next year in Cordova would be tough for everyone getting there and being there for the AWRA and the IHCA. Juneau should be next on the list but for this meeting, it looks like we are mostly Anchorage people. It was suggested that from now on, we hold Spring meetings in Anchorage and then move the Fall one around. So we will attempt to do Juneau in October and then go to Anchorage in the Spring of 2005. The tentative date will be October 20-21, 2004. (Wed - Thurs) with an 11AM start or as close to that as we can. Location to be determined.

**12:00 am      Meeting Adjournment**

Though we were rushed, we finished on time.