



CHARTER
NHWC Executive Program Committee
Data Collection Sub-Committee
Aug 17, 2010

Goals and Key Objectives:

Provide a forum to promote the best practices, technologies, and tools available to collect high-quality hydrologic and weather data that are the basis for warnings sent out to protect life, property, and the environment. Encourage the utilization of a broad spectrum of observation approaches from in-situ observations to remotely sensed measurement platforms. Advance the development of sound monitoring systems based on best practices in data and meta-data collection and transmission, data and metadata validation and quality control, visualization, and product development and dissemination in order to provide the best detection, decision-making, and notification of an event that would warrant warning and evacuation of the affected populace. Support the need for proper metadata and data archiving for studies facilitating system improvements, understanding responses to historical extreme events and tracking the effects of long term changes in climate and infrastructure.

1. Primary Mission

- a. To understand the various types of hydrometeorological data and metadata and sources needed to provide accurate and timely hydrologic warnings.
- b. To develop and promote best practices in acquiring and processing data and metadata used in establishing hydrologic warnings.
- c. To coordinate with various organizations that provides or uses weather and water observations in order to assure the highest quality and reliability of data and meta-data to meet user's needs.
- d. To educate hydrologic warning system operators and users regarding the strengths and limitations of weather and water observations and promote the establishment of more effective warnings through detection and decision criteria implementation.
- e. To understand uncertainty of data sources and how users can consider uncertain data in their decisions.

2. Expected outcomes

- a. Document Best Practices in data and meta-data collection, analysis, processing and dissemination to users to assure the highest quality of data and information is available and sustainable to forecast operations centers and to users.
- b. Maximize lead time, accuracy and reliability of hydrologic warning services through the latest technologies, high quality instrumentation, tools for data collection, and sophisticated systems for integrating information and data for forecasting operations.
- c. Standardization of data formats and protocols to assure widespread data usage is compatible and interoperable so that all users may access it readily and gain maximum value from it.

Scope of Authority: Sub-committee will take actions to accomplish the stated objectives in accordance with the NHWC Bylaws, ARTICLE VII.

Membership:

- a. Chair: Curt Barrett, Chairman, Data Collection Sub-Committee
- b. Vice Chair: James Logan
- c. Members: TBD

Roles and Responsibilities: In support of the NHWC Mission, members of the sub-committee will adhere to the following guidelines as they engage in all group activities:

- a. Build supporting relationships with external groups (e.g., ALERT Users, USACE, ASDSO) who play a lead role in data policy and practices.
- b. Work with other internal groups within the NHWC to contribute services to our members, and help grow the Council so we have the capacity and resilience to sustain our Mission.
- c. Ensure the NHWC Conflict of Interest Policy is followed by anyone participating in activities on behalf of the NHWC. When private or professional interests interfere with their ability to act in the “official” NHWC capacity they are serving, the individual(s) should temporarily excuse themselves.

Success Criteria/Deliverables:

- a. Develop guidelines paper to assure successful operation and maintenance of operational hydrometeorological data and meta-data collection and dissemination systems.
- b. Document and provide an education forum on the latest technologies and tools for data collection and for forecasting operations.
- c. Document and provide an outreach forum on standard data formats and protocols.
- d. Paper describing uncertainty involved in data collection and dissemination practices, for example, how users deal with the uncertainty in data collection.