

Chief Delegates Meeting

Monday, August 11, 2009

PRESENT

Kathy L. Young- Canada, Chair

David Collins-UK

Johanna Korhonen-Finland

Bent Hasholt-Denmark

Nikolay Filatov-Russia

Arni Snorrason-Iceland

Douglas Kane-USA

Oddbjorn Bruland-Norway

Kazuyoshi Suzuki-Japan

Jane Assini-Canada, Secretary

ABSENT

Lars Bengtsson-Sweden

AGENDA

Next Meeting

Hydrology Research

Task Forces

1.0 NEXT MEETING

1.1 Norway

-Oddbjorn Bruland indicated that Norway is willing to host the next Northern Research Basins Meeting in Norway, August 2011. Oddbjorn indicated that it should be in late August, close to the same date as now.

-Everyone was appreciative of Norway's willingness to host the 18th NRB meeting, and agreed that it should be in Norway.

-Bent indicated that Oddbjorn should make sure that the NRB does not conflict with any other major meeting scheduled for that time.

-Oddbjorn outlined the general format for the meeting. The conference would likely take place in three locations: Bergen, Flam and Oslo. The meeting would travel along the western fiord, examining the local landscape and glaciers etc. via boat, train and perhaps bike. Oddbjorn would

try to keep the meeting below \$3000, so will try to get some type of funding. A likely sponsor might be the Hydro Power industry in Norway.

-Kathy asked about the meeting's theme. Oddbjorn said that this is still up for discussion but one thought would be to have a meeting which examines the assimilation of information (process, satellite imagery, modelling) in order to arrive at better forecasts. Norway, is of course willing to examine other good conference suggestions, so please forward any ideas and thoughts to him.

-upon no further discussion about Norway, 2011, Kathy thanked Oddbjorn on behalf of the group for taking up this task.

2.0 HYDROLOGY RESEARCH

-Kathy indicated that in the past, NRB proceeding papers were submitted to the journal *Nordic Hydrology*. *Nordic Hydrology* no longer exists and instead, this journal amalgamated with the British Hydrological Society and now the journal *Hydrology Research* is the "home" journal for Northern Research Basin papers. Kathy, also indicated that Lars Bengtsson (Chief Delegate, Sweden) would serve as Editor of this Special Edition.

-Kathy indicated that Lars wanted to see papers submitted as soon as possible but realizing that this might not be possible, suggested Nov. 1'09 the last possible date for submission. Chief Delegates agreed that manuscripts should be submitted by Nov. 1'09

-Kathy indicated that she would pass out a sheet requesting possible names of reviewers at the final NRB workshop II.

-David wondered if there was a page limit. Kathy was not sure but said that all of that information would be available on the *Hydrology Research* website. Kathy, did not have the website but indicated that it was easily accessible through a search engine such as Google. Kathy indicated that should would also post the link on the NRB website following the end of the 17th NRB meeting.

3.0 TASK FORCES

3.1 Prediction in Ungauged Basins

-Kathy indicated to the group that not much had been accomplished for the PUB task force, as provided by the report submitted by Chris Spence (Appendix 1). Kathy indicated that Chris would say more about this Task Force at the workshop II meeting.

3.2 Temperature Regime of Northern Lakes

-No report was submitted prior to the Chief Delegates meeting, but Nikolay provided some comments about the Task Force to the group.

-Nikolay indicated that during the past few years, Russian and Finnish scientists have examined lakes and their thermal regimes. They have undertaken data analysis and published a journal article in the Russian journal, *Water Research* and in the journal *Hydrology Research*. These studies have dealt with temperature and climate variability of deep northern lakes.

-Kathy asked if this task force has completed its duties and Nikolay indicated that technically “yes” but that no one from North America has joined the group.

3.3 New Task Forces, Ideas?

-Kathy asked if anyone had any ideas for new task forces.

-Nikolay indicated that perhaps a study could focus on the physical processes of ice.

-Bent indicated that it was good to bring in oceanographers to interface with the hydrologists. He wondered how we could benefit from each other. He thought that we should use the momentum of the meeting to exchange ideas between groups.

-Oddbjorn thought that it was “dangerous” to spread the subjects too wide. We need to keep a common thread.

-Kathy mentioned that at a lunchtime meeting with the Canadian delegates, several mentioned that they do not want so many presentations and would like to see more workshops and discussion. Kathy also mentioned that due to the high cost of the 17th NRB meeting, it was difficult to keep the numbers down to encourage the workshop format.

-Oddbjorn agreed that it was a good idea to engage people. Discussion is more engaging than a presentation.

-Kathy indicated that yes they are important for solving problems and networking.

-Doug warned that workshops have to be focused. Each workshop must have a theme. Try to get a few people to contribute. Perhaps select a key person to identify the problem and then lead off from there.

-Oddbjorn indicated that for Norway in 2011, he would send emails to try and provoke ideas for workshops. He also indicated that if anyone had any ideas to please share them with the group. Oddbjorn indicated that he might make a blog on the NRB webpage. He also thought that it was necessary to identify the subject of the workshops early. Give people time to think about them.

4.0 ADJOURNMENT

-After no further discussion, Kathy thanked everyone for coming to the Chief Delegates meeting, and the meeting ended at about 9:00 am EDT

Appendix 1

NRB PREDICTION IN UNGAUGED BASINS (PUB) TASK FORCE: STATUS REPORT

This task force was initiated in 2003 in Greenland after a suggestion from John Pomeroy that NRB should be responsible for a PUB program in the polar regions. After the 15th NRB meeting in Sweden in 2005, defining the task force membership took some time. The original slate of members includes Chris Spence (Canada), Daqing Yang (United States of America), Stein Beldring (Norway), and Bertel Vehvilainen (Finland). Yuri Salo from Russia was included after the 16th NRB meeting. The focus of the task force is uncertainty in precipitation estimates in polar regions. This focus contributes to the PUB initiative because there remains no PUB working group addressing the precipitation component of the water budget in ungauged basins. It also addresses problems specific to polar regions for the benefit of all NRB member countries. The workplan after the 16th NRB included developing a project methodology, implementation plans, and reporting and outreach activities. The chair of the task force (Chris Spence– Canada) has not made any progress on this workplan for a few reasons. First, there has been a lack of resources to bring the task force members together. Second, and this is independent of the NRB, the IAHS PUB initiative has been languishing without direction since 2007. Since the 16th NRB, the PUB initiative has been languishing without direction. Part of the reason the NRB was encouraged to become involved in PUB was to improve the relevance of the NRB. Strengthening ties with PUB may not be the vehicle it once was. That said, improving precipitation estimates remains critically important to NRB member countries. As such, a session at the 17th NRB has been organized to highlight the subject. This session may lead to more discussion and research of precipitation in polar regions among NRB member countries.