



**To:** Michigan Tech Center for Water & Society Advisory Committee  
**From:** Alex Mayer, Director of Michigan Tech Center for Water & Society  
**Date:** October 20, 2008  
**Subject:** October 14, 2008 Michigan Tech Center for Water & Society Advisory Committee Meeting  
**Attachments:** Meeting agenda

The October 2008 meeting of the Michigan Technological University Center for Water & Society (MTCWS) Advisory Committee (AC) was held October 14, 2008 at 8:00 am in the Dow Environmental Engineering & Sciences room 426. The purpose of this memo is to describe the results of the meeting.

**Committee Members Present:**

Alex Mayer, Director  
Nancy Auer, representative, Biological Sciences  
Bill Breffle, representative, School of Business  
Tom Pypker, representative, SFRES  
Noel Urban, representative, Civil & Environmental Eng.  
Kathy Halvorsen, representative, Social Sciences  
Joan Chadde, representative, Western U.P. Center for Sci., Math. & Env. Ed.  
Colin Brooks, representative, MTRI  
John Gierke, representative, GMES  
Carol Asiala, CWS administrative assistant

## **1. Minutes from last Meeting**

Approved February 26, 2008 minutes.

## **2. CWS Activity since February 2008**

- a)** World Water Day 2008
- Poster Session, Student awards
  - Watercolor demonstration
  - Lecture by Peter Annin
- b)** World Water Day 2009 Plans
- Poster and Art Competition
  - Lecture by Sandra Postel

**c)** Student Travel and Research Grants

- Stacey Pilling: \$300
- Heather Wright: \$500
- Joe Dammel: \$300

**d)** Governance and Valuation of Great Lakes Water for the 21st Century

A symposium sponsored by the **Michigan Tech Center for Water and Society** and the **Environmental Engineering Seminar Series**.

- John Austin, Executive Director  
The New Economy Initiative for Southeast Michigan (NEI)  
**"Healthy Waters, Strong Economy: The Benefits of Restoring the Great Lakes Ecosystem"**
- Dave Dempsey, Great Lakes Policy Advisor for Clean Water Action  
**"Great Lakes Water: Commodity or Commons?"**  
**The Great Lakes Compact in the Context of Global Water Scarcity"**

Sponsored by the Lake Superior Stewardship Initiative, which is a part of the Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative, funded by the Great Lakes Fisheries Trust and Wege Foundation.

- Pat Norris, Guyer-Seevers Chair in Natural Resource Conservation, MSU  
Saichon Seedang, post-doc, MSU Institute of Water Research  
**"Institutional Context for Water Use Decisions and Policy Innovations in Michigan"**
- John F. Raffensperger, Univ. of Canterbury, New Zealand  
**"Generalized Smart Markets for Water Resources"**

**e)** CWS Annual Report

- New Awards in FY 2008: 10 \$1,904,601
- Current Projects in FY 2008: 18
- Project Expenditures in FY 2008 \$453,218

**f)** Conferences attended by CWS Director

1. Brookings Institute Freshwater convening
2. Michigan Economic Development Corporation Water Technology Cluster
3. IBM - T.J. Watson Research Center

**g)** Budget

Carry Forward Budget (6/30/2008) .....	1,206.67
Incentive Returns (from expenditures in APR-JUN 2008).....	6,210.03
Admin Salary/Fringes .....	-1,002.46
Sandra Postel Honorarium.....	-2,000.00
<b>Balance (as of 10/7/2008).....</b>	<b>\$4,414.24</b>

#### 4. CWS Goals for FY 2008-09

##### 1. *CWS Participation in International World Monitoring Day*

###### *Discussion*

Joan Chadde is preparing lessons for teachers to be used in International World Monitoring Day.

##### 2. *CWS Participation in IAGLR*

###### *Discussion*

2009 – Toledo

2010 – Canada

2011 – Duluth

MTRI typically sends at least 2 people to IAGLR meetings each year, and other MTU faculty also attend.

CWS should become involved in organizing the 2011 Duluth Conference.

###### **Action item:**

***Mayer should contact conference organizers about becoming involved in organizing the 2011 Duluth Conference.***

##### 3. *World Water Day Events*

###### *Discussion*

Sponsor Sandra Postel for evening lecture at the Rozsa Center

Should CWS continue with the Poster and Art Competitions? While the entries were small in number last year, several suggestions were made to increase participation.

Poster Competition: 2 categories (Research Project Posters or Class/Individual Posters)

Art Competition: Open to elementary through high school students.

Research poster event should be held in the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, & 8<sup>th</sup> floor Atriums to make the sessions more accessible to more people.

###### **Action Item**

***A volunteer is needed to organize Arts Competition***

#### **4. Undergrad Minor or Certificate, Graduate Certificate, and/or Graduate Degree under CWS?**

##### *Discussion*

- Undergrad Minors/Certificates and Graduate Certificates are simpler to implement and maintain. If successful, then advance efforts to creating a Graduate Degree.
- Efforts needed to implement a minor or certificate
  1. Design the program
  2. Advertise to make known to students and faculty
  3. Run the program
  4. Determine allowable substitution courses
- Courses outlined under previous IGERT proposals may not be popular if they are not part of a new degree program.

##### *Action Items*

***Plan a 1-credit Seminar course in Spring 2008, “Water and Climate Change”. Alex Mayer and Tom Pypker will plan this course which will be based on discussions of papers suggested by CWS faculty members on water and climate change. Outside speakers will also be invited, and their talks will be open to the community. Colin Brooks volunteered a seminar speaker from MTRI.***

***Nancy Auer has volunteered to draft a graduate certificate plan to present to the CWS Advisory Committee for review, and then for review by all CWS faculty.***

#### **5. CWS Coffee Social**

##### *Discussion*

Set up a monthly coffee social to bring CWS members together to exchange research ideas and pull them together to identify with CWS. It was suggested that initial coffee socials could be held directly after the “Water and Climate Change” seminar class.

#### **6. CWS Merchandise**

##### *Discussion*

CWS Water Bottles? No interest

CWS Coffee Mugs? Possible if the once monthly coffee social with all CWS members becomes a regular event.

### 7. *Christmas Social*

*Discussion*

Hold informal Holiday Social (pizza and KBC) for members (faculty and students) on Friday December 12, 5:00 pm.

*Action item:*

**Carol Asiala will send out invitation/announcement two weeks before event and a reminder week of the event.**

### 8. *Great Lakes Research Lab*

*Discussion*

Should CWS have a presence in the new Great Lakes Research Lab?

Currently CWS does not have enough staff time to warrant office space in the new building, but the CWS Advisory Committee advised the consideration of a bulletin board or show case to rotate examples of current research done by CWS members, and also display names of CWS faculty and CWS contact information (Directory, phone, email, website, etc.)

*Action Item*

**Director Mayer is on the Lab planning committee and will request that these items be considered.**

## 3. **Miscellaneous Items**

[Liquid Assets](#): The story of Our Water Infrastructure

*Action Item*

**Check into obtaining the film for an on-campus showing**

## 6. **Next Meeting**

The Advisory Committee will meet next in second week of Spring term (Jan. 19-23)

*Action Item:*

**Carol Asiala will contact Advisory Committee in early December to arrange date and time.**

## **CWS Advisory Committee Agenda**

Tuesday, October 14, 2008, 8:00 a.m., DOW 426

1. Very quick update on CWS activities and budget.
2. Discussion of what we'd like CWS to accomplish this academic year. Are we satisfied with what CWS is accomplishing? Is there something new that we'd like to accomplish this year? Can we choose one new, concrete activity that we'd like CWS to do, and engage the CWS community? And, how will we make that activity happen?

Please give item 2 some thought between now and Tuesday's meeting.