U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Geological Survey

Advisory Committee on Water Information
Charter

1. **Committee's Official Designation:** Advisory Committee on Water Information (ACWI).

2. **Authority:** The ACWI will operate in conformance with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Memorandum No. M-92-01, dated December 10, 1991, and the Organic Act of March 3, 1879 (43 U.S.C. 31 *et seq.*), that established the Geological Survey, as amended (1962), and restated in annual appropriation acts. Establishment is in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), as amended, 5 U.S.C. Appendix 2.

3. **Objectives and Scope of Activities:** The ACWI advises the Federal Government, through the Department of the Interior (Interior), U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), on coordination of Federal water information programs. The purpose of the ACWI is to represent the interests of water information users and professionals in advising the Federal Government on activities and plans related to Federal water information programs and the effectiveness of those programs in meeting the Nation's water information needs. The ACWI members foster better communication between the Federal and non-Federal sectors on water information acquisition, information sharing, and related technology transfer.

4. **Description of Duties:** The duties of the ACWI are solely advisory, and will meet the objectives and requirements of OMB Memorandum No. M-92-01, which directs the USGS to establish more effective working relationships and foster collaboration with state and local agencies, Indian tribes, and the private sector. The ACWI will provide advice on efforts to operate a cost effective national network of water data collection and analysis that meets the priority water information needs of the Federal Government and, to the extent possible within available resources, the needs of the non-Federal community that are tied to national interests. The ACWI will advise on the Federal Government's efforts to develop uniform standards, guidelines, and procedures for the collection, analysis, management, and dissemination of water information in order to improve quality, consistency, and accessibility nationwide. The ACWI will consider the effectiveness of existing water information programs and recommend modifications needed to respond to changes in legislation, technology, and other conditions.

5. **Official to Whom the Committee Reports:** The ACWI reports to the Secretary of the Interior through the Assistant Secretary for Water and Science.

6. **Support:** Support services for the activities of the Committee will be provided by the USGS, Water Information Coordination Program (WICP).

7. **Estimated Operating Costs and Staff Years:** The annual operating costs associated with supporting the Committee's functions are estimated to be $900,000, including all direct and indirect expenses and 6.0 staff years.

8. **Designated Federal Official:** The Designated Federal Officer (DFO) is the Chief, WICP who is a full-time Federal employee appointed in accordance with Agency procedures. The DFO will approve or call all of the ACWI and subcommittee meetings, prepare and approve all meeting agendas, attend all ACWI and subcommittee meetings, adjourn any meeting when the DFO determines adjournment to be in the public interest, and chair meetings when directed to do so by the Assistant Secretary for Water and Science.

9. **Estimated Number and Frequency of Meetings:** The ACWI will meet approximately once a year, and at such other times as designated by the DFO.

10. **Duration:** Continuing.

11. **Termination:** The ACWI will terminate at such time as OMB Memorandum No. M-92-01 is rescinded. However, the ACWI is subject to biennial review and will become inactive 2 years from the date the Charter is filed, unless prior to that date, it is renewed in accordance with Section 14 of the FACA. The ACWI will not meet or take any action without a valid current charter.

12. **Membership and Designation:** The ACWI will have a maximum of 35 members. Members will represent the interests of water oriented organizations, including Federal, state, and other government agencies, professional and technical societies, the academic community, and the private sector. These members will be selected from among, but not limited to, the following groups:

    Federal agencies
    Professional water-related associations
    State and county water related associations
    Tribes
    Academia
    Private industry
    Water utility associations
    Civil engineering societies
    Watershed and land conservation associations
    Ecological societies
    Lake, coastal, and ocean associations
    Environmental and educational groups

    The Assistant Secretary for Water and Science or designee will chair the ACWI. The Alternate Chair will be the Associate Director for Water of the USGS. The Chief, WICP will be the Executive Secretary.

    Members of the ACWI serve without compensation. However, while away from their homes or regular places of business, non-Federal members engaged in ACWI or subcommittee business approved by the DFO may be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, in the same manner as persons employed intermittently in Government service under Section 5703 of Title 5 of the United States Code.

The Secretary will appoint members and their alternates to the ACWI to serve a 4-year term. Members are expected to participate in ACWI meetings and activities. All members serve at the pleasure of the Secretary.

Members and their alternates may be appointed as non-Federal representatives, special Government employees, or Federal members.

13. **Ethics Responsibilities of Members:** No ACWI or subcommittee member shall participate in any specific party matter including a lease, license, permit, contract, claim, agreement, or related litigation with the Department in which the member has a direct financial interest.

    The Department of the Interior will provide materials to members appointed as special Government employees explaining their ethical obligations. Consistent with the ethics requirements, members will endeavor to avoid any actions that would cause the public to question the integrity of the ACWI's operations, activities, or advice. The provisions of this paragraph do not affect any other statutory or regulatory ethical obligations to which a member may be subject.

14. **Subcommittees:** Subject to the DFO's approval, subcommittees can be formed for the purposes of compiling information or conducting research. However, such subcommittees must act only under the direction of the DFO and must report their recommendations to the full ACWI for consideration. Subcommittees must not provide advice or work products directly to the Agency. The Committee Chair, with the approval of the DFO, will appoint subcommittee members. Subcommittees will meet as necessary to accomplish their assignments, subject to the approval of the DFO and the availability of resources.

14. **Recordkeeping:** The records of the ACWI, and formal and informal established subcommittees of the ACWI, shall be handled in accordance with General Records Schedule 26, Item 2 and other approved Agency records disposition schedule. These records shall be available for public inspection and copying, subject to the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552.

Sally Jewell

Secretary of the Interior

JUL 03 2014

Date

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Date Filed