

DRAFT

Minutes of the Network Operations Subcommittee Session [NOS]
Submitted by Mike Kolian, NOS Secretary

Agenda Items

10:20-3:00 pm Tuesday, September 21

1) Introduction and Agenda Overview: Natalie Latysh, NOS chair
The 2004 Spring Business meeting minutes were approved by the subcommittee.

2) Petition for NADP Acceptance - MDN Site: Oaxaca, Mexico
Petitioner - David Gay

This a candidate MDN site in Oaxaca, Mexico (OA02) and operated by the Mexican Institute for Water Technology and will be funded by the North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation. The site consists of a platform on which there is a 12m tower that violates the 45-degree clear to sky siting criteria rule. The Institute for Water Technology say their funders (Mexican National Water Commission) do not want to move the site. The site is truly tropical site and would be a great site to have scientifically. Mexican weather service has deemed the site not affected by the tower. No mercury values south of the US border. Only the second tropical site in the entire network.

Scott Dosset makes a motion: **To accept the petition and the site into the NADP/MDN network. Tom Jones seconds the motion.**

Discussion:

Are trace metals going to done? The platform is cement and splash could be a problem. Long-term funding of the site is not exactly known. **Vote. Unanimous approval and motion carries.**

For more information on this site including photos see Attachment 1.

3) Quality Assurance Manager's Report, Chris Lehmann

Chris raised topics to be revisited from the Point Reyes, CA spring meeting. Several adhoc groups were named to look at the following issues: Recommendations for MDN Sample Archive & Reanalysis Program, Site Operator Procedures for Field Calibration of Belfort Raingages, Recommendations for changes to the "Undefined Sample" protocol. Need to come up with reviewer for the data operations. See Attachment 6.

A draft of the MDN field SOP is ongoing and something will be prepared to address the concerns of NOS for the 2005 Spring Business Meeting. The following was taken from the Point Reyes NOS minutes: **"Chris Lehmann makes a motion: For a task group consisting of Bob Brunette, Tom Jones, and Scott Dossett to develop site operator procedures and SOPs for calibrating rain gages and maintenance (geared for MDN but with the potential to expand the procedures to NTN and AIRMoN) and to report these findings to NOS at the**

2004 Fall Technical Meeting.”

New siting criteria document will be discussed further in the Joint session. Chris Lehmann handed out another version of the NADP Siting Criteria document, dated August 26, 2004. This document is revising the language concerning rules and guidelines for both new and existing sites. It explains the exception and petition process in more detail. It was open for discussion and still needs additional work as there were NOS members that had objections to the way a couple of sections were currently worded.

Chris Lehmann, is chair of sample archive adhoc committee.

Scott is chair of field calibration SOPs for the Belfort rain gage. They will report back at the Spring meeting 2005 - Scott Dossett, Megan Vogt, and Tom Jones are all on the adhoc committee.

Undefined sample protocol committee formed to address issue. Definition of undefined sample perhaps needs to be fleshed out- Marty Risch, USGS. The issue shouldn't go away. Marty can likely chair the group as participation mounts.

4) Scott Dossett, NED update

Scott presented the news, parts status and complaints of the Network Equipment Depot (NED). The parts request for replacement is down overall which is good news. The work with the electrical engineer has paid off as transistors have been functioning much better. Paired box sensor shipment have reduced. Need to move toward an optical or bi-modal sensor. Next project is the motor box redesign - need a more powerful drive motor, less knob and tube wiring, microprocessor control. Molon and Ries lab will need some field testing but are the choice for motorbox and sensor projects. For more information see Attachment 2.

Scott also provided information on the new collector.

Based on the site: NC25 that was just installed, Scott Dossett makes a motion: **That the NOS continue to advocate an event recorder on use on the network applying to all sites to confirm the wet deposition measurement estimate. Vote. Unanimous, and motion carries.**

Scott also provided information on sites located within 10km of a town of less than 1000 population. NOS has to be careful with the way we classify these sites so that the philosophy of maintaining 10km from development remains in the program design and that we don't accept sites "a priori". Scott is interested in seeing a proximity RULE set at 5km from developed areas. See Attachment 3 for more details.

6) Karen Harlin,

Karen provided an update on the 4-1 shipping protocol.

Shipping charges related to non-standard boxes have been a concern from meeting participants and site supervisors. Black mailers are \$75.00 each. Need a model for the new collector when it comes on-line. This will allow a monthly shipping schedule in an effort to reduce costs.

Durability of the boxes has been a problem. Lowered the height, added inserts for structure, and CAL is evaluating each change. This time next year everyone should be on the new shipping protocol as it is implemented across the sites. Durability and longevity remain as issues to be evaluated as the project proceeds. UPS and FedEx both require corrugated cardboard for

shipping things that large. There is a five buck charge for non-cardboard which is why the 4-1 shipping protocol is implementing it. Plan is moving forward and with each meeting significant progress has been made. To-date 81 sites using the new protocol. By the end of 2005 the protocol will be fully implemented. For more information on the 4-1 see Attachment 4.

7) Lab Operations,

Equipment upgrade. ICS 2000, Reagent-free IC Brigita has a poster.

New FORF

Section 8 has changed for no field measurement changes. If sites do continue to do field chemistry then they have to report it - how much was used by volume. The minimum amount threshold has to be exceeded in order to sample.

FORF will be used in October and sites start using them January 1. Field chemistry will no longer be supported. Sites will be required to follow a sub sampling procedure if the voluntarily continue the field chemistry at their sites.

8) Field Audit, Greg Weatherbee

Biggest problem is participation and 70% historical participation. Most of the sites that have not participated is in the NE. Spring and summer participation is generally down. Intellicast.com will check zip code and forecast the weather for a week. Postcard is being sent by Chris Lehmann. For more details see Attachment 5.

All NTN sites will continue to receive field audit sample annually. Field chemistry that is normally associated with this program will be eliminated. Instructions should convey in a positive way what they are trying to get out of this program. It is not to gage the site operator performance but for sampling handling protocol. USGS will have the data to

9) Mark Nilles,

Pocket PC and no field form. Go electronic field form and if the precipitation collector can't meet that spec then perhaps they are out of the game. Could use modem in this transfer as well. Wireless and cable under the box. Site sponsors should be deciding which gage to put into the field.

10) Bob Brunett,

Audit items - MDN should consider a blind audit program. Looking for feedback on what guidelines they should follow on proceeding with this program. MDN has implement two single blind programs. There was a risk with the CAL blind audit program and it was redundant to what USGS is already doing. I would think you could do a single audit not a double blind. What questions are you actually trying to answer? For the field audit program you need a dry week. To check the system you need to pour into system and flush. Assess the quality of the sample collected from the field and assess the quality of the system must be checked. Bob will go back to adhoc committee and bring these suggesting and will follow-up.

11) Scott Dossett will be retiring in November 2005 (bummer). There are several duties that the Program Office will have to pickup as a result including NED, Siting Criteria, Site liaison, Collector/Backyard testing.

Motion to Adjourn NOS meeting for this session, Karen Harlin.
Second Mike Kolian
Motion carries and meeting adjourned.