

Community Resilience Panel: Water and Wastewater Standing Committee Meeting

MEETING DATE: August 18, 2016
TIME: 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm EDT
ISSUE DATE: November 11, 2016

ATTENDEES:

Attendee	Affiliation
Mike Stuhr (Chair)	Portland Water
Berk Uslu (representing Sunil Sinha – Vice-Chair)	Virginia Tech
Alan Cohn	New York City DEP
Bill Suchodolski	Ocean County Water Authority, New Jersey
Charles Scott	Las Vegas Valley Water District, Nevada
David Goldbloom-Helzner	US EPA
Jack Moyer	AECOM
Nishant Parulekar	City of Portland Environmental Services
Walter Graf	WE&RF

DISTRIBUTION: Attendees and Committee Members
NOTES BY: Sunil Sinha

1. Welcome and Introductions

Mike Stuhr (Chair) welcomed participants and thanked them for attending. Berk, a Virginia Tech graduate student, presented several documents received from committee members. A number of reminders were provided to the committee:

- The next meeting will be a physical meeting in the Denver, Colorado area on September 21st and 22nd.
- WebEx information will be sent out about the meeting to all committee members by the committee leadership.
- There may be a possibility to host a conference call for committee members who cannot attend the meeting physically.
- Mr. Stuhr will verify whether there are Wi-Fi capabilities to host the meeting at the meeting venue.

The committee discussed how many committee members will attend the Denver area Meeting.

2. Discussion

The committee reviewed the documents/materials to be included in the Resiliency Knowledge Base; Also, the committee needs to decide on classification (based on hazards or water types or asset types)

EPA Water Security Division Products and Services List

- A list of tools and models compiled by EPA Water Security Division (WSD)

National Infrastructure Advisory Committee (NIAC) Water Resilience Study – Slides about the research study on resilience by a committee led by NIAC

- Scott Haskins was part of the committee and introduced the effort.
 - Water and wastewater utilities were interviewed for this effort.
 - Water sector structure and interdependencies were discussed.
 - A framework for establishing resilience goals was recommended.
 - The research has not been completed. The discussion was focused on the preliminary approach.

In-between the document reviews, the committee discussed the issue of how this committee aligns with similar committees focusing on resilience and how to prevent duplication of effort. Collaboration is a big part of committee responsibilities. The communications between similar committees from other organizations should be acquired to prevent duplicating efforts and have a bigger impact.

ASCE Infrastructure Resilience Model – Presents a resilience model matrix capturing:

- Infrastructure types (wastewater, potable water, transportation, other)
- Hazard classifications (earthquake, flood, volcano, other)
- Cross cutting considerations (economics, data collection, social sciences, other)
- Adverse event cycle (preparedness, mitigation, response, recovery, rebuild)

The committee discussed the fact that numerous documents are available in literature and publications from other organizations, and service providers.

- Important internal documents from practicing utilities have invaluable information. These documents/plans are especially valuable in terms of sharing the utility point of view in reliability and applicability of the subjects.
- However, many available documents are too high level and abstract, which limits their applicability.

The committee agreed that the biggest mission of this committee is to help medium- and small-sized utilities, which do not have as many resources as larger utilities, develop and implement resilience concepts.

The committee also discussed involving more of these small and medium sized utilities in the committee. They are represented to a degree on the committee, but do not frequently attend the committee meetings.

There is a good variability represented by the committee members in terms of:

- Infrastructure systems
- Geographical distribution
- Hazard/threat classifications

American Lifeline Alliance – AWWA maintains data and information about the water sector.

ASCE, AWWA, WEF – Have journals, regional models and documents that are available.

Other items the committee discussed included:

- ***Resiliency Knowledge Base*** – easy to populate with water documents (report, text, etc.)
- ***Colorado Meeting*** – Best way to divide and focus on Knowledge Database
 - ***First Objective*** – Populate the Resilience Knowledge Base
 - ***Second Objective*** – Compile all the existing efforts as one useful document
 - ***Third Objective*** – Water and Wastewater and consider threats (flood, earthquake, etc.)
- ***Structure of Knowledge Base*** – Folder, division, etc.
 - Industry and Leading Utilities efforts should be collected (resiliency plan)
- ***Biggest Contribution*** – Mid-size and smaller utilities develop resiliency plans
- ***Emergency Response Plan and Activities*** – May not be in the public domain
- ***Ocean County Resiliency/Mitigation*** – \$10 Million for fuel, pump, dams, slide gates, etc.
 - Funding to perform activities to improve resiliency for water and wastewater facilities
- ***New Jersey Energy Resiliency Plan*** – Funding for programs (other funding)

3. Action Items

In the short term (before and during the Colorado meeting) this committee will focus on:

- Identifying how the committee members and committee focus will be divided among:
 - Infrastructure systems:
 - Water
 - Wastewater
 - Subcategories (transmission, distribution, pump stations), other.
 - Hazard/Threat Classes:
 - Hurricanes
 - Tornadoes
 - Earthquakes
 - Bio-attacks
 - Other
 - Overarching topics:
 - Economics
 - Dependencies
 - Data Collection
 - Other
- Identifying valuable documentation regarding the focus topics from practice (utilities) to be included in the knowledge base.

4. Scheduling

The next Panel meeting is scheduled for September 21-22 in Fort Collins, Colorado. The agenda is being finalized and will include significant blocks for Standing Committee meetings, along with speakers from Fort Collins, Boulder, and the State of Colorado resilience plan. The Administrator will send out travel/logistics information shortly.

We will hold the March 2017 meeting in Miami, Florida.

5. Adjournment

There was no other business, and the meeting adjourned at approximately 1:57 pm EDT.