



The Source – Spring 2009
Newsletter of the Water Resources Specialty Group
Association of American Geographers

Message from the Chair

Greetings,

It was so nice to see many of you at the AAG meeting in Las Vegas. There were 226 water resources related sessions, of which our WRS G sponsored 26. I was really happy seeing the activities of WRS G becoming more and more important within the AAG meeting context.

The terms of two of our directors, Dr. Kin Ma and Ms. Mindy Conyers (student) were up. At our business meeting, Dr. Anya Butt and Ms. Sya Buryn Kedzior (student) were elected to serve their two-year term as directors on our WRS G Executive Board. Dr. Laura J. Stroup has been appointed as the chair of our WRS G Award Committee. Please join me to thank Kin Ma, Mindy Conyers and Charles Button for their service and contributions to our WRS G and welcome Anya Butt, Sya Buryn Kedzior, and Laura Stroup to serve our WRS G in their new positions.

Many thanks also go to Dr. Shawn Hutchinson, who has served as the editor of our newsletter, The Source, for a number of years. Please join me to express our deep appreciation for his dedication to our WRS G. We wish him well during his sabbatical leave in this coming academic year.

Mr. Ahmad Safi, a Ph.D. candidate at UNLV is our new editor for our newsletter, The Source. He was also our WRS G's Best Ph.D. Student Paper Award recipient this year. So please join me to congratulate him for the award and welcome him as our newsletter editor. Please send your news items, including event announcements, grants, awards, and publications, etc. to Ahmad Safi at Asafi74@Yahoo.com.

At our business meeting, we have agreed to continue our student travel grant and student paper and research proposal awards. Please encourage your students to apply. Details of the application will be listed at our website (<http://www.esu.edu/~shu/wrs g/>).

We have also decided to resume our Distinguished Career Award in Water Resources this year. Please watch our website for updated nomination procedure and submit your nominations to the Award Committee.

Have a good and healthy spring and summer.

Chansheng He

Chair, Water Resources Specialty Group
Department of Geography
Western Michigan University
Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5424

2009 Annual Business Meeting Minutes

Royal Pavilion 5 Room
The Riviera Hotel
2901 Las Vegas Blvd., South Las Vegas, NV 89109
Thursday, March 26, 2009, 7:00- 8:20 p.m.

The events and decisions of the meeting were as following:

- I. 2008 Boston AAG Water Resources Business Meeting minutes. Approved.

- II. Chair's Report – C. He.
 - A. WRSG Annual Report of 2008. He reported the activities of WRSG to the AAG Council and also made two suggestions: 1) increase in student support; and 2) rigorous review of the abstracts submitted to the annual meetings.

 - B. Report of the AAG Specialty Group Chairs' Meeting.
 - 1) AAG will automatically add each member to the AAG list server list unless each member chooses otherwise.
 - 2) AAG agrees to generate member demographic information for each specialty groups.
 - 3) AAG will send out a welcome message to each new member to invite them to join a specialty group.
 - 4) New software communication through AAG Office: communicate.aag.org
There has been some trouble sending emails through this software though individuals need to add this URL to their institutions' acceptable mailing list. AAG is investing \$150,000 to enhance its website. It will be completed by this fall.
 - 5) AAG restricts 2 presentations (oral, poster, or panel sessions) per individual at each annual meeting to improve the quality and schedule of annual meetings.
 - 6) AAG encourages increased cooperation among specialty groups for development of quality sessions rather than a large quantity of sessions.
 - 7) \$5 million was designated by AAG to help students attend conferences and keep conference fees low. AAG has set individual membership from developing countries as \$20.00/year and requests specialty groups waive annual fees for those members.
 - 8) Efforts should be made to reduce scheduling conflict of business meetings of specialty groups (e.g. WRSG and Geomorphology Specialty Group) since there is a large overlap in membership.

III. Secretary-Treasurer's Report: William J. Smith, Jr.

A. Treasurer's Report.

As of March 2009, the WRSG group has \$7,775.85

B. Annual WRSG Membership.

Membership as of March 2009: Total Members: 492, Student Members: 226, and Non-Student Members: 266

As of May 13, 2009 is: Total Members: 505, Student Members: 230, Non-Student Members: 275.

IV. Other Reports

A. Webmaster's Report – Shixiong Hu. Because of a family emergency, Hu could not attend the Las Vegas meeting, though has agreed to continue as Webmaster. Best wishes for his family for a quick recovery.

B. "The Source" Newsletter Report –Appreciation is extended to J.M. Shawn Hutchinson, Editor of The Source for his outstanding services during the past few years. Ahmad Safi from University of Nevada at Las Vegas is the new Editor of The Source. Please pass any news items to him for publishing at asafi74@yahoo.com.

V. Awards –Charles E. Button

Award	Name	Degree	University
Travel Award	Jiao Wang	Ph.D.	Texas State University of San Marcos
Travel Award	Joseph Hoover	Master	University of Arizona
Illustrated Paper Award	Pat Dryer	Master	Missouri State University
Student Paper Award	Ahmad Safi	Ph.D.	University of Nevada- Las Vegas

VI. Old Business

A. Student Travel and Award Funds.

There was extensive discussion regarding the amount of the awards. At present, student travel awards are \$200.00. Comparisons were made with other specialty groups, such as the Remote Sensing group which offers a combined Remote Sensing/Cartography/GIS Groups student papers and illustrated paper awards with 1st prize: \$500, 2nd prize: \$250, 3rd Prize: \$150

Motion to increase the award amount for Student Paper and Illustrated Paper to \$300.00 each. **Approved.**

Student Travel Award

Motion To continue another year of student travel fund of \$1,000 to support up to five student members of WRSG at \$200 per student for their participation at the annual AAG meeting in Washington D.C. To ensure balanced distribution of the WRSG travel fund, no more than one travel award will be made to a single institution. Promotion of this award will be done through postings at the WRSG website, AAG newsletter, and other web sites of geography departments.

Approved

B. Donation of a \$1,000 to the Gilbert White Memorial Monument Funds to match the donations by the Hazards Specialty Group. **Approved.**

VII. Elections

The meeting witnesses the election or appointment of the new WRSG positions as following:

Position	Name	Term Expires	Email Address
Executive Board			
Chair	Chansheng He	2010	he@wmich.edu
Secretary/Treasurer	William J. Smith	2010	Bill.smith@unlv.edu
Director	Anya Butt	2011	Butta@Central.edu
Student Director	Sya Burynd Kedzior	2011	syakedzior@gmail.com
Director	Shixiong Hu	2010	shu@po-box.esu.edu
Awards Committee			
Chair	Laura Stroup	2010	LJStroup@txstate.edu
Committee Member	Richard Earl	2010	re02@txstate.edu
Committee Member	Karmal Alsharif	2010	kalsgari@cas.usf.edu
Other Positions			
Past President	Martin C. Roberge	2008	mroberge@towson.edu
Web Editor	Shixiong Hu	Appointed	shu@po-box.esu.edu
Newsletter Editor	Ahmad Safi	Appointed	Asafi74@yahoo.com

IX. New Business and Announcements

A. WRSG contribution to annual Physical Geography reception at AAG meetings

Discussion on the purpose of the gathering and the number of WRSG members that attend. **Motion** to DISCONTINUE financial support of the Physical Geography reception effective next year and subsequent years. **Approved**

B. **Motion.** Per request of AAG, waive annual WRSG fees for members from developing countries. **Approved.**

C. Other items

1. Allan James from the WRSO was elected AAG National Councilor.
2. International Water Resources Association (IWRA) International Water Congress will meet in Recife, Brazil, Winter November 2011
3. Applied Geography Meeting Oct. 28-31, 2009 in Baton Rouge, LA

X. Ice Breaker – William J. Smith organized in a room at the Las Vegas Hilton Hotel, 3000 Paradise Road, Las Vegas, Nevada, USA, 89109

XI. Meeting Adjourned, 8:20PM

Regards,

Kin Ma and William Smith, Jr.

Request

Please send us your name and a full list of your water publications to Asafi74@yahoo.com so Ahmad can work with William Smith to improve our list of members and their water publications for the WRSO web site.

Members' News

Two of our members **Carol Harden** (U. of Tennessee) and **Kathleen Farley** (San Diego State University) were awarded a grant from NSF for the project "The Effects of Land-use Change on the Production of Ecosystem Services on Paramo Grasslands," which looks at ecosystem services associated with both soil carbon and water in the Ecuadorian Andes." It is a 2.5 year project which will begin in June of this year.

Two WRSO members are getting tenured. **Dr. Shixiong (Shawn) Hu** is awarded tenure in the Department of Geography, East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania. **Dr. Kin Ma** will be tenured at the Geography and Planning Dept, Grand Valley State University, Grand Rapids, Michigan area.

The WRSO member, **Dr. Woonsup Choi**, has enjoyed a successful, yet busy Fall and Spring. Dr. Choi was selected for the UW-Milwaukee Graduate School Research Fellows program, awarded the UWM Graduate School Research Committee Award (\$10,000). Moreover Dr. Woonsup Choi in partnership with other three colleagues Sung Joon Kim, Peter F. Rasmussen and Adam R. published an article at the Canadian Water Resources Journal. The full citation of the article is Choi, Woonsup, Sung Joon Kim, Peter F. Rasmussen and Adam R. Moore. 2009. Use of the North American Regional Reanalysis for hydrological modeling in Manitoba. Canadian Water Resources Journal, 34, no.1:17-36.

Dr. William James Smith, Jr., University of Nevada, Las Vegas, WRSG Secretary Treasurer, won \$63,000 from the German Life Web, born from the U.N. Convention on Biological Diversity, to support his work on building a national spatial analysis resource for biodiversity conservation and sustainable development. This follows an initial \$40,000 from the U.S. Forest Service. His goal is to empower the country and especially grassroots NGOs to better conserve marine and terrestrial biodiversity, make informed decisions about the impacts of development, and prepare for the impacts of climate change. He collaborates with U. Iowa Dept. of Geog., Queen's University of Charlotte, TNC, Conservation Society of Pohnpei, FSM government, USFS, and USGS. He published 3 refereed articles on his work in the FSM recently:

Smith Jr. 2009. "Disaster on Pacific Islands: Contextualizing External Emergency Response and Technology." Earthzine serving the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS). IEEE and ICEO. Online as the refereed Featured Article and in Disasters at <http://www.earthzine.org/?s=micronesia&x=0&y=0>.

Smith Jr. 2008. "A Geographic Analysis of the Impact of Scale and Isolation on Coping with Hazards on Small Islands." Technology and Society, Journal of IEEE Society on Social Implications of Technology 27 (3): 39-47.

Smith Jr. 2008. "The place of rural, remote and least wealthy small islands in international water development: The nexus of geography-technology-sustainability in Chuuk State, Federated States of Micronesia." The Geographical Journal 174 (3): 251-268.

Christopher Scott, WRSG member at the Dept. of Geography & Regional Development and Udall Center for Studies in Public Policy (both at the University of Arizona), will initiate research in Fall 2009 as Principal Investigator (PI) of the following grants:

- Water Reuse to Offset Growth-Driven Water Scarcity in the Southwest: From Supply Augmentation to Substitution (PI), \$100,000 (WaterReuse Foundation)
- Rural and Environmental Water Gradients under Rapid Urban Expansion in Water-Scarce Basins (PI), \$51,000 (International Water Management Institute)

Additionally, he was named Chair of the Scientific Committee, XIV World Water Congress, International Water Resources Association and Associação Brasileira de Recursos Hídricos, November 2011, Recife, Brazil. For further information on the Water Resources and Policy group he coordinates, see udallcenter.arizona.edu/wrpg

Shixiong (Shawn) Hu, WRSG member at the Department of Geography, East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania, is awarded a grant of \$60,000 from Department of Conservation of Natural Resources (DCNR), Pennsylvania as Principal Investigator (PI). The project will focus on the impact of recent major floods on geomorphologic and ecological processes in a local watershed.



To contribute to or suggest improvements for this newsletter, please contact our editor Ahmad Safi (assafi74@yahoo.com)