

**MEETING OF 2010 ANNUAL MEETING
AND
2010 SUMMARY OF MANAGERS' ACTIVITIES**



**INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL DATA
RESCUE ORGANIZATION**

SUMMARY OF 2010 ANNUAL MEETING AND ACTION ITEMS

In Person...

- Janet F. Sansone (Alexandria, VA) – Chairperson of IEDRO's Board of Directors
- Rick Crouthamel, D.Sc. (Deale, MD) - Executive Director
- Teddy Allen (Miami, FL) - Chief of Operations
- Penny Paugh (Fairfax, VA) - Director of Public Relations
- Sarah Roy (Huntingtown, MD) - Chief Financial Officer
- Susan Callis (Silver Spring/Annapolis, MD) - Chief Technical Officer
- Sue Venter (Davidsonville, MD) - Administrative Officer
- Marlei Zeminsky (Annapolis, MD) - Administrative Assistant (new student intern from Anne Arundel Community College)
- Tommy Owens (Hartford County, MD) - Strip Chart Program Manager
- Patty Martin (Sheridan, WY) - Volunteer who helped us in Paraguay and Dominican Republic

By Phone...

- Dr. Elbert (Joe) Friday, Ph.D. (OK) - Chief IEDRO Advisory Council former Director of the National Weather Service (1986-1999)
- Dr. Ed Root, Ph.D. (NM) - Developer of the Strip Chart Digitization Program
- Doug Klotter (FL) – Technical Support and Director - Works at FSU and worked with me to establish IEDRO. Constructed our first web site
- Larry Nicodemus (NC) – Technical Support Experienced in site installations & Data Bases. Recently retired from NCDC.

Janet Sansone, Chairperson of the Board, spoke about what a strategic plan is and why it is important.

Rick Crouthamel, Executive Director described the Strategic Plan, in detail.

Penny Paugh, Manager of Public Relations summarized her major accomplishments for the year.

Susan Callis, Technical Director, described progress of Strip Chart Digitizer program.

Rick summarized IEDRO's finances.

Teddy Allen discussed how to motivate data site volunteers with graphic representations of what their data might yield.

Action Items

Each manager will develop operational goals in keeping with the Strategic Plan. Due date is the first Thursday in May (5th) 2011.

Managers will meet at the usual staff meeting on the first Thursday each month

We need to recruit a Chief Scientist. The first persons to approach are on our current mailing list.

A page will be developed on the website to give recognition to benefactors and to ask for specific equipment from donors.

Penny will work with Teddy to pursue the Clinton Initiative. Suggest we might partner.

Statistics will be put on the website on a regular basis that shows what has been collected vs. what is yet to be collected.

We will make efforts to lead collaboration between DR&D groups. Penny will coordinate the effort.

2010 MANAGER ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

- Established the new site in Paraguay, Tanzania continuing to send their PIBAL data.
- We revamped our DR&D Process to fund two DR&D trips to the new sites, the first one to survey the data to be rescued and the facilities. The second trip when the equipment will be provided and the imaging training done will only occur AFTER the data has been gathered, sorted, inventoried and boxed.
- Rick, as a representative of IEDRO, was named a co-author on the 250 year Reanalysis paper being published by the Royal Meteorological Society (I think) due to our great effort in providing digitized Chilean data since the 1870s (504,000 observations in all). IEDRO also is a recognized member of the international DR&D community and has been asked to participate in DR&D meetings administered by the WMO, MEDARE, ACRE and other international DR&D efforts.
- USA TODAY newspaper featured an article on "old weather" on Page 3A of the Friday, November 26, 2010 issue. It is also online at: http://www.usatoday.com/weather/forecast/2010-11-26-oldweather26_ST_N.htm
- The article described IEDRO and its data rescue mission along with NCEP's.
- Frank Roylance of the Baltimore Sun contacted Rick to talk with him about IEDRO for a possible article in the Sun.
- With the experience Martin Munkhondya gained from the IEDRO DARE programs, his authorities nominated him to lead the group that was hired by the LEAD SEA Project. He will be looking for modalities in rescuing historic data and site weather stations in the basin of the local lake, Lake Chirwa. The project is funded by the Norwegian Government and run by the fellows of the University.
- We gained Teddy Allen to oversee Site Management and Tommy Owens to oversee the Strip Chart Digitizer program.
- Activities began to identify and use software that will provide value added products with data rescued from our sites.
- Identified solution to website problems and constructed new site to allow us to provide the site in foreign languages. Develop of Portuguese and Mandarin was begun.
- Our newsletter was changed to an electronic format
- A blog site was built and linked to the other networking sites. Mailings were made when articles were posted to mailing lists posted on LinkedIn.

ACTIVITIES BY DIVISION

Strategic:

Susan Callis



Collaboration

- Worked with Penny on marketing materials for project sites.
- Beginning in September, collected materials and produced monthly reports with Penny
- Touched base again with Bill Thompson on finding software that uses digital weather data to provide a valuable product to countries with digitized weather data. He said that he thought the issue had died. I talked with Rick and he proposed first finding a good data set from NCDC to use in candidate software before working with Bill to identify software. Rick is working to obtain the digitized data from NCDC through Tom Ross.

Liaison Activities

- Flew to Asheville, NC, and met with NCDC reps for over 3 hours.
- Met with Renee LeDuc Clarke on NWS International Activities Office (IAO) and her findings while on detail in NWS IAO.
- Met with Dan Beardsley and Dan Thompson of NWS IAO to brief them on IAO activities.
- Met with Dan Beardsley of NWS/IAO and identified potential funding sources and contacts. Dan agreed to contact several people before Susan contacted them. IAO told Rick and Susan that they were planning to decrease their funding of IEDRO next year but offered to work with Susan to identify other funding sources. Susan arranged a special meeting with Dan B. to do just that.
- Talked with Bill Bolhofer and Eric Lenz about IEDRO activities. Bill is an old colleague of Rick's in the IAO office. Bill recommended that Susan meet with Chet Koblinsky to tell him what IEDRO does. Chet is the Director of the NOAA/OAR Climate Program Office. He is connected with the climate community and should know what IEDRO is doing to support the climate community.
- Coordinated with Chet Koblinsky to propose a meeting about IEDRO (Sep16). He accepted and said to arrange a meeting time with his Admin Assistant.

- Met with Tegan Blaine of USAID, African Climate desk, to brief her on IEDRO's African activities (Sep28). Renee Leduc Clarke, a Congressional Liaison who ended her detail to the NWS/IAO Office, recommended to Susan that we connect with Tegan Blaine. Tegan was very interested in what IEDRO does in the area of data rescue when Renee first mentioned IEDRO. Tegan asked some pertinent questions during my brief to her. She said that USAID only funds large country projects. But the fact that she knows how we fit in the climate community (who is focused on African data) and what we can do to support it is vital.

Site Management:

Teddy Allen



- After being introduced in an announcement by Rick, Teddy began corresponding with all sites.
- Helped to identify and work with software that could be used to develop value added products by sites with data rescued at their locations.

Operations:

Richard Crouthamel



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Larry Nicodemus



Site Visits

- Traveled to Asuncion, Paraguay and set up a DR&D site (computer, cameras and training) for their historic records.

Strip Chart Digitizer Development

- Worked with Ed Root on trying to get the strip chart program into an operational environment.
- Traveled to IEDRO headquarters with Vin Stanton for operational discussions and planning.
- Delivered the Linux Computer that Ed Root set up for strip chart operational processing by IEDRO personnel.
- Provided Rick with 3 CD's containing Ed Root's Java and Python source code for the automated digitizing software.

Papers and Presentations

- Wrote a proposal demonstrating IEDRO's capabilities which could be offered to ACMAD in Miami, Niger as an incentive to release their archive of microfiche records to IEDRO for conversion to digital images and to digitized data records for computer analysis and application. The proposal presented IEDRO's interactive station/element index which allows the user to quickly and easily recall any image for review with one click of the mouse.
- Prepared and submitted a draft PowerPoint presentation for Rick's approval and comments. It is designed to introduce personnel in Bolivia and in other countries to the IEDRO 4-step cooperative approach to DR&D and to explain what is expected from the country personnel.

Data Digitization

- Completed development and successfully tested the "Image Automatic Loading" Program" (IALP) for precipitation strip charts from Malawi. Testing showed that set-up, running the program and "hyper-linking" image names takes about 15-30 minutes for 10 CDs to complete.
- Designed and worked on the development of an automated method of loading strip chart images into an Excel spreadsheet (calendar layout) which will be "hyper-linked" and finally merged into a master Excel spreadsheet for each country in IEDRO's precipitation digitization program. This master Excel spreadsheet with hyperlinks allows each participating country to do the following:
 - Determine which strip charts have been imaged.
 - Where strip charts are missing.
 - Quickly retrieve any available strip chart to view and review.
- Converted the IALP to load images of synoptic forms from Uruguay. The program read the digitized data (containing the image names from which it was keyed) for stations and loaded the image names into a ".csv" file, allowed "hyper-links" to be added and saved as an Excel file.
- Used IALP to create an interactive Excel file containing all of the image names (24903 images on 47 CDs) with "hyper-links" for the Uruguayan military sites of Isle de Lobo, Juan Lacaze and Punta Brava.

- Read the digitized data for the civilian sites and created an Excel file containing the image names from the keyed data with “hyper-links” for the Uruguayan civilian sites of Artigas, Azucitrus, Colonia and Prado (contained on 67 CDs).
- Completed archiving all final “.jpg” and “.tif” files (over 350 GB of data) for Uruguay, Malawi, and El Salvador to a 1TB external hard drive and shipped to IEDRO HQs for safe storage. Also copied/archived the same files to a 1 TB hard drive for safe storage in Asheville, NC.
- Completed producing interactive excel files for both civilian (52457 “.jpgs”) and military (24901 “.jpgs”) sites in Uruguay and copied to a 500 GB hard drive for delivery to Uruguay on the next IEDRO trip.

Strip Chart Digitization Program Development

Tommy Owens



- Tommy met several times with Rick and also with Rob Allen and has taken over the management of the Strip Chart Digitization Program effort to make Ed's prototype operational. He went through most of the code and found it was well documented by Ed but is pretty much hardwired for the Malawi chart.
- Tommy will see what can be done to make the program easier to modify for each type of chart we come across. We estimate about 50 kinds of precipitation charts and maybe 40 thermogram types and 40 barogram types.

Public Relations:

Penny Paugh



- **Online Shop/Donation Page:** Products and design for an online shop/donation page were developed by the marketing team. Go Daddy constructed starter page. IEDRO found the site inadequate. New staff was recruited who could make the pages in Wordpress. The donation page was constructed in December and the online shop will be developed in early 2011. Savings of \$600 a month by not using Go Daddy's page.
- **eNewsletter:** Six issues were published of the IDRN in 2010. The newsletter was provided in Simplified Mandarin in the later part of the year, a dialect read in China. Since our second largest website hits are from China, we want to reach this audience. We also changed our newsletter to an electronic format that appears on our website. The layout team developed a new design for 2011.
- **Scientific Publication:** Tony Rosati wrote an article about the importance of data rescue which was published in Weather and Society Watch - <http://www.sip.ucar.edu/news/volume4/number3/highlights2.php>.
- **eNewsletter Mailings:** The HTML email announcing the release of each newsletter had been done by hand. It has been moved over to an easy to use Go Daddy template.
- **Press Releases:** We began sending out regular press releases in 2010. Six were sent out via LinkedIn mailing lists.
- **Website Updates:** The website was updated in major ways in 2010. We made a long list of conferences conducted by sister organizations, and made volunteer roster updates quarterly. We also added volunteer activity reports, press releases, and an organizational chart to the existing site.
- **Displays:** A conference booth display was made up by our graphic designers, which was used in one event at Ann Arundel Community College.
- **Brochures:** Brochures were designed for general users, for possible funding sources and for data rescue site staff.
- **Presentation Development:** Two presentations were polished this year regarding why we rescue data and the data rescue process.
- **Website Activities:** The number of hits on the website markedly increased to over 100,000 a year.

- **Website Re-Structure Project:** The site was restructured to allow us to provide the website in foreign language editions. The site was completed in December and will go live in early 2011 after quality checks have been conducted.
- **Blog and Network Sites:** We build our blog on Wordpress in November. A page was developed, titled Environmental News, on which any organization with an interest in the environment can share ideas, post activities, etc. On the home page, we have posted videos, one produced by IEDRO. When announcements and articles are posted, an announcement is sent to targeted mailing lists found on our LinkedIn site.
- **National News:** Assisted reporter for an article published in USA Today which mentioned IEDRO. It appeared on page 3 of the publication!
- **Foreign Language Translation of Website:** The entire website was translated in French, Portuguese, Mandarin Simplified and Traditional, Persian, and Spanish.
- **Internship Recruitment:** Marketing Team members have contacted six universities and sent ads for journalism interns. A journalism student was hired as manager of our newsletter and blog.
- **Proposal Writing:** A marketing organizer is advising IEDRO how to obtain funding via foundations. A strategy was formed and a project idea developed which was endorsed by the Executive Director. The proposal will be done in early 2011.
- **Xmas Outreach:** Two IEDRO-designed Seasons Greetings card were sent in mid-December -- one to volunteers and the other to general readership and sister organizations.
- **Conferences and Talks:** Intern Toni Rosati talked about data rescue at the following:
 - AMS
 - Colorado Water Science Day
 - CU Boulder Hydrology Symposium
 - Natural Hazards Workshop
 - International Disaster Research Council annual meeting
 - National Weather Association meeting
 - First annual - National Flood Workshop
 - Toni also gave a talk to an upper division natural hazards class at Humboldt State University on social science research and data integrity and administered questionnaires.
 - Toni also made efforts to involve IEDRO in the preservation of South American land use maps that were to be destroyed and NCAR research on meningitis.

FUTURE WORK

Basics:

- IEDRO's Strategic Plan – Rick Crouthamel and Janet Sansone
- IEDRO's Funding Possibilities - Penny Paugh assisted by Susan Callis and Rick Crouthamel
- IEDRO's Operations (past, present and future) - Rick Crouthamel, Teddy Allen
- IEDRO's Financials 2009/2010 - comparison and assessment of assets - Sarah Roy
- Communication Activities - Volunteer outreach, IDRN, website, networking sites, displays, donations, all products being seen by the public - Penny Paugh

Major Programs:

- Strip Chart Digitization - Tommy Owens assisted by Larry Nicodemus & Vin Stanton
- Applications Software - Tommy Owens assisted by Teddy Allen, Tom Johnson, Larry Nicodemus, Vin Stanton
- Weather Wizards - Rick Crouthamel
- NCDC IEDRO Volunteers - Rick Crouthamel
- Board of Directors – Soliciting new members - Janet Sansone

Operations

- Trip to Namibia to get them started is being planned for the December-February timeframe.
- Trip to Bolivia to get them started is being planned for the February timeframe.

Public Relations

- **The eNewsletter** will be redesigned and a team of layout artists will be working as crew in 2011.
- **Website Restructure Project** should be completed in early 2011. We will be recruiting more staff to develop the new site.
- **Network Sites:** Facebook networking will be improved per instruction from trainer, Max Myers. All persons involved in our networking sites will team together and make collaborative efforts in the future.
- **News:** The Baltimore Sun interviewed Rick and collected information from other members of the management team.
- **Press Release** is being planned to announce upcoming article by Baltimore Sun as well as already published article in USA Today.
- **Website Translations:** All translations that have been made will be updated before the website restructure is launched.
- **Foundation Funding:** A project is being put together by Susan Callis, Tommy Owens and Penny Paugh for early 2011 submittal.

- **Annual Report:** The design and editing of an annual report is the responsibility of Public Relations. Photographs were donated by volunteer staff.
- **Conferences:** A conference display showing the stages of data rescue will be completed by January 2011.

ISSUES

- NCDC inventory volunteers are up to six. However, Mary Cornielsen, the only volunteer actually working, was put on hold indefinitely.
- Larry Nicodemus stepped down as "Technical Manager" for IEDRO, leaving the position open for someone experienced in handling major IT issues and project development, implementation, and operations.
- Excel-entered data shared by ACRE needs to be translated from Excel into a format compatible for the NCDC database.
- Collaboration needs to be started with NIH to identify the data they need to predict air-borne diseases. Perhaps a potential project with funding could be developed.