Notes from Feb 26 Meeting -- Initial Focus Areas for the Water Community

The introductory meeting of the Water Community was held February 26 at Stewart Center. The five areas below were identified as the first to be addressed. Action items were identified for each.

1. Communication

In this era of Web 2.0, we will assume that most communication will be done directly by community members, rather than through a central person or organization.

- The Google Spreadsheet ([http://spreadsheets.google.com/ccc?key=pPifj8QaC3X-ZkFgJMAq6FQ&hl=en](http://spreadsheets.google.com/ccc?key=pPifj8QaC3X-ZkFgJMAq6FQ&hl=en)) appears to be working well. Note you do not need to explicitly share your entry – it does that for you. The spreadsheet is currently sorted by Department, to help identify people who should be on the list but are not. Please encourage those you know to do so. We don’t want to burden larger lists like the C4E mailing list with frequent requests.
- A listserver could be set up, but it may not remain as current unless everyone signed up in two places. We decided to table it for now.
- We need a more visible web site where other people can find the community and that would link to other communication tools.

Moving forward: Linda Lee and Lesley Oliver will ask the C4E web developer to provide a public web site where people could find the community. (Not discussed but needed: A few people to volunteer to provide text and make sure links remain current and complete.

2. Face-to-face meetings/conversations/seminars

Several formats for getting to know each other were proposed.

- A seminar series with research presentations
- Due to the many existing seminars, use departmental seminar series. However, there is also a need for seminars that transcend disciplines
- Have a “getting to know each other” meeting where each person has 1 to 3 slides
- Hybrid: Two people present 20 minutes each, then discussion
- A “think tank” approach where seminars are developed around key questions or themes. Possible questions might be how to monitor or model something, or how to link various topics. (Thanks to Suresh Rao for elaborating on this in his note today.)
- Note: We also need to discuss teaching, so along with research people should also share teaching.

Moving forward: Lesley Oliver, Tomas Hook, Laura Esman, and Chip Blatchley volunteered to coordinate this effort. Please contact them if you wish to join them.

3. Coordination of Courses

There are at least two short-term needs for information:
• What water-related courses are being taught
• What faculty are interested in teaching, so that our course offerings can be complementary

Long term, we should discuss potential changes in what courses are being taught

**Moving forward:** Jane Frankenberger will create a Google document for people to enter information about (1) courses currently taught, and (2) courses faculty area interested in teaching. Everyone agreed to enter information(!). After the information is there, we will discuss strategies for improving the course offerings and coordination – thanks to Suresh Rao for volunteering time to that in his note today.

4. Research Infrastructure

We discussed the critical need for long-term support of various equipment, and the potential for more sharing of equipment. This is certainly a topic that needs more discussion going forward. No specific action determined. Perhaps a subgroup could develop strategies on behalf of the Community.

**Moving forward:** Ron Turco (after the meeting) volunteered to lead an effort to identify potential strategies. Please contact him if you are willing to participate in this important initiative.

5. Strategic communication of our capabilities

With the large number of people involved in water at Purdue, there is considerable potential to affect priorities. Preparing a series of white papers in advance of specific opportunities could be strategic.

**Moving forward:** Chip Blatchley has volunteered to get one of these strategic efforts started, and he will send a note to the group outlining a strategy and calling a meeting. Other suggestions welcome. Ron Turco also agreed to keep this idea moving.