



March 29, 2006 HydroXC Workshop Summary

Dear Members of the Hydrology XML Consortium,

In March, we held the second HydroXC workshop. The March 29th Workshop began with welcome remarks from Jon Roe of NOAA's OHD. After introductions by all participants, two different Consortium members gave short presentations about how their organizations are using XML.

Don Laurine, of the Northwest River Forecast Center (NWRFC) described three ways in which the NWRFC is currently using XML. First were XML structures they are currently using to distribute stage data. He presented a first draft, which used a proprietary XML format, and then the same data encoded into HydroXC XML. He pointed out that the HydroXC encoded version resulted in a larger file, but also provided better representation of some of the hydrologic objects represented by the data. Don also highlighted that the conversion from their proprietary XML structures to HydroXC XML was simple and effective. In his next examples, NWRFC mapped water supply data to a proprietary XML format for Water Supply Forecasts and used an RSS (Really Simple Syndication) data feed to alert consumers to new forecast data.

The second presenter was Dan Pokorny of the North Central River Forecast Center (NCRFC). Dan presented his experience in modeling USGS rating curve data in XML. He explained the development process for rating curve data and how XML can play an important role in exchanging that data between the USGS, River Forecast Centers, and others. He emphasized the need for a Rating Curve schema in order to standardize the information more effectively.

Following the presentations was an open discussion for Consortium members to voice questions and ideas. Discussion points included:

- differences between the 1.0 and 2.0 versions of the HydroXC schema and at what point the schema can be put into practical use,
- further involvement of additional organizations who are currently working with XML, such as NASA,
- merits and drawbacks of using RSS in conjunction with the HydroXC XML,
- ideas for moving the HydroXC information to its own stand-alone site, www.hydroxc.org,
- areas of focus for the next phase of the HydroXC work.

This Workshop brought the current OHD-sponsored phase of the HydroXC work to an end. Jon Roe again discussed ideas for the next phase, based upon feedback from Consortium members. He encouraged Consortium members to submit ideas to the Apex team, particularly regarding the hydrologic objects that need to be mapped to their own specialized schemas, such as rating curves.

The workshop summary will be posted on the current HydroXC website. The updated HydroXC schema, version 2.0 based upon findings from this phase of work, will also be posted on the website. This includes the data examples that were shared with Apex and mapped to the existing 2.0 HydroXC XML schema.

The HydroXC Phase Three work is currently being contracted and we look forward to working with you more in the coming weeks and months.

Workshop Attendees:

- Andy Carter, Wier & Associates
- David Coyle, USGS Water Resources
- Russell Erb, OHD
- John Halquist, NCRFC
- Andrey Ignatov, Apex
- Don Laurine, NWRFC
- Stephanie Liu-Barnes, Apex
- Manuel Mattke, Apex
- James Paul, ABRFC
- Ken Pavelle, OHD
- Michael Perryman, USACE Hydraulic Engineering Center
- Christa Peters-Lidard, NASA Hydrological Sciences Branch
- Dee Ann Pizzica, Apex
- Dan Pokorny, NCRFC
- Pedro Restrepo, OHD
- Jon Roe, OHD
- Michael Thiemann, Riverside Technology