

SDI-12 Support Group
165 East 500 South
River Heights, Utah 84321
435-752-4200

Minutes from the 2018 Technical Committee Meeting

The SDI-12 Support Group's Technical Committee held its annual meeting on Monday, November 5, 2018. This meeting was held in conjunction with the American Water Resources Association's (AWRA) annual conference, which was held at the Marriott Inner Harbor, Camden Yards, Baltimore, Maryland.

The posted agenda for the meeting was:

1. welcome and introductions
2. review of concerns and comments about SDI-12 received over the last year by users and/or manufacturers of SDI-12 devices
3. review of any suggested changes to the SDI-12 Specification that any members of the technical committee are aware of, including any errors or omissions in the SDI-12 Specification
4. discussion about the use of the high-volume data commands and metadata commands added to SDI-12 version 1.4
5. review of website
6. review of website traffic
7. Discussion, led by Gerald Kunkle, U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), Hydrologic Instrumentation Facility (HIF) about the upcoming DATC (Data Acquisition, Telemetry, and Control) project for the USGS Water Mission Area. The goal of the project is to modernize the entire USGS water data pipeline, including sensor communication, telemetry, and database software. (Gerald is on the SDI-12 Support Group's Technical Committee.)

Welcome and Introductions, Companies and Agencies Represented at the Meeting

The following members of the technical committee were present at the meeting:

Campbell Scientific, Joe Thurston
Environment Canada, Alain Goulet
NR Systems, Inc., Mike Jablonski (Chairman of the SDI-12 Support Group)
OTT Hydromet Corporation, Jerry Calhoun (Chairman of the Technical Committee)
U.S. Geological Survey, Hydrologic Instrumentation Facility, Gerald Kunkle

Review of Concerns and Comments About SDI-12 Received Over the Past Year

Jerry Calhoun and Mike Jablonski reported that other than answering a small number of questions about SDI-12 over the year, no concerns, problems, or technical issues were raised by the SDI-12 community over the past year.

Review of any Suggested Changes to the SDI-12 Specification

Joe Thurston recommended an addition to Table 5, the SDI-12 Basic Command Response Set, on page 8, to add a reference to the additions of the Version 1.4 Commands. It was further suggested, and agreed to by all present, to add this information without having the Table 5 expand into two pages. This table occupies a single page, and all agreed that restricting the table to one page makes it easy to read.

Discussion About the Use of the High-Volume Data Commands and Metadata Commands

Mike Jablonski reported that although his product, the NR Systems' SDI-12 Verifier supports the high-volume commands, he has yet to receive a single question about the high-volume commands since version 1.4 of SDI-12, which added the high-volume commands, was released in July 2016.

Gerald Kunkle suggested that the SDI-12 high-volume commands could possibly be used, in some manner, with Large-Scale Particle Image Velocimetry (LSPIV) hydrologic data.

Jerry Calhoun asked Gerald if the USGS/HIF saw an interest from the Acoustic Doppler Current Profiler (ACDP) makers about their possible use of the SDI-12 high-volume commands. Gerald responded by saying that vendors may have to be nudged into using SDI-12, as a requirement, to inform them about the SDI-12 high-volume commands.

Review of Website

Mike Jablonski proposed making www.sdi-12.org mobile friendly, meaning that it automatically scales down, making it easy read on small mobile devices. Mike volunteered to make the needed changes to make the website mobile friendly. All present said Mike could proceed with that task.

Review of Website Traffic

Mike Jablonski presented the following summary of visits to www.sdi-12.org, comparing two years of visitor statistics.

	Nov 1, 2017	Oct 26, 2018
Average daily visitors over the last 365 days	27.4	24.51
Average unique daily visitors over the last 365 days	24.4	not available
Average Daily Time per Visitor over the last 365 days	5.6 minutes	5.2 minutes
Average Daily Number of Actions	60.9	not available
Number of visits to the main page in the last 90 days	2,074	2,253
Number of visits to the specification Page in the last 90 days	1,695	1,103
Number of visits to Announcements in the last 90 days	483	374
Number of visits to Archives in the last 90 days	406	270
Number of visits to History in the last 90 days	239	139
Number of visits to Contact in the last 90 days	128	79
Specification Downloads Since August 8, 2017	783	n/a
Specification Downloads during 11-1-2018 to 10-26-2018	n/a	8,446

U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), Hydrologic Instrumentation Facility (HIF) about the upcoming DATC (Data Acquisition, Telemetry, and Control)

Gerald Kunkle gave a brief presentation of the U.S. Geologic Survey's upcoming five-year plan to modernize their entire hydrologic data acquisition system. This plan has four objectives:

1. Modernize how all data is decoded and ingested into USGS databases.
2. Upgrade all servers and databases to increase bandwidth.
3. Upgrade the telemetry systems, adding two-way redundancy capability, by allowing the use of additional communication providers: Cellular and Irridium, with automatic switching between the two as needed.
4. Modernize the sensor to data logger communications, using the most desirable attributes of SDI-12, with increased speed and bandwidth.

This plan has not yet been approved by the USGS. Gerald said the USSG is at the beginning stages of this plan, which may, or may not, be approved. Their first step will be to issue a Request for Information to solicit ideas and learn about the capabilities of vendors for help with this five-year plan.

Other Business/Technical Committee Membership

Gerald Calhoun pointed out that he is now an employee of OTT Hydromet Corporation, as that company purchased Sutron Corporation, and under the bylaws of the SDI-12 Support Group, a company or agency may have only one person on the Technical Committee. At present, there are now two employees of OTT Hrydomet Corporation listed on the Technical Committee, Jerry Calhoun and Albrecht Dorr. As Jerry has been the chairman of the Technical Committee for many years, and has attended all meeting, all present agreed to retain Jerry as the sole OTT representative on the committee.

All present said they would like to serve for another one-year term on the Support Group's Technical Committee.

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Minutes from the 2018 General Meeting of the SDI-12 Support Group

The SDI-12 Support Group's annual meeting on Monday, November 6, 2018. This meeting was held in conjunction with the American Water Resources Association's (AWRA) annual conference, which was held at the Marriott Inner Harbor, Camden Yards, Baltimore, Maryland.

The posted agenda for the meeting was:

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Report About the Technical Committee Meeting, as held on November 5, 2018
3. Financial Report and Discussion on the Collections of Membership Dues
4. Selection of Chairman and Board Members for the Upcoming year
5. Formally Select and Renew Members of the Technical Committee for the Upcoming Year

Attendance

OTT Hydromet Corporation, Chairman of the Technical Committee, Jerry Calhoun,
Stevens Water, Fred Holloway
Environment Canada, Alain Goulet
NR Systems, Inc., Mike Jablonski (Chairman of the SDI-12 Support Group)

Under the bylaws of the SDI-12 Support Group, attendance of four people constitutes a quorum. The bylaws say, "Whatever number of SDI-12 Support Group members attend the annual meeting will constitute a quorum."

Review of the Technical Committee Meeting

A brief summary of the November 5 Technical Committee meeting was given to Fred Holloway.

Financial Report and Dues Collection

Mike Jablonski reported that the SDI-12 Support Group has \$ 3,901.38 in cash.

Mike also shared a profit and loss statement for the period of November 5, 2017 through November 3, 2018, showing:

\$ 3,230.00 received in membership dues
\$ 2,987.18 in expenses:

\$ 1,115.21 Paid to Sutron Corporation for Jerry Calhoun's Travel Expenses to the 2017 meetings in Portland, Oregon.

\$ 1,871.97 paid to NR Systems for Mike Jablonski's travel expenses to the 2017 meetings in Portland, Oregon, noting that this includes a reimbursement of \$695.00 paid to the American Water Resources Association, for a registration fee for the 2017 conference, for the meeting rooms

\$ 242.82 Net Income

Mike further reported that payment of the dues, by the membership, continues to be a problem, admitting that he could have been more aggressive in the solicitation of dues.

Mike reports that some membership dues were paid by credit card, some by PayPal, and some by check. The ability to accept payment via PayPal and credit cards was set up in February 2018.

The group also reviewed the checking account statements for the year, comparing them with the profit and loss statement. It was discovered the fees imposed on the Support Group for PayPal and credit card fees, totaling \$56.31 were not listed as an expense, and therefore the total dues received was off by \$56.31. In addition, one company was credited with paying the dues of \$300.00 twice, another error.

Mike Jablonski said he would correct these mistakes in the official books of the SDI-12 Support Group.

Mike also reported that the SDI-12 Support Group remains in good standing with the Internal Revenue Service and the state of Utah. A 990-EZ Short Form, Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax was filed, as required, on May 15, 2018.

Regarding the dues payment, all present agreed to make it a formal policy that the dues payments covers a calendar year. Dues received midyear will not carry-over into a new year. It was further agreed to solicit for the dues at or near November 15, 2018 and at or near December 15, and again during the first week of January 2019.

Mike Jablonski informed Alain Goulet, that a member of the Board of Directors, under the bylaws of the SDI-12 Support, that he could be reimbursed for his travel expenses to this meeting. Alain responded that his agency, Environment Canada, will not put in a request for payment of his travel expenses, bearing Alain's travel expenses themselves.

Selection of Chairman and Board Members for the 2017-2018

Mike Jablonski agreed to serve another one-year term as the chairman of the SDI-12 Support Group. Jerry Calhoun agreed to remain on the Board of Directors for another year.

The Technical Committee was reinstated for another year. Technical Committee members not present at the November 5, 2018 meeting had previously agreed to serve on the committee for another year.

The technical committee members are:

Jerry Calhoun, OTT HydroMet (Chairman)
Philip Bartlett, Forest Technology Systems (FTS)
Alain Goulet, Environment Canada
Fred Holloway, Stevens Water Monitoring Systems, Inc.

Mike Jablonski, NR Systems, Inc.
Gerald Kunkle, U.S. Geological Survey
Joe Thurston, Campbell Scientific, Inc.

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