Geophysical Research Abstracts, Vol. 9, 07580, 2007
SRef-ID: 1607-7962/gra/EGU2007-A-07580

Lessons learned from five years of community building in the USA

R. Hooper and J. Duncan

Consortium of Universities for the Advancement of Hydrologic Science, Inc., Washington, DC, USA (rhooper@cuahsi.org / Fax +1 202 777 7308)

The hydrologic science community in the USA has formed a consortium of 121 universities, colleges, and research centers to develop and to develop a community science plan and the infrastructure needed to achieve that agenda. An ambitious program of observatories, instrumentation facilities, information systems, and synthesis center was conceived. Progress on these items has been uneven. Most progress has been made on the information system and instrumentation facilities. Both of these projects, however, have developed in unanticipated ways. The original conceptions of these components had not considered a number of technological and sociological issues that became apparent only after more detailed design work was done. Two basic lessons can be drawn from this experience. First, the science plan for a diverse scientific community should focus on providing a structure in which individuals can place their research interests rather than simply identifying the most important community questions. Second, facility design must focus on the user perspective to be effective rather than being viewed as large science projects.