# UNAVCO WInSAR Consortium Executive Committee Annual Report– for AGU 2011:

## Committee name, charge and membership:

**WInSAR Consortium**

Full power in the management of the affairs of WInSAR is vested in the WInSAR Consortium (WInSAR-C). To this end and without limitation of the foregoing or of its powers expressly conferred by this charter, WInSAR membership shall make policies for WInSAR and create special committees as it shall deem best. WInSAR shall have the power to fill vacancies in, and change the membership of, such committees as are constituted by it. In particular, WInSAR membership will elect the five members of its Executive Committee (WInSAR-EC) every two years by recorded vote or email immediately preceding the annual WInSAR meeting.

The **WInSAR Executive Committee** (WInSAR-EC) shall manage the affairs and business of WInSAR, and assure that operations conform to policy set by the WInSAR membership. WInSAR-EC will have the authority to set operational goals (data purchases, data distribution, archiving, software distribution, and data products). WInSAR-EC will review and make recommendations on all proposals related to WInSAR operations before review and approval by the UNAVCO Board.

WInSAR-EC voting members: Eric Fielding, Chair; Rowena Lohman, Vice-Chair; David Schmidt, Secretary; Rob Mellors; Shimon Wdowinski

WInSAR-EC ex-officio, non-voting members: Matt Pritchard, UNAVCO Board Liaison; Fran Boler, UNAVCO Data Center Manager; Falk Amelung, WInSAR-EC past Chair

## Record of meetings:

Jan. 21, 2011

EC Telecon

Eric Fielding, Rob Mellors, Rowena Lohman, Shimon Wdowinski, David Schmidt, Falk Amelung, Fran Boler

Jan. 25, 2011

EC Telecon

Eric Fielding, Rob Mellors, Rowena Lohman, Shimon Wdowinski, David Schmidt, Falk Amelung, Fran Boler, Dan Dzurisin, Zhong Lu

Jun. 17, 2011

EC Telecon

Eric Fielding, Rob Mellors, Rowena Lohman, Shimon Wdowinski, David Schmidt, Fran Boler, Matt Pritchard

Jun. 30, 2011

EC Telecon

Eric Fielding, Rowena Lohman, Shimon Wdowinski, David Schmidt, Fran Boler, Falk Amelung, Susanna Gross

October 14, 2011

EC Telecon

Eric Fielding, Rob Mellors, Rowena Lohman, Shimon Wdowinski, David Schmidt, Falk Amelung, Fran Boler, Matt Pritchard

December 7, 2011

WInSAR Consortium Business Meeting

In person

All of WInSAR Full Member Institutional Representatives and EC are invited.

## Topics taken up

January WInSAR EC meetings and subsequent email discussions were devoted to a discussion on how WInSAR should spend remaining funds following a change in data policy by the European Space Agency (ESA).

The June and October EC meetings were devoted mostly to discussing two new activities for WInSAR, licensing the ISCE software and tasking the TerraSAR-X satellite.

## Actions & Activities

The WInSAR “Comprehensive SAR Archive” grant of 2009 was originally intended to purchase a large amount of SAR data from the European Space Agency (ESA). However, ESA changed their data policy in May 2010, and stopped charging WInSAR for new data purchases. This prompted a request from NSF program managers in regards to how WInSAR intends to spend remaining funds allocated for data purchases. The EC considered multiple options and worked with Fran Boler to prioritize tasks. The highest priority tasks included 1) doing deferred upgrades to the WInSAR server infrastructure, 2) integration of the WInSAR and GeoEarthScope SAR archives, and 3) development of an Application Programming Interface (API) for more efficient access to the WInSAR archives. The existing funds could also be used for the ongoing maintenance of WInSAR through the September 2013 end of the UNAVCO “bridge contract” to sync WInSAR with the next UNAVCO Core Facilities proposal that would start in October 2013. A revised budget-reprograming plan was filed with the NSF in the winter, and accepted.

In support of the impending release of a new InSAR processing package developed by the scientific community, the EC recommended that WInSAR serve as a software distributor of ISCE (InSAR Scientific Computing Environment) to the membership. This required UNAVCO to negotiate a contract with Caltech, JPL, and Stanford for the rights to distribute the software package. As of this writing, the final licensing for ISCE is still pending, except for a subset package part of ISCE called MDX. The EC discussed whether it would be necessary to change the by-laws to do the ISCE distribution and decided that ISCE could be distributed to the USA-based Full Member institutions with no changes to the by-laws.

Following the loss of the ALOS satellite in April of 2011, the EC recognized the importance of making new SAR data available to the membership. Given the interest in X-band data from the German SAR satellite TerraSAR-X, the EC engaged in negotiations with the German space agency (DLR), including a face-to-face meeting in September 2011 in Italy. WInSAR was given an allocation for tasking new acquisitions at no charge. WInSAR members were invited to submit requests to the EC for TerraSAR-X imaging targets. The EC recommended tasking a number of sites that were only snow-free for a limited time of the year plus a few other sites. A subcommittee was formed to prioritize the rest of the requested sites. In the long term, the EC hopes to seek funds to purchase the data for the membership, following the DLR TerraSAR-X data policy requirements.

Finally, the WInSAR EC prepared and submitted a white paper to the EarthCube initiative to describe the WinSAR governance model and future data processing needs. Members of WInSAR led an InSAR short course facilitated by the UNAVCO E&O in August 2011.

WInSAR Institutional membership as of November 17, 2011:

74 Full (US institutions)

6 Adjunct-1 (North America)

21 Adjunct-2 (rest of world)

101 TOTAL

4 Full, 1 Adjunct-1, and 4 Adjunct-2 members have been added since December 22, 2010.

Submitted by:

Committee Chair and Secretary on behalf of the committee

November 17, 2011

Attachments:

Minutes

EarthCube white paper