

WMO OCP Innovation Webinar, 11 July 2022

Improving Decision Making During Extreme Flooding Events

Background: The Open Consultative Platform (OCP), established at the 18th World Meteorological Congress in 2019, serves as an open, constructive, and participatory framework for addressing the grand challenges of the global weather enterprise. OCP activities are expected to enable all stakeholders to stay abreast of institutional and technological issues, challenges, and opportunities, to motivate collaboration and innovation, and to move from isolated actions within a single stakeholder to coordinated initiatives across sectoral and organizational boundaries.

Since February 2020, a series of WMO's OCP Innovation webinars have been held and provided opportunities to public, private, academic, and civil sectors to share innovative practices and ideas for better weather, climate, and water services in support of the Sustainable Development Goals, climate change mitigation, and disaster risk reduction.

The upcoming OCP Innovation webinar will bring together the experts of private companies (Aquatic Informatics and OTT Hydromet), government authorities (Nebraska Department of Natural Resources and Nebraska Water Management) and WMO Secretariat for a robust discussion on existing practices and technological opportunities for public-private collaboration to improve decision making during extreme flooding events.

(Register [HERE](#) to get Zoom link by email)

Event Date and Time: 15:00 CEST (13:00+2 UTC), Monday, 11 July 2022

Event Venue: 1.5-hour virtual webinar open to the public on Zoom

Event Organizer: WMO

Event Outline: Extreme flooding events cause severe life and property losses. Integrated flood risk measurement, assessment and management requires closer engagement and collaboration between public and private sectors. At the webinar, OTT Hydromet and Nebraska water management authorities will share their experience on how to better prepare for and reduce flood risks by bringing together the public- and private-sectors' resources and technological solutions. The Earth System Monitoring Division (ESM) of WMO Secretariat will speak about WMO's support to innovative approaches in hydrometry and data management systems.

The audience will learn about:

- Overview of Aquatic Informatics and OTT Hydromet;
- Overview of AQUARIUS Software
- Background on the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Nebraska Water Management challenges (water rights, extreme events like flooding, public safety);
- Why Nebraska DNR partnered with AQI and selected AQUARIUS;



- How AQUARIUS is helping Nebraska DNR improve decision making during extreme flooding events;
- Highlights of impacts of improved decision making on public safety;
- WMO's support to innovative approaches in hydrometry and data management systems, building bridges between developers and users, and between emerging technologies and standards

Event Program:

- Presentation by Aquatic Informatics and OTT Hydromet (25 minutes);
- Presentation by Nebraska DNR and Water Management (15 minutes)
- Presentation by WMO Earth System Monitoring Division (ESM) (20 minutes)
- Q&A with audience (30 minutes)

Moderator:

Tatsuya Kimura, Director of the Public-Private Engagement Office, WMO Secretariat



Invited speakers:

Chris Heyer, Senior Sales Director, Aquatic Informatics



Chris has worked in the water industry for 25 years. He joined Aquatic Informatics in 2014, leading the global sales team in helping customers transform data to information and action and insights through digital solutions. Prior to joining AQI, Chris was at Xylem as Director of Market Segment and YSI as a sales representative for 6 years, helping customers expand their water quality and quantity real-time monitoring networks. Before moving into private industry, he led the State continuous water quality monitoring program at the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. Chris has a Marine Science – Biology Bachelor's degree from Long Island University/Southampton College and a Master of Science degree from the University of Maryland.

**Jay Wilson, Director for Business Development and Sustainability, OTT Hydromet**

Jay is responsible for driving new business development for the development and execution of large projects in hydrology, meteorology, solar and renewable energy sectors. She also works with development partners to identify mutually-beneficial areas of collaboration. Prior to OTT Hydromet, Jay worked at the World Meteorological Organization, where she spearheaded creation of the Project Management and Implementation Division of where she oversaw +180M USD portfolio and managed the relationships with the project stakeholders, including development partners. Jay also worked in the US with various R&D companies designing printed circuit boards for antenna, television and radio communication systems, broadband wireless internet protocol system, and high-speed (fiber optic) communications applications. Jay has a Bachelor's Degree in International Business Management from California State University, Northridge

Jeremy Gehle, Water Administration Manager, Department of Natural Resources, Nebraska Water Management

Jeremy has spent his entire 22-year career with the state of Nebraska working with surface water administration and related issues. For the past eight years, he has been the manager of the Water Administration Division, managing a staff of around 30 people in seven locations. Water Administration focuses on accurate stream and canal information, and administering water rights in accordance with state statutes. Prior to that, Jeremy was the Data Collection Chief, in charge of the survey crew and streamgaging, and headed up the Lincoln Field Office for four years. He has more than a decade of experience as a hydrographer in the Lincoln Field office. Jeremy has a Bachelor's Degree in Water Science from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln.

Jim Williams, Streamgaging Engineer, Department of Natural Resources, Nebraska Water Management

Jim has worked in surface water and environmental science for more than 35 years. He has been with the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources for 22 years, in roles including streamgaging engineer for the past dozen years, as well as survey chief, and floodplain mapping, among other roles. One of his favorite roles is heading up NeRAIN, a program that collects daily weather readings from hundreds of citizen scientist across the state, and provides the information as maps and reports available to all. Prior to working with the State of Nebraska, Jim was an environmental consultant in Texas for nine years, and spent several years in academia, including two years as a geology instructor. Jim has a Bachelor's degree in Geological Sciences from Loma Linda University, and a Master's degree in Geological Engineering from the University of Arizona.

Dominique Berod, M. Sc., PhD, Head of the Earth System monitoring Division, WMO Secretariat



Dominique is responsible for WMO activities on monitoring and information systems on water, cryosphere and ocean. Before joining WMO in June 2016, he was in 2015 the senior expert for the Water, Cold Regions and Disasters activities at the intergovernmental Group on Earth Observations (GEO) Secretariat. From 2008 to 2014, he served as the Head of the Swiss National Hydrological Service, in charge of water monitoring, flow forecast, water information systems and applied research. He was also the President of the Swiss commission of Hydrology and was the Regional Hydrological Advisor of the World Meteorological Organization for Europe, Middle East and the Caucasus. Until 2008, he was the Head of the flood protection unit in the canton of Wallis, Switzerland, responsible for flood mitigation and river restoration projects, including flood forecast and warning as well as hazard mapping. Dominique Berod holds a Master's degree in Environmental Engineering from the Swiss Institute of Technology at Lausanne (EPFL, 1989) and a PhD in Hydrology from the same university, in collaboration with the Louisiana State University at Baton Rouge, USA (1994).
