

# Workshop on Coastal Flood Modeling with *WMS* and *GSSHA*

August 30 & 31, 2022

Hybrid In Person/Virtual Training sponsored by the H&H Set Program

## Web meeting information:

Join by video

URL: <https://usace1.webex.com/meet/hwai-ping.cheng>

Meeting Number: **199 630 5824**

Join by phone

**+1-844-800-2712** US Toll Free

+1-669-234-1177 US Toll

Access code: **199 630 5824**

## WMS Software Download:

<https://www.aquaveo.com/downloads>

Download Version 11.1

Security String: **LDMURZM**

---

## Students will learn the basics of:

- *Gridded Surface Subsurface Hydrologic Analysis (GSSHA)* model, developed at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Engineering Research and Development Center and the University of Wyoming
- *Dept. of Defense Watershed Modeling System (WMS)*, developed by Aquaveo LLC
- Spatial data needed to estimate distributed *GSSHA* model parameters, including data requirements, basics of *GSSHA/WMS* and how to find and use spatial geographic data to develop *GSSHA* models using the *WMS Hydrologic Model Wizard*.
- How to use *GSSHA* to analyze coastal flooding

The *GSSHA* model with *WMS* support constitutes a complete watershed analysis system that can be used for a variety of hydrologic science and engineering computation and design evaluation, such as flood simulation, hydrologic impacts of land use change, best management practice design, and testing of flood mitigation measures.

## Course Layout:

Through a combination of lectures and experiential applications, the course features the spatially distributed modeling components of this system. The course begins with an overview of the capabilities of the *WMS* to ensure maximum benefit from the hands-on portions of the class. Attendees will learn to use *WMS* to set up *GSSHA* models that include overland flow, infiltration, distributed rainfall, hydraulic structures, flood modeling, and flood inundation mapping.

**Outcome:**

Having completed this course, attendees will gain a working knowledge of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC) *GSSHA* model that is supported by the Watershed Modeling System (*WMS*) graphical user interface software. Attendees will also understand how, when, and why to apply the tools to specific studies as well as understand input data requirements. This class provides users with enough background to easily deploy a sophisticated hydrological model. This course will specifically focus on the development and use of *GSSHA* to model hydrology and hydraulics contributing to coastal flooding problems.

**Who Should Attend?**

The course is intended for anyone interested in watershed hydrology, including flooding, and flood control measures, especially in the coastal zone. Experience with hydrologic modeling and numerical methods are a plus, but not required. Some college-level background in hydrologic science and/or engineering is required.

**Instructors:** This short course will be taught by the *GSSHA* developers Drs. Charles W. Downer and Aaron R. Byrd USACE-ERDC, and *GSSHA* application expert Mr. Stephen J. Turnbull USACE-ERDC. Attendees will be assisted by *WMS* expert Mr. Clay Lahatte USACE-ERDC.

**Requirements:** Attendees will provide their own computer. Licenses for Watershed Modeling System 1.1 software will be provided (see download information in the heading section of this document).

**Tutorial Downloads:**

Students shall download most of the tutorials from:

<http://www.aquaveo.com/software/wms-learning-tutorials>

PDFs of the presentations can be downloaded from the main page of *GSSHA* wiki at:  
[http://gsshawiki.com/Gridded\\_Surface\\_Subsurface\\_Hydrologic\\_Analysis](http://gsshawiki.com/Gridded_Surface_Subsurface_Hydrologic_Analysis)

**Fees, access, other:** This course is sponsored by the USACE H&H Set Program and is offered free of charge. The course is available to all USACE and DoD personnel. The course may be attended by others with permission of the lead course instructor. Access to the physical course may be restricted. The course will be physically conducted at the Coastal and Hydraulics Laboratory at the US Army Waterways Experiment Station, 3909 Halls Ferry Rd, Vicksburg, MS. The class will be held in the CHL Conference Room, Room 200. Students should enter the station at the front gate on Halls Ferry Rd, where they will check in with Security and proceed to the PAO office where they will be greeted by one of the course instructors. Travel funds may be available for USACE and DoD personnel.

Vicksburg is an historic town of about 50,000 residents located on the Mississippi River. The closest airport is in Jackson, MS, about a 45-minute drive away. Accommodations

include several hotels and B&Bs that can be acquired at per diem. Students will provide their own meals. Breakfast and lunch are available on station, as well as at several chain, regional, and local restaurants outside of the station. Contact Steve Turnbull for additional information, [stephen.j.turnbull@usace.army.mil](mailto:stephen.j.turnbull@usace.army.mil).

Due to possible DoD travel restrictions associated with the global COVID-19 pandemic and to reach the widest possible audience, the course is offered virtually as well.

PDHs are awarded based on contact hours. There are 16 possible contact hours.

**Information:** For additional information about the course and to sign up for the course contact Charles W. Downer [charles.w.downer@usace.army.mil](mailto:charles.w.downer@usace.army.mil).

**Schedule:** The basic course is two days.

Day 1 – Introduction to *WMS* and *GSSHA* and Building a Basic *GSSHA* Model with the Hydrologic Wizard

Day 2 – Flood simulations with *GSSHA*

A detailed itinerary follows.

**DETAILED SCHEDULE**

**Day 1 Tuesday, August 30, 2022.**

**Introduction to GSSHA and Building a Basic GSSHA Model  
with the Hydrologic Wizard**

<b>Start</b>	<b>Finish</b>	<b>Duration</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Topic</b>
08:30	08:45	15	Greeting	Introduction of Instructors/Attendees
08:45	09:30	45	Lecture	Introduction to Hydrologic Modeling – Presentation 1
09:30	10:15	45	Lecture	Introduction to <i>GSSHA</i> – Presentation 2
10:15	10:30	15	Break	
10:30	10:45	15	Lecture	<i>WMS</i> overview using digital spatial data Presentation 4
10:45	11:00	15	Lecture	Images and projections – Pres 5
11:00	11:25	25	Workshop	<i>WMS</i> basics and images – Tutorial 40 through 7
11:25	12:00	30	Demo	Using the <i>WMS Hydrologic Model Wizard</i>
12:00	13:00	60	Lunch	
13:00	13:20	20	Lecture	Watershed delineation using DEMs – Presentation 7
13:20	13:40	20	Lecture	Overland flow modeling in <i>GSSHA</i> – Presentation 8
13:40	13:50	10	Lecture	Basic model setup in <i>WMS</i> – Pres 9
13:50	14:10	20	Workshop	Basic model setup with <i>WMS</i> with the <i>Hydrologic Wizard</i> - Tutorial 47 sec. 8
14:10	14:40	30	Lecture	Stream routing – Presentation 12A
14:40	14:55	15	Lecture	Assigning channel properties with <i>WMS</i> – Presentation 12B
14:55	15:10	15	Break	
15:10	15:30	20	Workshop	Adding streams to your model with the <i>Hydrologic Wizard</i> – Tutorial 47 Sec. 9
15:30	15:45	15	Lecture	Developing index maps with spatial data - Presentation 10
15:45	16:15	30	Lecture	Modeling infiltration – Pres 11A
16:15	16:25	10	Lecture	Using <i>WMS</i> to develop infiltration inputs – Presentation 11B
16:25	16:45	20	Workshop	Adding overland processes to your model using the <i>Hydrologic Modeling Wizard</i> – Tutorial 47 Section 10-16
16:45	17:00	15	Recap of 1 <sup>st</sup> day	

**Day 2, Wednesday, August 31, 2022**  
**Flood Modeling with GSSHA**

<b>Start</b>	<b>Finish</b>	<b>Duration</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Topic</b>
08:30	08:45	15	Lecture	Hydraulic structures and embankments – Presentation 15
08:45	09:15	30	Lecture	Distributed rainfall – Presentation 14
09:45	10:00	30	Lecture	Flood inundation modeling – Pres 20&21
10:00	11:00	60	Workshop	Flood inundation modeling – Tut 55
11:00	11:15	15	Break	
11:15	12:00	45	Lecture	Compound flooding
12:00	13:00	60	Lunch	
13:00	13:30	30	Presentation	Hurricane Sandy Model
13:30	14:30	60	Workshop	Hurricane Sandy
14:30	14:45	15	Break	
14:45	15:15	30	Presentation	Buffalo Bayou Model
15:15	16:15	60	Workshop	Buffalo Bayou
16:15	16:30	15	Lecture	Additional resources – Presentation 23
16:30	16:45	15	Course wrap up	