ACE Basin National Estuarine Research Reserve

Meteorological Metadata Report January – December 2013

Latest Update: November 30, 2021

Note: This is a provisional metadata document; it has not been authenticated as of its download date. Contents of this document are subject to change throughout the QAQC process and it should not be considered a final record of data documentation until that process is complete. Contact the CDMO (cdmosupport@belle.baruch.sc.edu) or Reserve with any additional questions.

I. Data Set and Research Descriptors

1) Principal investigator(s) and contact persons

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Charleston, SC 29422
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ACE Basin NERR field station
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Contact Persons:

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Amanda Fornal, Reserve Biologist

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Chuck Tucker, Reserve Technician

Contact Tuckercr@dnr.sc.gov; (843) 953-9225

2) Entry verification

a) Data Input Procedures:

Meteorological data is recorded in 15-minute intervals and stored in a Campbell Scientific CR1000 datalogger. ACE staff uses a data storage card to serve as a back-up for the CR1000 datalogger. The program that controls the sampling, schedule, and storage of data by the CR1000 is provided by CDMO.

The CR1000 is interfaced with the Campbell Scientific's Loggernet software. ACE staff downloads and troubleshoots Loggernet programs with a direct connection to the weather station, using a laptop computer and a 9-pin serial cable. The GOES satellite system also uploads all 15-minute meteorological data summaries to a NOAA server every hour. These multiple methods of data retrieval ensure that all measured parameters are reported.

b) QA/QC Procedures:

Data are uploaded from the CR1000 data logger to a Personal Computer (IBM compatible). Files are exported from LoggerNet in comma-delimited format and uploaded to the CDMO where they undergo automated primary QAQC and become part of the CDMO's online provisional database. During primary QAQC, data are flagged if they are missing or out of sensor range. The edited file is then returned to the Reserve where it is processed in Microsoft Excel using the CDMO's NERRQAQC Excel macro. The macro inserts station codes, creates metadata worksheets for flagged data, and graphs the data for review. It allows the user to apply QAQC flags and codes to the data, append files, and export the resulting data file to the CDMO for tertiary QAQC and assimilation into the CDMO's authoritative online database. Outliers, suspect data, erroneous data,

and other data flagged by the NERRQAQC macro are evaluated based on monthly field logs and NOAA historical data for the area. For more information on QAQC flags and QAQC codes, see Sections 11 and 12.

Amanda Fornal and Chuck Tucker are responsible for the above tasks.

3) Research objectives – (Campbell Weather Station):

The principal objective of the Weather Monitoring Program is to record long-term meteorological data for the ACE Basin NERR in order to observe any environmental changes or trends over time.

4) Research methods -

For data collection, the CR1000 dataloggers are programmed to record data at 15-minute intervals. 15-minute data averages are based on continuous 5-second readings for air temperature (Centigrade), relative humidity (%), barometric pressure (mb), wind direction and wind speed (m/s). 15-minute precipitation (mm) and PAR (mmol/m²) data are totaled from 5-second readings.

In-situ weather conditions are measured to verify the accuracy of the readings by the sensors, using a Kestrel 400 hand-held. After downloading data, sensors on the weather station are inspected for damage or debris. If any problems are found, it is repaired and/or cleaned. Tree limbs and other shrubs are cut back to prevent obstruction of the sensors. Sensors are removed and sent back to Campbell Scientific for calibration at a minimum frequency of every two years.

Campbell Scientific data telemetry equipment was installed at the Bennett's Point station on 06/30/2006 and transmits data to the NOAA GOES satellite, NESDIS ID #3B01E672. The transmissions are scheduled hourly and contain four (4) data sets reflecting fifteen minute data sampling intervals. Upon receipt by the CDMO, the data undergoes the same automated primary QAQC process detailed in Section 2 above. The "real-time" telemetry data become part of the provisional dataset until undergoing secondary and tertiary QAQC and assimilation in the CDMO's authoritative online database. Provisional and authoritative data are available at http://cdmo.baruch.sc.edu.

Data were collected in Eastern Standard Time (EST) for the entire year.

The 15 minute Data are collected in the following formats for the **CR1000**: Averages from 5-second data:

Air Temperature (°C), Relative Humidity (%), Barometric Pressure (mb), Wind Speed (m/s), Wind Direction (degrees), Battery Voltage (volts)

Maximum and Minimum Air Temperature (°C) and their times from 5-second data (these data are available from the Reserve)

Maximum Wind Speed (m/s) and time from 5-second data

Wind Direction Standard Deviation (degrees)

Totals:

Precipitation (mm), PAR (millimoles/m²), and Cumulative Precipitation (mm)

Recommended calibration frequency for the MET station sensors:

- Temperature/Humidity- yearly recalibration
- Rain Gauge- yearly recalibration

- Wind Speed/Direction- yearly or every 2 year inspection (depending on the sensor)
- Barometric Pressure- every 2 year recalibration
- PAR- every 2 year recalibration
- CR1000-every 5 years (required beginning 2014, one year initial grace period)

Data collected underwent the QA/QC process described in 2b.

5) Site location and character -

The ACE Basin National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) is located on the Southeastern Atlantic coast of the United States, including portions of Charleston, Colleton and Beaufort Counties in South Carolina. The study area encompasses the Ashepoo, Combahee, and South Edisto River basins, which empty into St. Helena Sound. Diverse estuarine wetlands provide extensive and complex habitat types for fish and wildlife. The NERR consists of approximately 92,000 acres of tidal marshes. Of this, 65,600 acres are salt marshes, 13,600 acres are brackish marshes and 12,100 acres are freshwater marshes. Interspersed within these three tidal marsh zones are approximately 26,000 acres of managed wetlands, marsh impoundments, and hammock islands. St. Helena Sound comprises approximately 23,870 acres of open coastal marine and estuarine waters.

The weather station is located at the Bennett's Point field station on Mosquito Creek, a navigable tributary off of the Ashepoo River. The weather station's latitudinal and longitudinal coordinates are: 32° 33′ 33.64 N, 80° 27′ 16.41 W and is located at sea level elevation. The station is approximately 90 m from the creek (800 m from the Ashepoo River) in a grassy field, 80 m to the southwest of the field station. The closest wind obstructions are oak trees, 25 m to the south and southwest of the weather station and 70 m from a public paved road. The closest SWMP water quality station, Mosquito Creek, is approximately 1655m from the weather station.

The Campbell Scientific data logger and the barometric pressure sensor (sensor body at 1.5m and sensor tube at 1.0m) are enclosed in a Campbell Scientific enclosure box with moisture/humidity indicators and 2 desiccant packets. A 6.1m (15 foot) galvanized steel tower elevates the sensors above potential barriers and enhances the performance of each sensor. The PAR sensor and anemometer are attached to a cross-bar at the top of the tower at a height of 6.1m and the temperature/relative humidity sensor is attached approximately half way up the tower at a height of 3.35m. The solar panel is attached to a 2.5 m long arm, and is oriented to the east at approximately 47-degrees. The tipping bucket rain gauge (1.3 m height) is located 2.5 m to the southeast of the box on a concrete level platform. The sensors are wired to the CR1000 data logger following protocol in the CDMO Manual, with minor changes made in order to facilitate the function of upgraded sensors. A new larger enclosure box and solar panel were necessary with the installation of the GOES telemetry system.

6) Data collection period –

Weather data have been collected at the ACE Basin NERR Bennett's Point weather station since the station became operational in March 2001. Data was collected for the entire year (January 1, 2013 at 00:00 through December 31, 2013 23:45).

File Start Date and Time	File End Date and Time
12/12/2012 10:45	01/07/2013 14:15
01/07/2013 14:30	02/04/2013 12:45

02/04/2013 13:00	03/11/2013 12:15
03/11/2013 12:30	04/08/2013 10:00
04/08/2013 10:15	05/06/2013 11:15
05/06/2013 11:30	06/03/2013 12:30
06/03/2013 12:45	07/12/2013 09:30
07/12/2013 00:00	07/31/2013 11:45
07/31/2013 12:00	07/31/2013 12:00
07/31/2013 12:15	08/20/2013 14:30
08/20/2013 14:45	09/16/2013 11:45
09/16/2013 12:00	10/14/2013 10:30
10/14/2013 10:45	11/18/2013 10:15
11/18/2013 10:30	12/16/2013 12:30
12/16/2013 12:45	01/13/2014 14:45

7) Distribution -

According to the Ocean and Coastal Resource Management Data Dissemination Policy for the NERRS System-wide Monitoring Program, is as follows

NOAA/ERD retains the right to analyze, synthesize and publish summaries of the NERRS System-wide Monitoring Program data. The PI retains the right to be fully credited for having collected and processed the data. Following academic courtesy standards, the PI and NERR site where the data were collected will be contacted and fully acknowledged in any subsequent publications in which any part of the data are used. Manuscripts resulting from this NOAA/OCRM supported research that are produced for publication in open literature, including refereed scientific journals, will acknowledge that the research was conducted under an award from the Estuarine Reserves Division, Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The data set enclosed within this package/transmission is only as good as the quality assurance and quality control procedures outlined by the enclosed metadata reporting statement. The user bears all responsibility for its subsequent use/misuse in any further analyses or comparisons. The Federal government does not assume liability to the Recipient or third persons, nor will the Federal government reimburse or indemnify the Recipient for its liability due to any losses resulting in any way from the use of this data.

NERR weather data and metadata can be obtained from the Research Coordinator at the individual NERR site (please see Principal Investigators and contact persons), from the Data Manager at the Centralized Data Management Office (please see personnel directory under the general information link on the CDMO home page) and online at the CDMO home page http://cdmo.baruch.sc.edu/. Data are available in comma separated format.

8) Associated researchers and projects

The NERR Water Quality Monitoring Project is a study which records long-term water quality data for the ACE Basin in order to observe any changes or tends in water quality over time. The four sampling sites are in separate tributaries of the South Edisto and Ashepoo Rivers. Two sites represent an urban or "treatment" site, and the other two sites

represent pristine areas with in the Reserve. A salinity gradient is also observed between theses four sites:

Big Bay Creek - approximately 14 kilometers from the weather station, GPS coordinates: 32.4941 N and -80.3241 W. The station is surrounded by residential and commercial development and subject to nonpoint source pollution.

St. Pierre Creek - approximately 9 kilometers from the weather station, GPS coordinates: 32.5233 N and -80.3568 W. The station is surrounded by a wide expanse of *Spartina alterniflora* marsh. Extensive mud flats and oyster reefs fringe the banks. Development in the immediate area is sparse, and this creek is subject to light boat traffic.

Fishing Creek – approximately 12 kilometers from the weather station, GPS coordinates: 32.6358 N and -80.3655W. The station is near Jehossee Island, a protected USFWS property, and is surrounded by extensive *Spartina cynosuroides* marsh and vast mud flats. The upland area is characterized by slash pine, live oak, and cabbage palmetto.

Mosquito Creek – approximately 2 kilometers from the weather station, GPS coordinates: 32.5558 N and -80.4380W. The station is surrounded by agriculture fields and impounded wetlands. A public boat landing and a commercial seafood business with three commercial shrimp boats and a fueling station are located about 0.8 km (0.5 mi) downstream of the monitoring station.

Measurements for all sites are taken every fifteen minutes over an approximate two-week or four week collection period (depending upon fouling previously experienced and future fouling rate expected).

In July 1997, the Reserve staff initiated nutrient monitoring study. The objective of the study is to ascertain the annual and tidal fluctuations in nutrient levels near our two data logger sites. Nutrient levels are measured during a complete tidal cycle each month, and the samples are analyzed for ammonia, nitrite & nitrate, orthophosphate, and chlorophyll a concentrations. In January of 2002, the nutrient monitoring protocol (NUT) was added to the NERR System Wide Monitoring Program (SWMP).

Dr. Charles Wenner of SCDNR/Marine Resources Research Institute received funding through the National Marine Fisheries Service in January of 2001 to continue an ongoing survey of red drum (*Sciaenops ocellatus*) in the South Edisto and Combahee River basins, by electro-fishing in tidal freshwater and low salinity brackish water. Although red drum are the target species, all catches are separated, measured and weighted to provide a distribution and population size for each species.

The results from these studies and additional studies conducted in the ACE Basin can be obtained by contacting the Reserve.

II. Physical Structure Descriptors

9) Sensor specifications -

Temperature and Relative Humidity Model #: HMP45AC

Operating Temperature: -40 to +60 degree C

Temperature Measurement Range: -40 to +60 degree C

Temperature Accuracy: +/- 2% degree C @ 20 degree C

Relative Humidity Measurement Range: 0 - 100% non-condensing

RH Accuracy: +/- @% RH (0 - 90%) and +/- 3% (90 - 100%)

Uncertainty of calibration: +/- 1.2% RH Date of last calibration: 02/28/2012

Dates of sensor use: 03/16/2012 - 07/31/2013

SN A1710045

Date of last calibration: 05/03/2013

Dates of sensor use: 7/31/2013 - 07/23/2014

SN E3010019

Barometric Pressure Model #: PTB101B

Calibrated Range: 26" - 32" (Standard) Supply Voltage: 12 VDC at 12 mA

Accuracy: +/- 0.7 of span

Operating Temperature Range: -22 to +55 degree C

Date of last calibration: 02/27/2012

Dates of sensor use: 03/16/2012 - 02/27/2014

SN A195003

Wind Speed and Direction Wind Sentry (Anemometer)

Model #: 03001

Range: 0-50 m/s; 360° Mechanical Date of last calibration: 03/02/2012

Dates of sensor use: 03/16/2012 - 02/27/2014

Number 2

Photosynthetically Active Radiation (PAR)

LiCor Quantum Sensor Model #: LI-190SZ Serial #: Q31559

Stability: < +/- 2% change over a 1 year period Operating Temperature: -20 to +65 degree C Sensitivity: Typically 30 nA per 100 klux

Light Spectrum Wavelength: 400 to 700 nanometers Calibration Factor: 264.70 umol m⁻² s⁻¹ per mV

Multiplier History and Date Changed: Date of last calibration: 05/03/2013

Dates of sensor use:

- PAR sensor Q315591 Calibrated 09/2002 Installed May 3, 2003 multiplier 1.27
- PAR sensor Q35240 Calibrated 07/2005 Installed August 22, 2005 multiplier 1.36
- PAR sensor Q31559 Calibrated 06/2007 Installed April 22, 2008 multiplier 1.34
- PAR sensor Q35240 Calibrated 10/2008 Installed Sept. 30, 2009 multiplier 2.18
- PAR sensor Q31559 Calibrated 02/2010 Installed Dec. 9, 2010 multiplier 1.38
- PAR sensor SN Q35240 Calibrated 02/21/2012 Installed Mar. 16, 2012 multiplier 3.12
- PAR sensor SN Q31559 Calibrated 05/2013 Installed Feb. 27, 2014 multiplier 1.54

Precipitation

Tipping Bucket Rain Gauge

Texas Electronics Model #: TR-525I

Calibration: 0.01 inch per tip

Accuracy: +/- 3% (Rates of 1 to 6 inches per hour) Date of last calibration: 12/19/2012, 02/27/2014

Storage Module Model # SM4M

Storage capacity: 2 million low-resolution data values

Program storage: stores up to 8 program with a total capacity of 128 KB

Processor: Hitachi H8S

Operating system: 64 KB, flash memory based, user downloadable

Operating range: Temp: -35 to +65 degree C

Baud rates: 9600, 76800

Power requirements: 5 +/- 0.3 VDC @ 100 mA

The CR1000 has 2 MB of Flash EEPROM that is used to store the Operating System. Another 128 K Flash is used to store configuration settings. A minimum of 2 MB SRAM is available for program storage (16K), operating system use, and data storage. Additional storage is available by using a compact flash card in the optional CFM100 Compact Flash Module

Date CR1000 Installed: 06/29/2006 – 03/16/2012, New CR1000 Installed 03/16/2012 – 03/03/2017 SN 46152

CR1000 Firmware Version (s): no firmware updates were recorded for 2013

CR1000 Program Version(s): acebpmet_5.5_031212

10) Coded variable definitions -

Sampling station: Sampling site code: Station code: Bennett's Point BP ACEBPMET

11) QAQC flag definitions -

QAQC flags provide documentation of the data and are applied to individual data points by insertion into the parameter's associated flag column (header preceded by an F_). During primary automated QAQC (performed by the CDMO), -5, -4, and -2 flags are applied automatically to indicate data that is above or below sensor range, or missing. All remaining data are then flagged 0, as passing initial QAQC checks. During secondary and tertiary QAQC 1, -3, and 5 flags may be used to note data as suspect, rejected due to QAQC, or corrected.

- -5 Outside High Sensor Range
- -4 Outside Low Sensor Range
- -3 Data Rejected due to QAQC
- -2 Missing Data
- -1 Optional SWMP supported parameter

- 0 Passed Initial QAQC Checks
- 1 Suspect Data
- 2 Open reserved for later flag
- 3 Open reserved for later flag
- 4 Historical Data: Pre-Auto QAQC
- 5 Corrected Data

12) QAQC code definitions -.

QAQC codes are used in conjunction with QAQC flags to provide further documentation of the data and are also applied by insertion into the associated flag column. There are three (3) different code categories, general, sensor, and comment. General errors document general problems with the CR1000, sensor errors are sensor specific, and comment codes are used to further document conditions or a problem with the data. Only one general or sensor error and one comment code can be applied to a particular data point, but some comment codes (marked with an * below) can be applied to the entire record in the F_Record column.

General Errors

GIM	Instrument Malfunction
GIT	Instrument Recording Error, Recovered Telemetry Data
GMC	No Instrument Deployed due to Maintenance/Calibration
GMT	Instrument Maintenance
GPD	Power Down
GPF	Power Failure / Low Battery
GPR	Program Reload
GQR	Data Rejected Due to QA/QC Checks

Sensor Errors

GSM

See Metadata

SDG	Suspect due to sensor diagnostics
SIC	Incorrect Calibration Constant, Multiplier or Offset
SIW	Incorrect Wiring
SMT	Sensor Maintenance
SNV	Negative Value
SOC	Out of Calibration
SQR	Data rejected due to QAQC checks
SSD	Sensor Drift
SSN	Not a Number / Unknown Value
SSM	Sensor Malfunction
SSR	Sensor Removed
mments	

Con

CAF	Acceptable Calibration/Accuracy Error of Sensor
CDF	Data Appear to Fit Conditions
CML	Snow melt from previous snowfall event
CRE*	Significant Rain Event
CSM*	See Metadata
CCU	Cause Unknown
CVT*	Possible Vandalism/Tampering
CWE*	Significant weather event

13) Other remarks/notes –

Data are missing due to equipment or associated specific sensors not being deployed, equipment failure, time of maintenance or calibration of equipment, or repair/replacement of a sampling station platform. Any NANs in the dataset stand for "not a number" and are the result of low power, disconnected wires, or out of range readings. If additional information on missing data is needed, contact the Research Coordinator at the reserve submitting the data.

Small negative PAR values are within range of the LI-COR sensor and are due to normal errors in the sensor and the CR1000 Datalogger. The Maximum signal noise error for the LI-COR sensor is +/- 2.214 mmoles/m² over a 15 minute interval. These values are automatically flagged and coded as <1> (CAF).

Relative Humidity data greater than 100 are within range of the sensor accuracy of +/-3%.

Please note that the 3001 MET One Wind Set has an offset of 0.2 and does not record values of 0.

Data recorded for all parameters (with the exception of cumulative precipitation) at the midnight timestamp (00:00) are the 15 minute averages and totals for the 23:45-23:59 time period of the previous day. Cumulative precipitation data at the midnight timestamp (00:00) are the sum of raw (unrounded) precipitation data from 00:00 to 23:59 of the previous day. Summing each individual 15-minute total precipitation value from the same period will result in small differences from cumulative precipitation due to rounding. It is especially important to note how data at the midnight timestamp are recorded when using January 1st and December 31st data.

During 2017 the CDMO discovered an incorrect line in the CR1000 programming. If RHumidity>100 And RHumidity<108 Then RHumidity=100. A decision was made by the DMC during 2006 to discontinue correcting >100 RH values to 100. This change was never made in our program and has remained in each updated version until it was removed during 2017. By correcting all values >100 during data collection we may have missed erroneous values that could have indicated a problem with the RH sensor. CSM coding was added to all RH data from 2007 until the programming change in 2017.

All Parameters Blanket Statement for Bennett's Point Weather Station (excluding rain data)

Suspect Data (Flag <1>)

None

Missing Data (Flag <-2>)

None

Rejected Data (Flag <-3>)

All data are rejected 07/31/2013 12:15 due to a program reload following the air temperature/relative humidity sensor swap.

Temperature/Relative Humidity

Rejected Data (Flag <-3>)

See station blanket statement above for rejections.

Air temperature and relative humidity data are rejected on 07/31/2013 11:45 due to maintenance to swap the sensors.

Missing Data (Flag <-2>)

None

Barometric Pressure

Rejected Data (Flag <-3>)

See station blanket statement above for rejections.

Missing Data (Flag <-2>)

None

Wind Speed/Direction

Rejected Data (Flag <-3>)

See station blanket statement above for rejections.

Missing Data (Flag <-2>)

None

Total Precipitation

Rejected Data (Flag <-3>)

See station blanket statement above for rejections.

Missing Data (Flag <-2>)

None

QAQC'd Data (Flag <0>)

None

Corrected Data (Flag <5>)

None

Total PAR

Rejected Data (Flag <-3>

See station blanket statement above for rejections.

See below under Suspect data for details about PAR rejections due to elevated nighttime PAR data. Blanket statement for negative LI-COR PAR data above.

Missing Data (Flag <-2>)

None

Suspect Data (Flag<-1>)

PAR data for 2013 dataset is commented where appropriate due to nighttime PAR readings. All nighttime PAR readings greater than 0.0 and less than 2.3 mmoles/m² are flagged as suspect <1> (CSM). All nighttime PAR readings greater than or equal to 2.3 mmoles/m² are flagged as rejected <-3> (CSM). http://www.sunrisesunset.com was used to determine

the cutoff between daytime and nighttime. Moisture seeping into the sensor and/or sensor cable is thought to be the cause for the nighttime PAR; however, it is largely unknown why this occurred. Negative PAR readings greater than -2.3 mmoles/m² are flagged as suspect <1> (CAF). Negative PAR readings less than -2.3 mmoles/m² are flagged as rejected <-3> [SNV](CSM).

QAQC'd Data (Flag <0>)

PAR data from 12/01/2013 00:00 to 12/31/2013 23:45 are coded as <0> (CSM). The data values appear satisfactory upon review of various graphical summaries; however, the sensor readings were inconsistent in early January 2014 and the probe failed on inspection by the company. The data users should be aware of possible data inconsistencies.

Cumulative Precipitation

Rejected Data (Flag <-3>)

See station blanket statement above for rejections.

Missing Data (Flag <-2>)

None

QAQC'd Data (Flag <0>)

None

Corrected Data (Flag <5>)

None

14) Station History

Bennett's Point:

2001- Station became active with CR10X data logger. No data collected until **March** due to battery issues. Data collection stopped in **June**. PC208W software used to download data. Parameters measured are: temperature, humidity, barometric pressure, rainfall, wind speed and direction and PAR. Probes are located on 3-meter galvanized poles on top of control box.

2002- Data collection resumed in January

2002- NADP – National Atmospheric Deposition Program – began in January

2003- All new probes installed on May 3 and old ones sent back to be calibrated.

2003- A 15-foot galvanized tower is installed on which the probes are positioned

2005- All newly calibrated probes installed on August 22

2006- CR10X data logger replaced with the CR1000 data logger and PC208W software replaced with LoggerNet Software in **June 29**

2006- NL115 Ethernet cable installed to allow for downloading of data and troubleshooting problems at Charleston Office.

2006- GOES satellite telemetry equipment installed to view real-time weather data.

2006- Rain tipping bucket calibrated on July 18

2006- NL115 Ethernet cable cut by workers in **December**

2007- NL115 Ethernet cable replaced and squirrels chewed through wire. Lost connection in **Sept.**

2007 - NADP - National Atmospheric Deposition Program - ended in December

2008- New program upload with Cumulative Precipitation parameter added in March

2008- All newly calibrated probes installed on April 22

2009- All newly calibrated probes installed on September 30

2010- Rain tipping bucket calibrated on January 1

2010- Rain tipping bucket calibrated in March 18

2010 – Newly calibrated probes installed on **December 9** with the exception of the temperature probe.

2012 - Newly calibrated probes installed on March 16

2012 – New CR1000 installed on **March 16**

2012 – Rain bucket calibrated on June 7

2012 - Rain bucket calibrated on Dec 19

2013 - Newly calibrated Temp/RH sensor installed July 31

2014 - Newly calibrated probes installed Feb 27

2014 - Rain bucket calibrated on Feb 27