Review of the "A pre-calibration approach to select optimum inputs for hydrological models in data-scarce regions"

Regarding the use of monthly data for model evaluation, rather than daily:

It is standard practice that large scale watersheds are evaluated based on monthly rather than daily data. This is mainly due to: (1) larger errors associated with the data at daily time step that are usually compromised when aggregating to monthly; (2) assumptions and simplifications in large scale models that are not designed to represent very detail small temporal and spatial scale processes.

As I mentioned previously (comment#14, below please find it), the Wala basin is located in semi-arid part of the world; and the short-term events (intense daily or sub-daily rainfall and floods) are major concern. While the model is evaluated at monthly, the daily (and sub-daily) events may be under estimated. The authors have not addressed or discussed this issue in their article. I strongly recommend to report this in the paper at least in the discussion part. I understand the main goal of the paper is to address the importance of data monitoring, etc., but even in that case the author can argue this issue to support their goal and objectives.

> *"my previous comment #14: Page 10, L12-16: (i) When looking at the top left graph in Fig. 9, the high performing statistics are usually representing low flows, while high flows are almost completely underestimated (or not predicted at all). How the authors will consider both low flows (important for drought) and high flows (major events and important for flooding and water saving) explain in their model evaluation and scenario selection? (ii) As indicated in several places in the text, the Wala basin is located in semi-arid area that is prone to intense (sub-daily) rainfall events. My concern is that how model evaluation at the monthly scale will ensure representation of locally important short-term events? (iii) As mentioned previously, the data are compared at downstream station that might be affected by operation of a dam."*

Page 5, Line 12-13: Repeated statement. Please remove one.

Page 9, Line 29-30: As already mentioned in my previous review, you cannot run the SWAT model on monthly basis. It operates on daily time step, and it just prints the outputs on monthly or yearly formats depending on the user's need. Please rewrite the statement (all SWAT users are quite familiar with the model operation, may be no need to mention how you ran the model but refer to post processing of the data only).