

Water Resources Adaptation to Climate Change Workgroup of the Advisory Committee on Water Information

Paul Freedman; Non-Federal Co-chair

Jeff Peterson; Federal Co-chair

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Outline

- Workgroup Organization and Charge
- Activities to Date
- Future Direction





Water Resources Adaptation to Climate Change Workgroup

- Created in June 2012
- Co-chairs: Water Environment Federation and EPA Office of Water
- Membership: 40 Organizations
 - State and Local Organizations
 - Academic and Non-Profit
 - Federal Agencies
 - Other ACWI Subgroups

Workgroup Charge

- Provide information on effective management of water resources as the climate changes
- Advise the DOI and other Federal agencies on water policy as it relates to climate change adaptation
- Be a forum for stakeholders to exchange information, views, & ideas



Workgroup Activities to Date



- Monthly Meetings; Member Education
- In-Person Meetings: February 2014
- Subcommittees:
 - Webinars
 - Reference Database
- Annual Workplans and Reports to ACWI
- Website
- Reports and recommendations
 - *e.g. Next Steps Report: Spring 2014*

Next Steps Report:

- Recommendations in five key areas:
 - Water Data and Information
 - Vulnerability Assessment
 - Water Use Efficiency
 - Integrated Water Resource Management
 - Training and Capacity Building
- Recommendations summarized in the attached slides appended



WRACC Activities

Since Last ACWI Meeting

- 10 Monthly WebEx calls - presentations & coordination
- Website update
- Memo to CEQ on NEPA/Climate Change Guidance
- Memo to interagency Workgroup on *2015 Implementation Plan for National Action Plan on Climate and Freshwater Resources*
- Memo on Federal agency plans for “Refresh” of *2011 National Action Plan*

WRACC Activities

Since Last ACWI Meeting

Monthly calls: 10 since last September

- Materials available at website:
http://acwi.gov/climate_wkg/index.html
- Presentations by Experts: 21 since last September
- Management of Workgroup Operations
 - annual report
 - annual workplan
 - comment memos
- Round Robin Reports: approx. 150 references, updates and links

Selected 2015 Meeting Expert Presentations

- Water Utility Climate Alliance (WUCA) reports
- Corporate responses to water risks
- Conservation organization drought recommendations
- Federal Flood Risk Management Standards
- Water theme of Climate Data and Tools Initiative
- State/Tribal/Local Leaders Task Force recommendations on water
- Draft climate and health assessment report
- Association of Climate Change Officers water training
- Drought in the Southwest

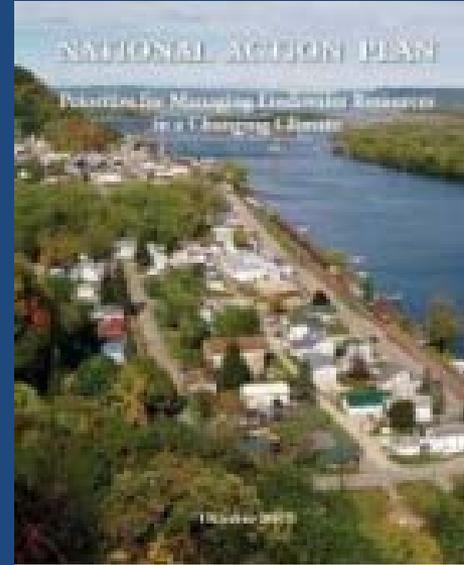
2015 Climate/Water Implementation Priorities



March 2015 memo to interagency water/climate workgroup called for:

- Expanded coordination among agency climate plans and strategies
- Coordination of Federal agencies at regional level
- Focus on IWRM
- Integration of new Flood Risk Management Standards in climate plans
- Identification of critical new funding needs

Key Points for “Refresh” of National Action Plan



Workgroup call for “refresh” of NAP to:

- **Generally:** address *Nest Step* recommendations (e.g.; WESTFAST model to other areas, bolster USGS data sets)
- **Data:** address climate change in USGS Bulletin 17B and NOAA Atlas 14, improve flow statistics
- **Policy/Planning:** build interagency workgroup capacity, advance watershed resilience, engage FEMA community rating system
- **Training/Outreach:** define Federal staff for water climate training, develop water/climate “certification”⁴¹

Workgroup Future Directions



- Continue advice and information functions
- Continue input to Federal agency implementation of *National Action Plan*
- Engage in “Refresh” of *National Action Plan*
- Cooperate with other ACWI Subgroups
- Cooperate with other climate strategy efforts:
 - National Ocean Policy
 - Fish/Wildlife/Plants Climate Strategy
 - Agency climate adaptation strategies

Thank You

For more information see:

http://acwi.gov/climate_wkg/index.html

Or Contact:

Paul Freedman; pfreedman@limno.com

Jeff Peterson; peteron.jeff@epa.gov



Next Steps Report:

- Water Data and Information
 - Strengthen long-term hydrologic observation and data management systems
 - Enhance data access and interoperability
 - Bolster critical data sets
- Vulnerability Assessment
 - Develop guidance for and assistance to communities in use of existing tools
 - Create strategic plan for engagement with non-Federal partners to inform and improve future tool development

Next Steps Report:

- **Water Use Efficiency**
 - Give priority to agriculture for development of nationally consistent metrics
 - DOE should update Federal efficiency standards for plumbing products
 - Develop national program to support water efficiency and reuse comparable to BOR program in West
- **Integrated Water Resources**
 - Facilitate Federal agency coordination
 - Create incentives for State/local/tribal for climate resilience planning on a watershed or aquifer basis
 - Incentive use and protection of ecosystem services/natural capital

Next Steps Report:

- Training and Capacity Building
 - Expand information sharing (e.g.: Water Resources Research Institutes)
 - Expand training for workforce and technical service providers
- Additional Recommendations
 - Consider new investment in natural infrastructure (e.g.; State Revolving Loan Fund)
 - Strengthen community flood preparedness (e.g.; flood insurance premium sharing with communities)
 - Consider support of non-profit organization to promote water/climate training /accreditation and project recognition on a voluntary basis