

## **Background and History of the Advisory Committee on Water Information's Water Resources Adaptation to Climate Change Workgroup**

The Advisory Committee on Water Information (ACWI) was established in 1992 to represent the interests of water-information users and professionals in advising the Federal Government on activities and plans related to Federal water-information programs and the effectiveness of those programs in meeting the Nation's water-information needs. ACWI is chaired by the Department of the Interior's Assistant Secretary for Water and Science. The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Associate Director for Water is the alternate chair, and the Committee is administered by the USGS Office of Water Information Coordination.

In July 2012 ACWI approved formation of a new workgroup to address water resources issues related to climate change: the Water Resources Adaptation to Climate Change Workgroup (WRACCW). The formation of this group was recommended in two major reports published during 2011:

- The Interagency Climate Change Adaptation Task Force's *National Action Plan: Priorities for Managing Freshwater Resources in a Changing Climate*.
- A report to the U.S. Congress (titled *Strengthening the Scientific Understanding of Climate Change Impacts on Freshwater Resources of the United States*), authored by the National Science and Technology Council's Subcommittee on Water Availability and Quality, in response to section 9506 of the SECURE Water Act.

Formation of WRACCW was initially discussed at the 2011 ACWI meeting:

[http://acwi.gov/acwi-minutes/acwi2011\\_july\\_webex/ACWI\\_minutes\\_July2011\\_FINAL.pdf](http://acwi.gov/acwi-minutes/acwi2011_july_webex/ACWI_minutes_July2011_FINAL.pdf)

A number of organizations volunteered to participate in the tasks needed to start WRACCW (drafting the Terms of Reference and soliciting members):

Ground Water Protection Council  
USDA/National Institute of Food and Agriculture  
Environmental Protection Agency  
National Ground Water Association  
National Council on Air and Stream Improvement  
Association of State Flood Plain Managers  
National Association of County Planners  
Interstate Council on Water Policy  
Public Health Division, Oregon Health Authority  
Association of State Drinking Water Administrators  
American Society of Civil Engineers  
U.S. Forest Service  
U.S. Geological Survey  
American Water Works Association  
American Water Resources Association  
Council on Environmental Quality  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission

This group of volunteers drafted a Terms of Reference (TOR) document and put together a list of potential member organizations for WRACCW, along with a 1-page document that can serve as a starting point for WRACCW's first-year work plan, including concrete deliverables.

The draft TOR and list of potential WRACCW members were sent to ACWI representatives and alternates on June 29, 2012, so they could review the materials prior to the July 10-11 ACWI meeting. ACWI approved the draft TOR and list of potential members on July 10, and invitations to potential member organizations were sent out shortly afterward.

The first meeting of WRACCW (via teleconference) will be held during early September 2012. Initial tasks include identifying co-chairs, drafting a charter or mission statement, and considering how WRACCW and ACWI can support implementation of the *National Action Plan* mentioned above.