

DRAFT MEETING NOTES
Water Resources Adaptation to Climate Change Workgroup of the
Advisory Committee on Water Information
March 3, 2016: 1:00 – 2:30 eastern

Call in Numbers:

USGS staff at Headquarters - x4848
Other USGS offices/DOI locations - 703-648-4848
Non-USGS locations (toll free) - 1-855-547-8255
Access code is: 53700#

Webinar participation was not accessible for this meeting, but all presentations were emailed out prior to the meeting.

Attendees:

Jeff Peterson, Co-chair, EPA	Ben Chou, NRDC	Carol Collier, AWRA
Paul Freedman, Co-chair, WEF	Deirdre Mason, ASDWA	Tony Willardson WSWC
Erica Brown, AMWA	Paul Wagner, USACE-IWR	Lorraine Koss, U.S. Water Alliance
Paul Wagner, ACOE	Brenda Mannion, NACWA	Marla Stelk, ASWM
Charles Kovatch	Jeff Manning, ACWA	Mike Block, NGWA
Mary Musick, GWPC	Nancy Turyk, NALMS	Kate Molpelli, USGS
Paul Wiegand, NCASI	Dave Berry, ACWI-SWRR	Dave Carlton, ASFM

Presenters:

Erica Brown, Dir. of Sustainability & Climate Programs, Assoc. of Metropolitan Water Agencies
Davia Palmeri, Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
Kevin Bush, Resilience Team Leader, Department of Housing and Urban Development

I) Introductions and Agenda Review

II) Approval of Notes from Previous Meeting (see draft notes at http://acwi.gov/climate_wkg/index.html)

III) Presentation: HUD National Disaster Resilience Competition Grants: Water Elements; Kevin Bush; Resilience Team Leader; Department of Housing and Urban Development; http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/press/press_releases_media_advisories/2016/HUDNo_16-006; and <https://www.rockefellerfoundation.org/about-us/news-media/hud-awards-1-billion-through-national-disaster-resilience-competition/>

- Unexpected complications in scheduling prevented this presentation, but materials are available on the link provide and an actual presentation will be rescheduled.
- Important program involving over a billion dollars in grants for water related projects like green infrastructure.

IV) Presentation: Report on 2015 International Water and Climate Forum; Erica Brown, Director of Sustainability and Climate Programs; Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies; see: <http://www.waterclimateforum.org/>

- Presentation slides are available here: http://acwi.gov/climate_wkg/minutes/index.html
- Reporting out on results of a meeting in December involving utility managers, researchers, regulators, NGOs, consultants and others on climate change adaptation to utility and community resilience
- 27 speakers, with participation across the US and around the globe
- Six key themes: challenges will persist, promising results/steps being undertaken already, steps to enable utilities, need to link utility and community resilience, need for communication and research
- Many take aways including:
 - Water challenges are key impact in climate change adaptation
 - Uncertainty is not an obstacle or excuse
 - Partnerships are key
 - Both adaptation and mitigation will be expensive, but benefits are large
 - Utility and communities must integrate their planning
 - Communication is increasingly important
- Question: is planning on a jurisdictional or watershed basis? Answer: both are needed and we are emphasizing that planning cannot succeed if restricted to just jurisdictional boundaries. The Environment does not understand political boundaries.
- Question: What were the topical boundaries of the forum in terms of stressors? Answer: The forum discussions covered a full range of impacts including sea level rise, flooding, storms/hurricanes, drought, heat wave, etc. Speakers from all sectors.
- Presentations and actual audio files and Synthesis Report will be posted on <http://www.waterclimateforum.org/news/>

V) Presentation: 2016-17 Workplan for Implementation of the *National Fish, Wildlife and Plants Climate Change Adaptation Strategy*; Davia Palmeri; Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies; see workplan at: <http://www.wildlifeadaptationstrategy.gov/pdf/01-28-2016-Final-Work-Plan-2015-2017.pdf> and general website: <http://www.wildlifeadaptationstrategy.gov/>

- Presentation slides are available here: http://acwi.gov/climate_wkg/minutes/index.html
- Presented on development of a work plan to implement the November 2013 National Fish, Wildlife and Plants Climate Adaptation Strategy by the Joint Implementation Working Group (JIWG)
 - The plan was a product drafted by about 50 professionals in Federal, State, Tribal and agency organizations
- 3 major activities
 - Promote the use of the strategy and recognize successes
 - Awards and outreach
 - Increase future implementation

- Best practices and improved implementation, identifying gaps and solutions
 - Incorporate planning into funding programs
 - Access conservation funding
- Various subgroups are being formed and will be meeting in May to begin to develop plans for implementation
- 50 case studies are already provide on their website; <http://www.wildlifeadaptationstrategy.gov/>

VI) Workgroup Management Topics

- 2016 Workgroup Membership; Workgroup Co-chairs and Vice-Chairs
 - Discussed need to “refresh” membership with replacements for non-participants or new member organizations and representatives. Seeking nominations.
 - Reminded on call for any volunteers for vice-chair
- Final Approval: 2015 Workgroup Report to ACWI (to be posted to website; http://acwi.gov/climate_wkg/index.html)
 - Minor edits based on last call
 - Approved
- Final Approval: 2016 Workgroup Workplan (to be posted to website: http://acwi.gov/climate_wkg/index.html)
 - Minor edits based on last call
 - Approved
- Discussion: Schedule and Comment on Refresh of the Freshwater Climate Change *National Action Plan*
 - Draft available in April or May, with 30-60 day comment period expected
 - Timely opportunity for WRACC to comment
 - Candidate for topic if we convene a meeting June 1-2 in DC
- Proposed Joint Meeting with Water Sustainability Roundtable: Paris Climate Accords and Water
 - Shared information about SWRR membership, structure, mission and activities
 - Outlined potential to have co-located and/or concurrent meetings (in whole or in part)
 - One shared interest is a presentation and discussion about implications of the Paris Climate accord.
 - Discussion points
 - Value of collaborating on a meeting: several people commented on the positive value. No dissent
 - Value of covering the Paris Accord in a meeting: several commented it would be useful information and discussion. No dissent
 - Merits of a Joint meeting: discussed that all or parts of the meeting could be shared. No opinions expressed
 - Suitability of June 1-2 meeting date
 - Timing would be good to build comments on the Refresh draft

- Several participants spoke that the dates and timing were good
- Conflict with the Society of Wetlands conference that week in Corpus Christi
- Nancy Turyk mentioned another conflict with the National Water Monitoring Conference May 2- 6 in Tampa, Fla.
- Uncertain as to the ACWI funding for travel which the chairs will sort out with ACWI Ex. Secretary, Wendy Norton

VII) Round Robin Reports from Workgroup Members (a brief highlight of your organization's activities related to climate change and water)

- Valuable training highlighted
 - EPA Releases New Online Training Module on "Understanding Climate Change Impacts on Water Resources"; a new online training module as part of the Watershed Academy; ["Understanding Climate Change Impacts on Water Resources."](#)
 - Watershed Vegetation Impacts under Climate Change (WVICC): A CCAWWG Workshop for Researchers and Resource Managers in Water, Agriculture, Natural Resources and the Environment; 17-19 May, 2016; USGS Fort Collins Science Centre, Fort Collins, CO
 - Sedimentation Impacts Under Climate Change Virtual Course, 14-16 June 2016; offered by the COMET Program and the Climate Change and Water Working Group (CCAWWG)
- New directive
 - Department of Defense Climate Directive: <http://www.dtic.mil/whs/directives/corres/pdf/471521p.pdf>
- EPA review of 404 permit re: sea level rise: <http://insideepa.com/daily-news/eab-case-tests-epa-reversal-concerns-over-corps-404-water-permit>
- The Central New Mexico Climate Change Scenario Planning Project developed a multiagency transportation and land use development strategy: http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/climate_change/adaptation/publications_and_tools/scenario/fhwa1510.pdf Vermont conference on climate change and extreme weather: <http://www.uvm.edu/~cpasw/>
- Report on California/western drought options: *Improving the Federal Response to Western Drought: Five Areas for Reform*: <http://www.ppic.org/main/publication.asp?i=1174>
- Climate Science Centers regional workshops on ecological drought: <https://nccwsc.usgs.gov/content/ecological-drought-across-country-understanding-impacts-region-region>
- National Groundwater Association conference "Making Groundwater Sustainable" <http://www.ngwa.org/Events-Education/shortcourses/Pages/338feb16.aspx>
- Link to EPA Green Infrastructure Wizard: <http://www.epa.gov/communityhealth/green-infrastructure-wizard>

- New USGS report: *Ecological Drought in Alaska: Understanding the Impacts of Climate Change on a Large, Diverse, Remote Landscape*
<https://nccwsc.usgs.gov/content/ecological-drought-alaska>
- NOAA list of climate funding opportunities:
<https://adapt.nd.edu/resources/1672>
- Eastern Regional Climate Change Preparedness Conference; April 4-6, 2016
Sheraton Inner Harbor, Baltimore, Maryland; <http://www.communityresilience-center.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/Agenda.pdf>
- Community Building Workshop guide:
<http://www.communityresiliencebuilding.com/>
- Other brief highlights
 - Western States Water Council: compiling all water data from member western states, to be completed by 2019, but considerable data available already on WSWC website; see WaDE Program;
<http://www.westernstateswater.org/wade/>.
 - USGS:
 - USGS is now reviewing the Climate Science Centers programs and beginning in April 2016 will start the competitive re-compete.
 - Meeting April 19-20, 2016 in DC on the Advisory Committee on Climate Change and Natural Resources Science (ACCCNRS)
 - USGS just released a drought report for Alaska and will be convening workshops for each of the regions covered by the Climate Science centers.

VIII) Adjourn