

Meeting Minutes
Water Resources Adaptation to Climate Change Workgroup of the
Advisory Committee on Water Information
June 25, 2015: 1:00 – 2:30

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
The access code is: 53700#

When it is time to attend the meeting, please visit this link:

<https://usgs.webex.com/usgs/j.php?MTID=m634bd5ca4bf8d3311b0907d268384176>

Attendees:

Jeff Peterson, Co-chair, EPA	Ben Chou, NRDC	Hannah Stafford, OSTP
Paul Freedman, Co-chair, WEF	Brandon Kernen, ASDWA	Deirdre Mason, ASDWA
Jeanine Jones, WSWC	Patrick McCarthy, TNC	John Wells, ACWI-SWRR
Paul Wiegand, NCASI	Mike Block, NGWA	William Shaw, FWS
Marla Stelk, ASWM	Brenna Mannion, NACWA	Kristen Donahue, USGS
Mary Musick, GWPC	Jeff Manning, ACWA	Wendy Norton, USGS
Nancy Beller-Simms, NOAA	Ellen Tarquinio, EPA	Ron McCormick, BLM
Nancy Turyk, NALMS	Chris Carlson, USFS	

Speakers:

Wendy Larson, LimnoTech
Robin O'Malley, USGS
Karen Metchis, EPA

Action Items:

- Let Karen Metchis (metchis.karen@epa.gov) know if you are interested in attending the Climate Change and Water Working Group conference August 25-27 in Seattle, Washington.
- Let Marla Stelk (marla@aswm.org) know if you are interested in the ASWM upcoming webinar that deals with reintroducing beaver populations to areas where they can be beneficial.

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: Corporate Responses to Climate Change; Wendy Larson, Vice President, LimnoTech

(http://acwi.gov/climate_wkg/minutes/25_june_2015/acwi_june_24_2015_larson.pdf)

- Focus is on three areas: water in a changing climate, water risks to business, and corporate response.
- Key impacts and areas of concern include water availability, water quality, accessibility to safe water, and hazards such as floods.
- About two-thirds of Fortune 500 companies expect water issues to cause substantial changes to their business. Large businesses such as Coca-Cola, Levi Strauss, Campbell's are already dealing with financial impacts associated with water.
- Physical and regulatory risks lead to financial risks, then to reputation risks. All of these risks will grow as competition for water increases.
- Electric utilities, gold, and steel industries anticipate billions of dollars at risk. Accordingly, many businesses are focusing on increasing their efficiency in operations, manufacturing, and other areas, with the aim of mitigating their water-related risks.
- Water footprinting accounts for direct and indirect use of water in the production and distribution of a product, but it doesn't account for risk assessment. Companies are just beginning to assess their risks (supply vs. demand, biodiversity, drought, etc.). The World Resources Institute's Aqueduct Water Risk Atlas can assist in this process by showing where the greatest risks are across the globe.
- Numerous industry collaborations and initiatives are underway (see slides for details). These include the CEO Water Mandate, the Alliance for Water Stewardship, and Water Benefit Partners.
- The tools mentioned here were largely developed by NGOs in collaboration with the corporations, but many of them have applicability to the municipal sector as well as in the corporate sector.
- *Question:* A lot of the focus here seems to be on quantity. How much focus is being put on water quality as an after-product of a business? *Answer:* Quantity has historically been the primary driver, esp in places like India where scarcity is already an issue; however, quality is also part of the story, especially if poor quality precludes use. Some corporations are beginning to put minimum waste treatment requirements in place; some (like Coca-Cola) have already been doing this for years.
- *Note:* globally, 70% of wastewater is not treated. Some large corporations are working to improve wastewater treatment in areas of the world where treatment is minimal.
- *Question:* What is LimnoTech's role in this field? *Answer:* We've been involved since about 2008, working with the Nature Conservancy and with Coca-Cola. We're an environmental science and engineering firm, so we help to make sure that companies are using sound data and metrics to evaluate the success of their efforts in this area. We also do lots of work in risk characterization and risk reduction.

IV) Presentation: USGS and ECOADAPT CRAVe (Climate Registry for the Assessment of Vulnerability) Project; Robin O'Malley, USGS; see: <https://nccwsc.usgs.gov/crave/>

- CRAVe assists in coordinating strategies for climate adaptation among various entities and geographic areas. But it is essential that "the community" provide the content to make this resource as rich as possible.
- "The community" = YOU!

- Minimum requirements for information that MUST be entered into the system; but there are many optional information fields.
- The content will reside on the USGS website and be mirrored at EcoAdapt's Climate Adaptation Knowledge Exchange.
- Federal agencies will have a chance to look at information about them before it is made public; this quality assurance process makes sure the information about Federal agencies will be correct (and conform to the agency's information quality guidelines). There is a similar, slightly less rigorous process for information being entered into the system about non-Federal entities.
- The system is easy to use; you should be able to enter a vulnerability assessment in about 10 minutes.
- CRAVe fact sheet is available here:
http://acwi.gov/climate_wkg/minutes/25_june_2015/crave_background.pdf

V) Update: Interagency Federal Water Resources and Climate Change: Karen Metchis, EPA Office of Water

- Final Posting: *2014 Highlights and 2015 Implementation Plan*
http://acwi.gov/climate_wkg/nap_fy1415-version9_hw_clean_final508c.pdf
- Report from June Federal Agency Meeting: Next Steps Water Resources Workgroup
- The report is now hosted on the ACWI website at the URL shown above.
- Recent retreat had good turnout from agencies; discussed next steps, which include an update/refresh of the National Action Plan since so much has occurred since 2011. We will focus on three workgroups (instead of the previous five).
- There will be a listening session early in the process. After drafting of the document there will be a public comment period, and the ACWI WRACCW will definitely be asked for input.
- WRACCW members: please pay attention to what's happening in this process and try to get involved as early as possible.

VI) Report: Summary from American Water Resources Association Conference; Adaptation to Climate Change; TBD (see <http://www.awra.org/meetings/NewOrleans2015/index.html>)

- Karen Metchis shared highlights of this conference: low attendance but many high-quality papers and presentations. Many good opportunities for interaction. Lots of good modeling and decision support activities. The aim of the workshop was "action" rather than "research." The ingenuity and breadth of activities underway is marvelous.
- Good field site visits demonstrated planned and unplanned occurrences that are enabling recovery of the area post-Katrina: cypress swamp being reclaimed; levee system built since Katrina.
- The next AWRA conference will probably be 4 years from now. Some are hoping that future conferences may address areas of the country like the Upper Midwest, where there aren't so many extremes (flood, drought, coastal erosion, etc.) as there are in areas like the Gulf Coast.

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

- New Magazine on Climate Issues in Northwest U.S.:
<https://www.nwclimatescience.org/sites/default/files/NWClimateISSUE1May2015.pdf>
- Weather Channel: 25 Voices on Climate Change; <http://weather.climate25.com/>
- World Wildlife Fund: Report on Beaver and Climate Change
http://www.climateprep.org/2015/05/21/california-the-rebeaver/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+ClimatePrep+%28Climate+Prep%29&safe=on
- FEMA State Mitigation Plan Review Guide
http://www.eenews.net/assets/2015/05/18/document_cw_01.pdf
- USGCRP Release of *Climate Change Adaptation in United States Federal Natural Resource Science and Management Agencies: A Synthesis*
<http://www.globalchange.gov/browse/reports/climate-change-adaptation-united-states-federal-natural-resource-science-and>
- GAO Report on Disaster Funds and State Extreme Weather Planning
<http://www.gao.gov/assets/670/669277.pdf>
- Report to Secretary of Interior by the Advisory Committee on Climate Change and Natural Resource Science's <https://nccwsc.usgs.gov/content/federal-advisory-committee-issues-recommendations-addressing-climate-change-nccwsc-cscs>
- EPA Local Government Climate Adaptation Training Module Available Online
<http://www.epa.gov/localadaptationtraining/>
- NIST Releases Draft Community Resilience Planning Guide for Public Review
http://www.nist.gov/el/building_materials/resilience/draft-community-resilience-guide.cfm
- Conference: Climate Science to Engineering Operations for Watershed Management: A CCAWWG Workshop for Scientists, Engineers, and Water Resource Managers
 - WHEN: 25-27 August 2015
 - WHERE: University of Washington, Fisheries Science Building, Seattle, WA
 - This is an invitation-only workshop, and they have reserved four slots for ACWI. Patrick McCarthy indicated that The Nature Conservancy is interested in using one of the ACWI slots. Nancy Turyk also is interested, on behalf of NALMS. Brenna Mannion says that someone from NACWA also might be interested but would like more information. **Action: let Karen Metchis know if you want to take one of the other available slots.**
- Robin O'Malley mentioned the Advisory Committee on Climate Change and Natural Resource Science, which just sent its first report to the Secretary earlier this year. Sections of the report encourage better integration between this Federal advisory committee and other groups (Federal, non-Federal, NGO), and we're working on implementation priorities.
- Upcoming beaver reintroduction webinar sponsored by ASWM. **Action: send email to Marla Stelk (marla@aswm.org) if you are interested.**

VIII) Adjourn