

Meeting Minutes
Water Resources Adaptation to Climate Change Workgroup of the
Advisory Committee on Water Information
August 6, 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=ma825432031206e414b2baa9a062e2685>

Attendees:

Jeff Peterson, Co-chair, EPA	Mike Block, NGWA	Patrick McCarthy, TNC
Paul Freedman, Co-chair, WEF	Liz Berger, USFS	Jonathan Kaledin, USWA
Dave Fuller, NTWC	Joe Lee, GWPC	Nancy Beller-Simms, NOAA
Mary Musick, GWPC	Noel Gollehon, NRCS	Elana Goldstein, EPA
Marla Stelk, ASWM	Ben Chou, NRDC	Adam Carpenter, AWWA
Sascha Petersen, ASAP	Carol Collier, AWRA	Phil Santiago
Jeanine Jones, WSWC	Jeff Manning, ACWA	Wendy Norton, USGS

Speakers:

Daniel Kreeger, Association of Climate Change Officers
Keely Brooks, Southern Nevada Water Authority; Staff Vice Chair, Water Utility Climate Alliance
Karen Metchis, EPA Office of Water

Action Items:

- ACTION: Co-chairs will discuss and figure out how to best coordinate our next meeting so we can use it as follow-up from the September public listening session.
- ACTION: Wendy will send the listening session invitation to ACWI member organizations (and to Keely Brooks, so she can forward it to WUCA and AMWA). ASAP and NACWA also will forward the invitation to their own mailing lists.

I) Introductions and Agenda Review

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

III) Presentation: Climate Change Certification and Training: Dan Kreeger; Association of Climate Change Officers (ACCO)

- Presentation slides: http://acwi.gov/climate_wkg/minutes/index.html.
- *Question:* Can you give us some idea of the cost of this? *Answer:* The cost depends on which approach you take to satisfy your course requirements. The current Climate

Academy allows you to accomplish course requirements for less than \$1,000 for Government employees and \$1,500 for non-Government employees. When the accreditation process opens up, cost will be determined by each administering institution.

- The first Climate Academies will be held this autumn (see presentation slides for details of dates, locations, and curriculum).
- *Question:* Would the Academies be open to discussing whether there's a place for a water resources component in your courses? *Answer:* Yes, we're already looking at impact of sea level rise on drinking water resources and other impacts.
- *Question:* Have you talked about linking this with other certifications (Environmental Sustainability Certification and others) and bringing other content to your program? *Answer:* Absolutely yes. We can be a catalyst for ensuring that planners have considered environmental issues such as climate change. If you have suggestions or resources you want to share, please contact ACCO.

IV) Presentation: Water Utility Climate Alliance (WUCA) Reports on Climate Resilience; Keely Brooks, Southern Nevada Water Authority; Staff Vice Chair, Water Utility Climate Alliance; (see <http://www.wucaonline.org/html/>)

- Presentation slides: http://acwi.gov/climate_wkg/minutes/index.html.
- *Question:* Is the membership to WUCA open? *Answer:* Initially we were a small group, learning from each other. But in the last year we've been developing criteria for bringing in new members. We would like to have more geographic diversity (see slide #1 for current locations). We would like our members to be actively working in climate change research. We are also looking for opportunities to partner with other groups on research.
- *Question:* What's the timeframe for releasing the report you mentioned on regulations? *Answer:* That was an exploratory report that's in memo form right now. In October we'll be meeting with our GMs and ask their opinion on what our next steps are for the project, including release of the report.

V) Update: "Refresh" of the National Action Plan: Priorities for Managing Water Resources in a Changing Climate; Karen Metchis; EPA Office of Water (see listening session invitation and letter to CEQ concerning refresh: http://acwi.gov/climate_wkg/minutes/index.html)

- Plans for September public listening session:
 - September 9 from 2-4 pm Eastern Time.
 - Team leaders will give basic presentations on where we've been and where we're going next. We'll be requesting input.
- Discussion: Role of ACWI in "refresh" process:
 - Draft document will be provided to ACWI for comment, at a much later date. Public comment period will probably be late autumn, and the document will probably be published in spring 2016.
 - The Sept 9 session presents a great opportunity for ACWI member organizations and others to provide input to this process. Please see the announcement located in the left-hand navigation bar on the ACWI homepage (www.acwi.gov).

- There may be a way to link this listening session to a meeting of our workgroup; perhaps we could focus our October call on this, even though it's separated a little in time. ACTION: Co-chairs will discuss and figure out how to handle this.
- ACTION: Wendy will send the listening session invitation to ACWI member organizations (and to Keely, so she can forward it to WUCA and AMWA). ASAP and NACWA also will forward the invitation to their own mailing lists.

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

- NOAA *State of the Climate 2014* report: <https://www.climate.gov/news-features/understanding-climate/2014-state-climate-highlights>.
- White House Progress Report on Climate Change Adaptation: https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/docs/climate_preparedness_report_updated_070915.pdf.
- Study reporting projected flood increases in Midwest: <http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s12583-015-0641-9>.
- Hansen et. al. paper on sea level rise estimating 5-9 meters by 2100 in business as usual case: <http://www.atmos-chem-phys-discuss.net/15/20059/2015/acpd-15-20059-2015.pdf>.
- Summary of materials and presentations from National Adaptation Forum: <http://nationaladaptationforum.org/program/tuesday>.
- NASA-USGS National Blue Carbon Monitoring System: <http://water.usgs.gov/nrp/blue-carbon/nasa-blue-cms/index.html?+Alerts>.
- OMB FY 2017 Budget Guidance; Climate Smart Provisions concerning new facilities: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2015/07/01/making-federal-investments-climate-smart>.
- Water industry report citing lack of climate preparedness: <http://infra-tect.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/Black-Veatch-2015-Strategic-Directions-US-Water-Industry.pdf>.
- New guide on beaver restoration in Pacific Northwest: https://nplcc.blob.core.windows.net/media/Default/2013_Documents/Using_Beavers_For_Climate/BRG%20v.1.0%20final%20reduced.pdf.
- Report on global ports at risk of sea level rise, including Miami, New York, New Orleans, Tampa and Norfolk: http://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/environment/ranking-port-cities-with-high-exposure-and-vulnerability-to-climate-extremes_011766488208;jsessionid=ih11xuwxdato.x-oecd-live-03.
- Report comparing 2014 Federal agency climate change adaptation plans: http://www.corpsclimate.us/docs/Comparison_of_2014_Adaptation_Plans_JUNE_2015.pdf.
- White House report on climate change and health: https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/docs/the_health_impacts_of_climate_change_on_americans_final.pdf.
- 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.

- Per Nancy Beller-Simms – The NOAA Climate Program Office currently has a Federal funding opportunity. (See: <http://cpo.noaa.gov/GrantsandProjects.aspx>.)
 - With respect to water, the NOAA Sectoral Applications Research Program (SARP) is soliciting proposals for two focus areas: (1) extreme events preparedness, planning, and adaptation within the water sector and (2) projects supporting the Coping with Drought Initiative with NIDIS.
 - For the former, SARP will be approaching this topic from two different temporal vantage points. These competitions include: (1) Preparing for Near-Term Anticipated Extreme Precipitation Events and (2) Planning for Future Extreme Events.
 - For the latter competition, SARP - Coping with Drought will continue to focus on advancing specific NIDIS regional drought early warning systems, targeting specific communities and sectors within these areas (e.g., Missouri River Basin, Midwest along the Mississippi River, Colorado River Basin, and California). Specific economic sectors and objectives may be found in the attached information sheet.
 - For announcements regarding informational webinars for both solicitations see: <http://cpo.noaa.gov/ClimatePrograms/ClimateandSocietalInteractions/SARPProgram.aspx>.
 - The proposals are due 5:00 pm September 23, 2015. Letters of intent were recommended - not required.

VIII) Adjourn

Next meeting: Date/time will be announced soon.