

Water Utility Climate Alliance



Mission Statement

The Water Utility Climate Alliances provides leadership in assessing and adapting to the potential effects of climate change through collaborative action. We seek to enhance the usefulness of climate science for the adaptation community and improve water management decision-making in the face of climate uncertainty.

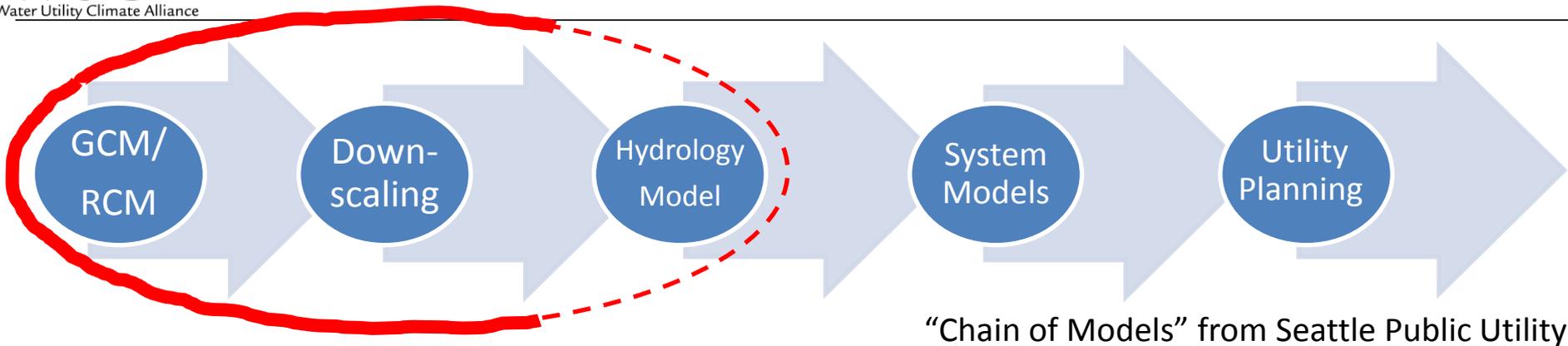
2015 Activities

Using the 5-year Strategic Plan and an assessment of prior-year accomplishments as guidance, WUCA staff develops a work plan reflecting current priorities for the upcoming year. Priorities for 2015 include the following:

- Co-Production of Actionable Science (PUMA)
- Climate Adaptation Decision Support for Water Utilities (DS)
- Flexible and adaptive regulations (FAR)
- Communicating climate change
- Coordinate with water sector and non-water sector partner agencies and associations – comment letters
- Climate Science Working Groups (CESM-SDWG)



Co-Production of Actionable Science



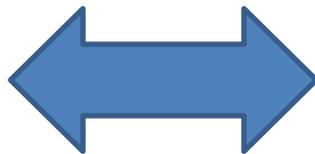
Overall Project Objectives:

- Identify available climate tools (GCMs, RCMs, and downscaled data)
- Which dataset / method is selected and why?
- Strengthen relationships with climate scientists
- Build institutional capacity

4 WUCA case studies, tracked over several years

Co-Production of Actionable Science

Utilities



Climate Scientists

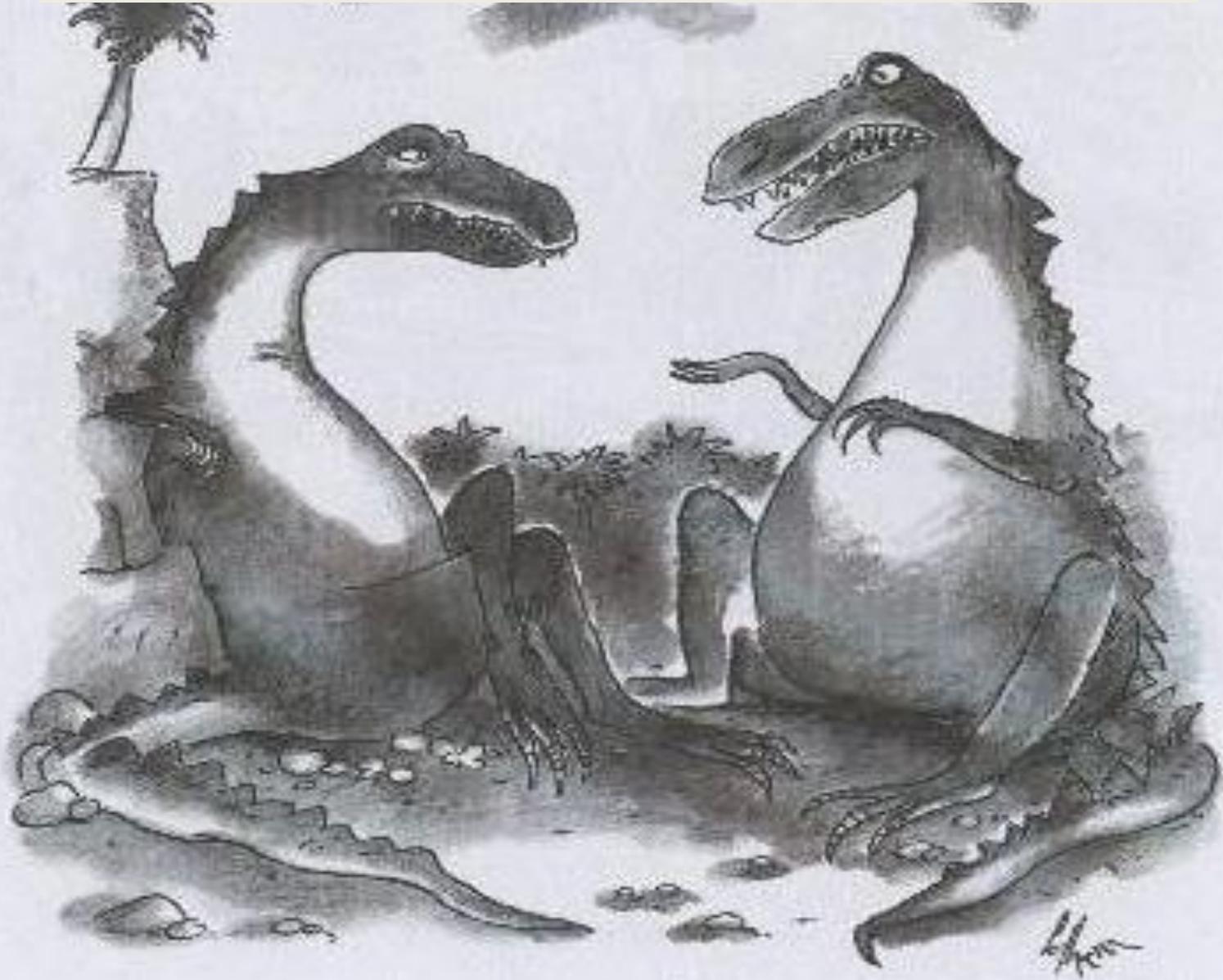
Some Key Findings:

- One size does not fit all
- Utilities may need to customize approach
- Information on changes in extreme event impacts is a major need
- Understanding local hydrology is critical
- Collaborative partnerships - a key to success



Pictured here: Tampa Bay Water representatives working with University of Florida, Florida State University and the Southeast Climate Consortium scientists

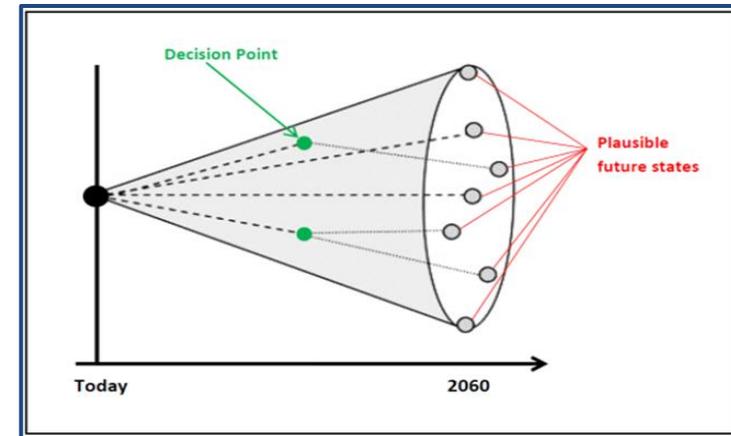
“All I’m saying is now is the time to develop a plan to deflect an asteroid.”



Embracing Uncertainty

A Case Study Examination of How Climate Change is Shifting Water Utility Planning

- Pushing the boundaries beyond climate assessments
- Stories from the field – multi-outcome planning to address future climate uncertainty
- Lessons learned from the utilities



Some Key Findings

- Climate change is being included across utility decisions
 - Utilities are using scenarios – range of plausible futures
 - Planning for multiple futures is crucial for long-range term planning
 - Stakeholders are being included from the beginning
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Regulatory Challenges due to Climate Change

Defining the challenges at the science-policy interface

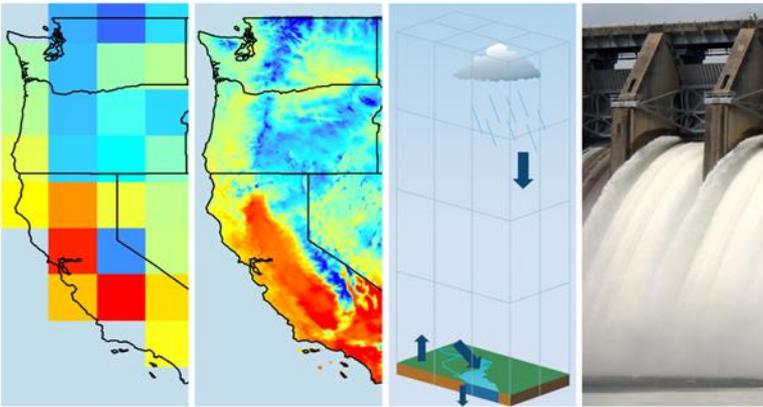
- What climate impacts present regulatory challenges?
- Are there barriers to climate adaptation because of certain regulations?
- Inventory of utility challenges



Final 2015 Reports Available

www.wucaonline.org

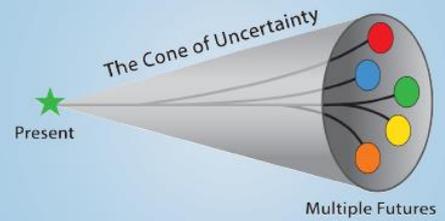
ACTIONABLE SCIENCE IN PRACTICE
Co-producing Climate Change Information for Water Utility Vulnerability Assessments



WUCA
Water Utility Climate Alliance

Final Report of the Piloting Utility Modeling Applications (PUMA) Project

EMBRACING UNCERTAINTY
A Case Study Examination of How Climate Change is Shifting Water Utility Planning



Prepared for:

- Water Utility Climate Alliance (WUCA)
- American Water Works Association (AWWA)
- Water Research Foundation (WRF)
- Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies (AMWA)

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