

Meeting Minutes
Water Resources Adaptation to Climate Change Workgroup of the
Advisory Committee on Water Information
May 7, 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=m4af701186574a13dcf8f5abf7e882e6f>

Attendees:

Jeff Peterson, Co-chair, EPA	Mike Muse, EPA	Ben Chou, NRDC
Paul Freedman, Co-chair, WEF	Nancy Beller-Simms, NOAA	Dave Carlton, ASFPM
Marla Stelk, ASWM	Patrick McCarthy, TNC	John Wells, ACWI-SWRR
Dave Fuller, NTWC	Jeanine Jones, WSWC	Jeff Manning, ACWA
Mike Block, NGWA	Carol Collier, AWRA	Ellen Tarquinio, CEQ
Noel Gollehon, USDA	Mary Musick, GWPC	Deidre Mason, ASDWA
Christopher Carlson, USFS	Nancy Turyk, NALMS	Wendy Norton, USGS

Speakers:

William Hohenstein, USDA
Allison Crimmins, EPA
Lesley Jantarasami, EPA

Action Items:

- Update Workgroup Membership: We are still trying to refresh the membership, so if you have ideas for new members, let Wendy or the co-chairs know.
- Schedule and Organization for In-Person Meeting: If you have ideas for our next in-person meeting (when, where, topics), let Wendy or the co-chairs know.

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: USDA Climate Update, William Hohenstein, USDA

- Recent USDA Initiatives, <http://www.usda.gov/documents/climate-smart-fact-sheet.pdf>
- Development of USDA Regional HUBs, <http://climatehubs.oce.usda.gov/>

- Presentation slides are available here: http://acwi.gov/climate_wkg/minutes/7may2015/usda-building_blocks-water_meeting.pdf
- *Question:* Are you examining the sustainability and impact on water resources? *Answer:* Yes, definitely. For example, lots of the tillage and soil practices help address water-quality concerns.
- *Question:* As part of your metric-building process, are you expecting you'll be able to see what improvements are made as a result of these practices? *Answer:* Estimates will be refined as we create more detailed implementation plans, and having the metrics that can quantify the benefits of these activities is very important, especially in an international cooperation context. We feel confident in our ability to achieve our goals and to track progress on the way there.

IV) Presentation: DRAFT Climate and Health Assessment, Allison Crimmins and Lesley Jantarasami, EPA Office of Air and Radiation

- Overview of Draft Report, <http://www.globalchange.gov/health-assessment>
- Focus on Waterborne Disease Chapter, <http://www.globalchange.gov/health-assessment>
- Presentation slides are available here: http://acwi.gov/climate_wkg/minutes/7may2015/ClimateHealthAssessment%20Overview ACWI 5 7 15.pdf
- It's particularly interesting to see the risk to infrastructure being counted as a public health threat; extreme weather events certainly could affect infrastructure in ways that have public health consequences (combined sewer overflows, etc.). Infrastructure is a less obvious thing to include in this analysis, but it is very important in a developed nation like the U.S.
- Climate change is an additional stressor on vulnerabilities that already exist.
- *Question:* Did you examine effects from drought and low-flow conditions, as well as flood conditions? *Answer:* Yes, the report highlights drought as well as floods, in the extreme weather section. We didn't find any studies that show high health risks related to drought, so if you know of any studies of this type, please pass along that information.
- *Question:* Did you see any information about increased use of pesticides and increased runoff of pesticides into waterways? *Answer:* Yes, and the report highlights the material we were able to find that dealt with this issue; at this point, we can't be very quantitative about that.
- Comment period on the report closes June 8, 2015.

V) Workgroup Business Items

- Posting final Federal Interagency Water Resources and Climate Change: *FY 14 Highlights and FY 15 Workplan* (http://acwi.gov/climate_wkg/nap-fy1415-version9_hwclean_final508c.pdf)
- Process for "Refresh" of *National Action Plan: Priorities for Managing Freshwater Resources in a Changing Climate*
- Update of ACWI Website Revision for Climate Workgroup

- Update Workgroup Membership (Action: if you have ideas for new members, let Wendy or the co-chairs know)
- Schedule and Organization for In-Person Meeting (Action: if you have ideas for our next in-person meeting [when, where, topics], let Wendy or the co-chairs know)

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

- May 14 Webinar Summary from the National Adaptation Forum, <http://www.nationaladaptationforum.org/other-adaptation-events/webinars/live-national-adaptation-forum>
- USGS Report: energy and Water Nexus, <http://pubs.usgs.gov/circ/1407/>
- President's Interview with *National Geographic* on Climate Change: <http://news.nationalgeographic.com/2015/04/150423-barack-obama-environment-drilling-oil-science-oceans/>
- EPA, National Center for Environmental Economics, *Adaptation, Sea Level Rise, and Property Prices in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed* [http://yosemite.epa.gov/EE/epa/eed.nsf/ffb05b5f4a2cf40985256d2d00740681/fc87ab19dcaede3e85257df0006fd457/\\$FILE/2015-02.pdf](http://yosemite.epa.gov/EE/epa/eed.nsf/ffb05b5f4a2cf40985256d2d00740681/fc87ab19dcaede3e85257df0006fd457/$FILE/2015-02.pdf)
- *Bioinvasions in a Changing World: A Resource on Invasive Species-Climate Change Interactions for Conservation and Natural Resource Management*, December 2014, Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force (ANSTF) and National Invasive Species Council (NISC), http://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/docs/toolkit/bioinvasions_in_a_changing_world.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
- AWRA Climate Change Adaptation Specialty Conference: <http://awra.org/meetings/NewOrleans2015/>; Registration link: <http://awra.org/meetings/NewOrleans2015/registration.html>
- The AWRA Climate Change Adaptation Specialty Conference includes a field trip on the 14th to look at changes in marshlands as a result of changes in water flow patterns. This promises to be an interesting field trip because it will take people to places they don't usually get a chance to go.
- NALMS has a new climate change position paper that may interest the group: <http://www.nalms.org/home/policy/lake-management-policy/climate-change/position-3-climate-change.cmsx>
- The NALMS quarterly magazine is looking for articles on climate-change-related topics, and is issuing an invitation to submit articles that are somewhat related to lakes, from a broad perspective. Articles could pertain to wetlands, fisheries, streams, communication, etc. Interested WRACC members (or others) can either contact Nancy Turyk (nturyk@uwsp.edu or 715-346-4155) contact Bill Jones (812-334-3485) with NALMS.
- Annual NALMS conference will be Nov 17-20 in Saratoga Springs, NY; abstracts are due May 22, and details are available on the NALMS website

<http://www.nalms.org/home/conferences-and-events/nalms-upcoming-symposium/nalms-symposium.cmsx>).

- Federal agencies will meet in early June to review progress in implementing the national action plan and consider options to refresh the document. A proposal for next steps will be shared with the workgroup.

VIII) Adjourn

Next meeting will be Thursday, June 25, at 1:30 p.m. Eastern Time.

We will probably NOT have a meeting in July, but will resume in August.