

Meeting Minutes
Water Resources Adaptation to Climate Change Workgroup of the
Advisory Committee on Water Information
October 8, 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=m2198fb7c2ecd8ffbe8e19ac5da908d21>

Attendees:

| | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| Jeff Peterson, Co-chair, EPA | Amber Kim, NACWA | Karen Metchis, EPA |
| Paul Freedman, Co-chair, WEF | Dave Carlton, ASFPM | Noah Irwin, OSTP |
| Carol Collier, AWRA | Deirdre Mason, ASDWA | Noel Gollehon, NRCS |
| Dave Fuller, NTWC | Patrick McCarthy, TNC | Sascha Petersen, ASAP |
| Kim Erskine, DHS | Nancy Turyk, NALMS | Mike Block, NGWA |
| Mary Musick, GWPC | Ben Chou, NRDC | Peter Evans, ICWP |
| Jeff Manning, ACWA | Ron McCormick, BLM | Mike Muse, EPA |
| Harry Zhang, AWRA | John Wells, ACWI-SWRR | Wendy Norton, ACWI-USGS |

Action Items:

- **ACTION: ALL** – Please review the draft memo providing input for a refresh of the *National Action Plan*, and send your comments to Jeff Peterson and Paul Freedman by **Friday, October 16**, so they can share it at the October 19 interagency meeting.

I) Introductions and Agenda Review

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

- III) Presentation: Maine Tabletop Exercise; Climate Resilience Planning;** Rachel Liang and Donald (“Kim”) Erskine; Department of Homeland Security, Office of Infrastructure Protection (see slides/documents here: http://acwi.gov/climate_wkg/minutes/erskine_presentation_1_updated_maine_climate_change_aar_ddh.pdf)
- DHS-led program (RRAP) incorporated studies, modeling, workshops, and other tools.
 - Maine was selected for this project because we wanted a small city that has the types of issues and infrastructure that most cities would be affected by in a climate change scenario. Energy, telecomm, wastewater, transportation systems are all compact and close together; this aided the study.
 - Working closely with University of Maine Climate Change Institute. Also have partners at Argonne National Laboratory.
 - Used Third National Climate Assessment as baseline.

- We are now beginning the implementation phase of the RRAP, working with the University of Maine.
- Findings from the RRAP: institutional barriers to planning (different regulatory frameworks, etc.) require a regional approach.
- There's another pilot project that is related to this RRAP and will help with community preparation efforts. Recently released a community resilience planning guide.
- Q: For how many other parts of the country are you doing comparable exercises? A: We do 10 RRAPs every year across the country, including all 16 infrastructure sectors. We are integrating climate change considerations into all our RRAPs, but the RRAPs coming up during 2016 are focused across all 16 infrastructure sectors.
- Q: Given the focus of this project in EPA region 1, are you going to the EPA Baltimore conference later this year? A: Yes, and we participate in related conferences and activities as well.
- Q: Were water utility managers engaged in the stakeholder group? A: Yes, and we learned a tremendous amount from them.
- Q: Were you able to make recommendations that directly affected water utilities, or are you waiting for the refined data before you do that? A: We call them our "resilience enhancement options" and we will be able to provide them with those options shortly, and discuss the options with them one-on-one.
- Q: Is there a list of prospective areas that you think you'll work in, so we can see where you might be working next? A: The list of FY 2016 RRAPs has not yet been approved, and it's not certain how many of those RRAPs have a climate change focus.

IV) Presentation: Conservation Organization Recommendations on Drought Resilience;

Patrick McCarthy; The Nature Conservancy; see

<http://www.circleofblue.org/waternews/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/Drought-recommendations-8.12.15-FINAL.pdf>

- These drought resilience recommendations respond to what TNC has learned in dozens/hundreds of stream/groundwater/wetland restoration projects.
- We also work at the Federal policy level to help establish enabling conditions for water resources management, to secure water for people and for nature.
- White House Drought Symposium earlier this year – TNC developed this statement (see URL above) to support that symposium. The document also supports principles in the National Drought Partnership.
- We're trying to find ways to use existing programs to enhance drought resilience, even if those programs weren't originally designed for that purpose. We want to find common ground with water users: agriculture, energy industry, municipal. We're looking for "multiple win" situations – "stacked benefits."
- Q: What reaction have you received from agencies and/or Congress to the recommendations? A: We have been working closely in numerous locations at multiple agencies and have been getting good feedback and good engagement (NRCS, BOR). Good response at the staff level and regional level, and we're encouraged by that. Reactions in Congress have been more mixed, so far.
- TNC will share several pertinent documents that may interest WRACCW members.
- Q: The report mentions groundwater recharge. What type of recharge were you thinking about? A: Both deep groundwater recharge and surface-water storage (with a reduction of evaporative loss); both can help develop a more sustainable supply, especially in areas where groundwater and surface-water management are de-linked.

- If there are opportunities where agencies can use the help of private partners in the conduct of excess water capture projects to enhance gw supplies, TNC is interested.

V) Review and Discussion: DRAFT ACWI Climate Workgroup Memo Providing Input for Refresh of *National Action Plan*; Jeff Peterson; EPA (draft document is located here: http://acwi.gov/climate_wkg/minutes/draft_acwi_climate_wrkgrp_memo_nap_refresh_10-6-15.pdf)

- Recording of recent listening session will soon be available on ACWI/WRACCW website.
- The draft document (see URL above) is intended to start our discussion. Would welcome comments, ideas.
- Hope to have draft refreshed National Action Plan later this year, with final version ready in the spring.
- **ACTION: ALL** – Please review the draft memo providing input for a refresh of the *National Action Plan*, and send your comments to Jeff Peterson and Paul Freedman by **Friday, October 16**, so they can share it at the October 19 interagency meeting.

VI) Update: Climate Report: Full ACWI Meeting; October 27/28

- WRACCW will give an update to ACWI at the annual ACWI meeting. Paul Freedman will give the presentation.
- Please give the co-chairs some feedback on anything you would like to see in the presentation to ACWI.
- May want to use less of the ACWI meeting agenda to give standard subcommittee reports and focus more on critical strategic questions that ACWI was established to address.
- One topic worth considering for the ACWI meeting that relates to Climate is data and information; SOH is reporting on Bulletin 17B updates, and there's the Atlas 14 update process, and there's work going on in other groups that also falls under this category.

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

- New report by ASCE; Adapting Infrastructure and Civil Engineering Practice to a Changing Climate <http://ascelibrary.org/doi/pdf/10.1061/9780784479193>
- NRCS Grants related to climate change; see attached document
- Public comment period USDA report: "Climate Change, Global Food Security, and the U.S. Food System" <http://www.globalchange.gov/notices>
- USGS Tribal boot camp announcement: http://www.usgs.gov/newsroom/article.asp?ID=4320&from=rss#.Vg0_AE3skb0
- DOI Stream Temperature Site: <https://www.doi.gov/csc/northeast/check-out-new-northeast-stream-temperature-inventory-decision-support-tool>
- Beaver/Climate Webinar recording now available: <http://www.aswm.org/aswm/aswm-webinarscalls/6441-past-special-aswm-webinars>
- New York magazine climate change article: <http://nymag.com/daily/intelligencer/2015/09/sunniest-climate-change-story-ever-read.html>
- East coast sea level and storm surge projections article: <http://www.nature.com/nclimate/journal/vaop/ncurrent/full/nclimate2801.html>

- Webinar: Integrating Climate Change into State Wildlife Action Plans: <https://necsc.umass.edu/webinars/integrating-climate-change-state-wildlife-action-plans>
- Rhode Island Public Radio series on adapting to sea level rise: <https://necsc.umass.edu/webinars/integrating-climate-change-state-wildlife-action-plans>
- CH2M Presentation on DC Storm Surge Barrier Options: see attached
- Americorps Climate Resilience 10 Cities Initiative: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2015/08/19/resilience-amicorps-announces-ten-cities-its-pilot-program-support>
- USDA draft report on global and US food security and climate change: <https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2015/09/08/2015-22668/office-of-the-chief-economist-public-comment-period-for-climate-change-global-food-security-and-the>
- Report: Effects of climate change to accelerate in Pennsylvania <http://www.post-gazette.com/news/environment/2015/08/27/Penn-State-report-Effects-of-climate-change-to-accelerate-in-Pennsylvania/stories/201508270213>
- Government Accountability Office: Climate Change, Better Management of Exposure to Potential Future Losses is Needed for Federal Flood and Crop Insurance; <http://www.gao.gov/assets/670/666698.pdf>
- Study Shows Sea Level Rise to Threaten West Coast Tidal Wetlands Over the Next 100 Years; <http://www.usgs.gov/newsroom/article.asp?ID=4287#.Ve8tPU3sm1u>
- New EPA Climate Indicators Update Newsletter: subscribe here: <http://epa.us11.list-manage2.com/subscribe?u=dabd85deb793643a51dc50572&id=779b460676>
- New EPA Water Program Climate Website: <http://www2.epa.gov/climate-change-water-sector>
- EPA Climate Newsletter; subscribe here: <http://www2.epa.gov/climate-change-water-sector/climate-change-and-water-news>

VIII) Adjourn