

DRAFT

Meeting Minutes –

Climate Change Adaptation Workgroup of the Advisory Committee on Water Information

August 8, 2013: 1:00 – 2:30

Attendees

Jeff Peterson, Co-chair, EPA	Dierdre Mason, ASDWA	Nancy Turyk, NALMS
Paul Freedman, Co-chair, LimnoTech	Jeanine Jones, WSWC	Noel Gollehon, USDA
Adam Carpenter, AWWA	Joan Brunkard, CDC	Paul Gruber, NGWA
Alan Roberson, AWWA	John Schmerfeld, FWS	Peg Bostwick, ASWM
Ben Chou, NRDC	Judy Francis, NCDENR	Rolf Olsen, COE
Ben Grumbles, U.S. Water Alliance	Mark Crowell, FEMA	Ron Hoffer, EPA
Carol Collier, DRBC	Mary Musick, GWPC	Scott Biernat, AMWA
Curtis Cude, Oregon Health Authority	Mike Block, NGWA	Susan Ruffo, CEQ
Dave Carlton, Atkins Global	Nancy Jane Andrews, CEQ	Wendy Norton, USGS

Action Items --

- ACTION: Carol Collier will resend the basic spreadsheet format for the "key documents" tool to everyone, and we ask that people send back additional references that they think should be included. [Status - DONE]
- ACTION: Email your suggestions, ideas, comments on this topic (Actions / Next Steps for our workgroup) to Jeff Peterson and Paul Freedman so we can develop a running list that will help us figure out our priorities.

Introductions and Agenda Review

Jeff Peterson took the role and noted that the minutes from the last meeting are on the website. If anyone has comments, please send them to Jeff, Paul Freedman, or Wendy Norton.

Approval of Notes from Previous Meeting (see draft notes on ACWI/climate website: http://acwi.gov/climate_wkg/minutes/)

Presentation: *The President's Climate Action Plan*; Council on Environmental Quality

-- Susan Ruffo

- Overview of Plan (see plan at: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/image/president27sclimateactionplan.pdf>); Fact Sheet; <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2013/06/25/fact-sheet-president-obamas-climate-action-plan>
- Questions and Discussion of Water Elements of Plan
 - The plan builds on much work done over several years by a wide range of people (IPCC, NAP, etc.).
 - How do we go beyond thinking about the Federal actions and begin to talk about non-Federal responses to climate change? A lot of the adaptation decisions that need to be made involve local regulations, local investment decisions, etc. The Federal government's responsibility in these cases is to help make sure that communities have the tools they need in order to adequately respond to climate change challenges.

- The first item in the preparedness section of the plan is about community investments in resilient communities. The plan looks at all the resources that adapting communities rely on, from transportation funds to FEMA disaster response funds. Which programs are most important to these communities? Where do we need to focus communication efforts?
- Climate resilience tool kit and climate data initiative are both highlighted in the plan. We need to make sure that data and tools are available and easy to find/use.
- *Question:* What can this workgroup contribute that will help, as we work out our 2014 workplan? What gaps can we help to fill? *Answer:* What would be helpful is programs in the water sector that can help communities make decisions and take actions to make their communities more resilient. Can we establish incentives to help people think more about future risks and figure out how to incorporate them into their plans. We can also help to make currently inaccessible information/tools more accessible. Agencies can also make their own adaptation plans and can help communities find the information they need to make their own adaptation plans.
- *Comment:* When you're communicating with State/local/Tribal leaders, it might be worth including river basin commissions as well. *Answer:* That's a great idea, thank you.
- *Comment:* The part of the plan that talks about resilience for infrastructure includes water infrastructure, and there are a lot of different types of water infrastructure (waste-water treatment, hydroelectric power generation, etc.). Has this part of the plan evolved to the point where our group could input some ideas regarding disaster-resilience of water-related facilities? *Answer:* They're talking about convening a group to discuss this type of issue, so I'll be happy to help you connect with the process.
- *Question:* Is there anything further you can say about future implementation/directions that this group could help with? *Answer:* We just want to make sure we're helping to coordinate across government and take advantage of all the knowledge that is contained in the various adaptation response plans across government.

Presentation: New Report; *Decreasing Climate-Induced Water Supply Risk Through Improved Municipal Water Demand Forecasting*; Alan Roberson; American Water Works Association – Alan Roberson

- PowerPoint available here: http://acwi.gov/climate_wkg/minutes/8aug2013/roberson_acwi_water_demand_8713_final.pdf
- Overview of Report (see PowerPoint and <http://www.awwa.org/Portals/0/files/legreg/documents/NOAAGrantReportDemandForecasting.pdf>)
- Discussion and Questions
 - *Question:* Have you gotten any insight on how utilities are getting their information for projecting climate impacts on hydrology? *Answer:* It varies. Systems in Denver and points west of there are pretty active in climate change activities. Most systems on the east coast rely on Council of Governments for their information. National Climate Assessment and other Federal resources are probably the most-used resources nationwide.
 - *Question:* Any planned roll-out of this work (training, webinars)? *Answer:* I have submitted an abstract to the American Meteorological Society, and I'll be doing a

- webinar for a meteorological society, as well as working on a paper for the AWWA journal that will be published some time next year.
- *Question:* Do you have any suggestions for our friends in irrigation? *Answer:* Not much. We're looking at solutions such as setting different times and different days for irrigation (municipal as well as agricultural) so we don't have everyone's irrigation needs peaking all at the same time.
 - *Question:* Have you looked at the next step of finding out where municipal communities are finding new water sources to tap (brackish water, etc.)? Are you seeing this happening? *Answer:* Yes, we're seeing a need to integrate the supply side and the demand side. A lot of utilities that are seeing water shortages will take any type of water.
 - *Question:* Are you seeing much wastewater reuse? *Answer:* We're seeing that increasingly, yes.

Climate Workgroup Business

- Final Draft; Fact Sheets on Federal Agency Coordination Activities; Co-chairs
 - An updated draft was sent to the workgroup prior to this call. We still have a few more to do and would like feedback from this group to see if these fact sheets are valuable to you. We would be glad to enhance or add to the existing fact sheets.
 - CEQ has a couple of interns who are willing and able to produce the rest of the fact sheets. Freedman and Peterson will coordinate with Nancy Andrews offline to talk about which ones still need to be done.
- Review of Key Documents Product; Carol Collier
 - Carol offered recognition and gratitude to Joyce Dunkin and Todd Redder of LimnoTech, who built the key documents data base tool.
 - We're looking for feedback on how well this tool works. If you have a reference that is missing from this tool, send it to Carol so it can be included. Also, please look at the list of unassigned references that was sent out prior to the meeting.
 - Should this tool remain internal, or do we want to offer it to a larger audience? How can we expand this tool over time? It can be hosted on the ACWI website, but we need to figure out what the procedure for adding to the database should be.
 - *Comment:* I used the database and thought it worked very well. It should be very useful and may be useful (in the long term) for people outside this workgroup. But it may need to be more comprehensive if we make it available to others.
 - This tool will be available on the ACWI website, but we'll need to lock it down and require workgroup members to log in with a user i.d. and password, so that not just anyone can access it before it is "ready for prime time."
 - The alternative is to put it on the website and open it up to everyone, along with a note asking users to send us any references that are missing. This would be a good vehicle for developing the tool further.
 - ACTION: Carol will resend the basic spreadsheet format to everyone, and asks people to send back additional references that they think should be included.
- Discussion: Next Steps/Actions for Workgroup
 - Over the last few months we have focused on internal education. Next we need to think about analysis and recommendations, as reflected in our Terms of Reference. What other activities should we undertake? One is developing the key documents tool and making it more widely available, as we just discussed. We also talked with Nancy Andrews about looking more closely at the President's Climate Plan. We could

- do gap analysis, starting with the key documents tool to point us in the right direction. Are there any other ideas?
- Some of the ideas we've just discussed sounds like work that should be done by technical staff by the Federal agencies, rather than by this workgroup. One of ACWI's other subcommittees (Hydrologic Frequency Analysis Workgroup of the Subcommittee on Hydrology) is updating Bulletin 17B but is not addressing climate change issues in this process. I would suggest that as a possible follow-up item for this workgroup. It seems like the technical work being done by Federal agencies right now is out of step with Federal policy.
 - Regarding the State/local/Tribal task force directed under the President's Climate Plan to make recommendations to an interagency group – how can we make sure that those folks have heard from the wider interests that are represented on our workgroup, with expertise in water issues? Do we want to comment on any recommendations the task force may develop? What is the status of this task force? What is the best timing for approaching them? No one is certain, but we think the task force is likely to be operational during the next few weeks/months.
 - One of the things we have to define is who our audience is. As a subcommittee of ACWI, is there a limited audience we should be thinking about? *Answer:* The Terms of Reference for the workgroup (http://acwi.gov/climate_wkg/ACWI_WRCCA_Workgroup_TOR_FINAL.pdf) should help to answer that question. The audience would be the Federal agencies, through ACWI. *Comment:* As a wetland manager, I was very interested in CEQ's comments earlier, especially as somebody who is working across sectors; it's overwhelming trying to get your arms around all the available information; the fact sheets and database that have been put together so far are very helpful, but as time goes by I hope we can focus on looking at how the wealth of climate information is pulled together in ways that will help at the local level.
 - **ACTION:** Email suggestions, ideas, comments on this topic to Jeff Peterson and Paul Freedman so we can develop a running list that will help us figure out our priorities.
 - Other Business Items:
 - Discussion of Next Webinar for Workgroup: Levi Brekke – we'll send out information via email regarding the next webinar
 - Discussion of Face-to-Face Meeting; November 19-20; Washington, D.C.; Co-chairs – we have a draft agenda for the meeting, which was emailed to the whole workgroup; please take a look at it and give us input because we can change it as much or as little as necessary, depending on what we want to accomplish at that meeting.
 - Status: Workgroup Facebook; Co-chairs (see updated draft of biographies that was sent to the group prior to this meeting) – the majority of the workgroup is now represented in the biographies document; thank you to everyone who has contributed.

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

- New National Landscape Cooperatives Website; <http://lccnetwork.org/>
- New NOAA Climate Data Center Website: <http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/cdo-web/>
- Fostering Knowledge Networks for Climate Adaptation; Nature Climate Change; <http://www.nature.com/nclimate/journal/v3/n7/full/nclimate1931.html>

- New Report; *Weathering the Storm: Building Business Resilience to Climate Change*; C2ES; see especially Case Study on American Water
<http://www.c2es.org/docUploads/business-resilience-report-07-2013-final.pdf>
- Other brief highlights?

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m. Eastern Time.

The next meeting is scheduled for **September 12, 2013**, at 1:00 p.m. Eastern Time.