

## ACWI Climate Workgroup Teleconference

Friday, June 22, at 11:00 am Eastern Time

### Action Items:

1. Wendy will send a clean version of TOR to the group early next week, with a 2-3 day turnaround for final review.
2. Wendy will send the final approved version to ACWI in advance of the July meeting, so ACWI members can have a chance to review before the meeting (and be more inclined to vote at the meeting).
3. Wendy will send the ACWI agenda and webinar/call-in info to the Climate group members so they can be on the line when ACWI discusses this issue at the July meeting.

Jerad Bales opened the meeting by stating our objectives for this call – finalize the Terms of Reference and decide how to proceed with briefing ACWI in July.

How would the ACWI workgroup work in coordination with the U.S. Global Change Research Program (USGCRP)? We are trying to move into more fine-level implementation and try to figure out how to apply things, whereas USGCRP has a broader research focus; however, we should definitely have a conversation with USGCRP, to make sure we're coordinated.

Many of the Federal agencies listed in the Terms of Reference are partners in USGCRP, so there's a clear intersection opportunity. We can also directly ask USGCRP if they want someone from their staff to participate in this. USGCRP has their own Federal advisory committee; Wendy will check with DOI experts to see if there is any problem with having them participate in our Federal advisory committee.

This group would play a distinctly complementary role to USGCRP in figuring out how to implement and apply solutions. We just need some communication to make sure we're complementing and not conflicting or duplicating.

### Walk-through of the Terms of Reference document to determine if anyone has questions or comments –

Purpose:

- No comments on purpose statement. Everybody is ok with the consolidated comments.
- Remove the work plan items from the Terms of Reference and let it stand on its own.

Membership:

- We have a challenge because our list of potential member organizations is so large. ACWI has a single rep from each member organization, and that may be the best way to structure the "official" voting membership of the climate workgroup. We may want to keep the group as tightly formed as we can, without excluding valuable input from other groups. Member organizations do **not** have to be members of ACWI. The list of suggested "voting" agencies is 40+ organizations, but we don't know that they will all be interested or able to participate. We can start with this list, and it will almost certainly decrease once we issue invitations.

- One member organization = one vote.
- Terms of Reference could say “initial membership will be as follows ... and application for additional membership would need to be approved by the workgroup and/or ACWI.” We could follow the format the NWQMC uses, naming general categories of members, rather than specific agencies (wetland groups, Great Lakes groups, etc). We can present this membership list as a “potential” member list rather than a fixed, inflexible list.
- What about a statement about balance, so we don’t get too many Feds, for example, and no State/local?
- What about a cap on membership? There is already a cap of 40 named in the Terms of Reference document.
- The Terms of Reference also includes a provision for ejecting member organizations that miss 3 meetings in a row and replacing them with other organizations that might be more active. Co-chairs would have the latitude to make a determination depending on how active the group is (even if they haven’t been able to attend meetings).
- Need to be careful about funding travel for meetings. Travel funding is limited, so most of the meetings will probably be via teleconference.
- Do we want to consolidate Federal agency members (for example, one from USDA, one from DOI), rather than membership by multiple bureaus within each department? Would having multiple bureaus from a single department be a problem in terms of weighting Federal votes unfairly?
- Maybe we can try this draft membership list for the first year, and as we go along, the co-chairs can continue to monitor membership and reassess. But overall, we have a good balance to start with.
- Do we want to include the Council of Mayors and Council of Governors? Or are they too purely political to involve them in this? Perhaps we want more scientific and technical organizations. For example, we have Western States Water Council, which represents the western governors.
- The draft membership list needs to be separate from the Terms of Reference.
- Remove CUAHSI from list of public organizations and replace with National Institutes of Water Research (NIWR)? NIWR is nationwide and represents the primary land grant university in every state. Do CUAHSI and NIWR overlap and communicate? Yes, in some States. Decision: we should just add NIWR, rather than replacing CUAHSI with them.
- Add National Association of State Conservation Agencies, Coastal States Organization, North American Lake Management Society, and National Institutes of Water Research to the group. We’re better off having an inclusive list, rather than limiting the potential members.

#### Meetings and Procedures:

- Minority report needs more time – change it to 3 weeks.

#### Other:

- At what point do the co-chairs get appointed? Does ACWI have to vote on who the co-chairs? No they don’t need to appoint or vote. Terms of Reference specifies the co-chairs for the first year. After that, the group can vote on their own leadership.

**Next Steps:**

Brief ACWI at the July meeting and request their vote on whether to alter the Terms of Reference or to proceed with the Terms of Reference as-is.

See Action Items at the beginning of this document.

**Attendees on June 22, 2012, teleconference:**

Jerad Bales, U.S. Geological Survey  
Wendy Norton, U.S. Geological Survey  
Karen Metchis, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Charlie Hunsicker, National Association of County Planners  
Jeff Peterson, Council on Environmental Quality  
Steve Wolff, Interstate Council on Water Policy  
Amy Shallcross, Interstate Council on Water Policy  
Bev Herzog, National Ground Water Association  
Adam Carpenter, American Water Works Association  
Chris Carlson, U.S. Forest Service  
Doug McLaughlin, National Council on Air and Stream Improvement  
Mary Musick, Ground Water Protection Council  
Mike Paque, Ground Water Protection Council  
Regina Lyons, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (on detail at CEQ)  
John Miller, Association of State Flood Plain Managers  
Sharon Alcalde, U.S. Geological Survey