

ACWI Climate Workgroup Teleconference

Wednesday, May 23, at 1:00 pm Eastern Time

Action Items:

1. Comment on function statements in draft Terms of Reference document and send comments to Wendy Norton (wenorton@usgs.gov) by June 6.
2. Comment on proposed membership list in draft Terms of Reference document and send comments to Wendy Norton (wenorton@usgs.gov) by June 6.
3. Give us your thoughts on potential year 1 activities; send comments to Wendy Norton (wenorton@usgs.gov) by June 6.
4. Hold another conference call in June to wrap things up, so a presentation can be given to ACWI at the July 10-11 meeting – we can pre-brief ACWI or give them an advance copy of the Terms of Reference so they can be more ready to vote during the meeting (perhaps do this on a joint teleconference with Subcommittee on Hydrology, the week of June 18).

Jerad Bales and Jeff Peterson opened the meeting by summarizing how the recommendations for an ACWI group to address climate issues came about. Then participants discussed their reactions to the draft Terms of Reference document.

Discussion of Purpose and Function Statements:

- It might be helpful to add language that identifies/acknowledges the value of information to support management decisions – moving forward will require good solid information and decision support systems.
- Can we focus the functions more narrowly? These function statements are very broad and long-term. It may be advantageous to have some function or goal statements that have a shorter timeframe. An inventory of existing decision support tools, for example, would be a short-term product that would allow us to identify gaps. If we make it more obvious that this effort can produce short-term results, it may help get the States to make some efforts to prepare themselves for future impacts of climate change. We need both long-term *and* short-term goals. The goals need to include some tangible, complete-able activities to serve as milestones. We can make sure we're not perpetually at the 40k-ft level by having an annual work plan that includes tangible products and a schedule for completing those products. We could present a work plan (or draft/sample work plan) to ACWI along with the Terms of Reference document. The work plan wouldn't necessarily need ACWI approval, but it would be good for ACWI to see what is being planned.
- Does anyone have ideas about what this work plan would look like? The workgroup would presumably have Federal and non-Federal co-chairs, and its size is self limiting; the activities will be determined by the members and the time and resources they are willing and able to commit. If the work plan is fairly specific, it would require meeting at least twice a year and probably more often. *Question* – What is the process is for getting from the written work plan to its implementation, and who will do the work? Perhaps this group (the people on this teleconference) can provide a draft work plan that the full workgroup would be free to revise, as needed. The agencies of the members may or may not be willing to commit resources to this

effort, so it might be best to go back to the agencies through ACWI, rather than through the members of the Climate workgroup. There are a number of products already in progress that are coming due in the next year, and it would be good for this workgroup to provide advice and comment on these products; those reviews would need to be part of the work plan for the first year of the group.

- Is it worthwhile to ask this workgroup to keep up with what the other ACWI subcommittees are doing in the area of climate? It's not clear how to do that, but "connecting the activity dots" related to climate change activities among the ACWI subcommittees would be valuable (Bulletin 17B, National Water Quality Monitoring Council's Network of Water Quality Reference Sites, etc.).
- Specificity on workgroup tasks for the upcoming year would be included in the letter of invitation that is sent to each of the candidate member organizations.

Discussion of Membership List:

- The size of the membership list could be pared down by removing the representatives from National Climate Assessment Regions.
- Co-chairs would make initial contacts to inquire if candidate member agencies are interested in participating.
- People participating in today's call can take a look at this list and send ideas and comments to Wendy Norton. Perhaps we'll have a draft list that is bigger than the number of members we actually want.
- General consensus is that this is a very good list, even though it's long; it includes an abundant representation of non-Federal interests. Some participants may be information conduits rather than experts in the field; participation by this type of person is crucial, to ensure that information about the group's activities is made available to agencies with climate-related responsibilities.
- Someone mentioned that they thought the Climate "workgroup" would be more of a collaboration between ACWI's Subcommittee on Ground Water (SOGW) and Subcommittee on Hydrology (SOH), rather than a whole new workgroup. But everyone agreed that this may be impractical since the people on the existing Subcommittees are pretty overextended already, and they are not necessarily the climate-focused people. Maybe an alternative is to put the SOGW and SOH chairs (or others) on the mailing list for the climate group, so they can remain aware of what's happening in the group.
- What is the appropriate State agency involvement? It would be really helpful to be able to clearly articulate the expectations for members (especially since State representatives need a compelling case to justify participation to their managers). This will be especially helpful in assisting organizations to decide which type of people (with which type of expertise) should represent them on the workgroup.
- Let's start with a revised list that includes the organizations of the people on this call, and give everybody a chance to comment. Comments should be returned to Wendy Norton (wenorton@usgs.gov) by June 6.

Attendees on May 23, 2012, teleconference:

Doug McLaughlin, National Council for Air and Stream Improvement

Joe Lee, Ground Water Protection Council

Bev Herzog, National Ground Water Association

Mary Musick, Ground Water Protection Council

Karen Metchis, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Mike Muse, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Peter Evans, Interstate Council on Water Policy

Amy Shallcross, Interstate Council on Water Policy

Dierdre Mason, Association of State Drinking Water Administrators

Brandon Kernen, Association of State Drinking Water Administrators

Matt Larsen, U.S. Geological Survey

Jerad Bales, U.S. Geological Survey

Brenda Hoppe, Public Health Division, Oregon Health Authority

Jeff Peterson, Council on Environmental Quality

Wendy Norton, U.S. Geological Survey

Meeting Notice:

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A few of the items we may want to discuss during this call include:

- Identify potential participants;
- Identify potential co-chairs;
- Consider the best way to solicit input and interest from candidate member organizations;
- Consider involvement of members from other ACWI subcommittees;
- Consider draft of a charter or mission statement for the workgroup (see attached Terms of Reference draft);
- Consider how organization of the workgroup should be included in upcoming ACWI agendas;
- Consider how the workgroup can support and inform implementation of the National Action Plan for freshwater and climate change.

Here is the call-in number and WebEx information:

Teleconference dial-in: 1-866-299-3188

Teleconference access code: 5661187#

WebEx Information:

Topic: ACWI Climate Workgroup (20)

Date: Wednesday, May 23, 2012

Time: 1:00 pm, Eastern Daylight Time (New York, GMT-04:00)

Meeting number: 718 997 908

Meeting password: (This meeting does not require a password.)

Please click the following link to join the meeting.

<https://usgs.webex.com/usgs/j.php?ED=174346672&UID=484089667&RT=MiMxMQ%3D%3D>