

ACWI Water Resources Adaptation to Climate Change Workgroup Teleconference

Tuesday, September 4, at 10:00 am Eastern Time

Action Items:

- Wendy – send all workgroup members the following documents: (1) a list of who has and has not responded to the invitation to join the workgroup, (2) the draft work plan and deliverables, (3) the link to the new website for the workgroup, and (4) the minutes of this teleconference.
- Wendy – contact Karen Metchis (EPA) to confirm that she is willing to serve as Federal co-chair, and set up a call with Judy Francis and Karen Metchis to discuss the role of the non-Federal co-chair.
- Wendy – add a link to the National Action Plan to the new website.
- Wendy – send out a web-based poll, to determine everyone’s availability so the next teleconference can be scheduled

The teleconference focused on three primary issues:

- Membership invitations – which organizations have responded and which have not; how can we get responses from those who have not replied to our invitation?
- Designating Federal and non-Federal co-chairs for the Workgroup.
- Ideas for the Workgroup’s Year 1 Work Plan.

Wendy Norton gave a little background on why ACWI is forming a climate group. Jerad Bales and Jeff Peterson added more background, such as the role of the Interagency Climate Change Adaptation Task Force’s *National Action Plan: Priorities for Managing Freshwater Resources in a Changing Climate*. As the *National Action Plan* neared completion, the Task Force realized there wasn’t a standing group that included non-Fed agencies; one of the *National Action Plan* recommendations was to form a permanent group that could work with organizations outside the Federal government, to review how we are considering the challenges posed by a changing climate and how we’re implementing some of the ideas that have surfaced thus far. The ACWI Climate workgroup can provide a vital missing link that we’ve needed for some time, and the workgroup will substantially increase the ideas and insights that we can bring to the issues related to water and climate adaptation.

Membership – solicitation of organizations that have not responded to our invitation:

- If workgroup members know someone in any of the organizations that have not yet responded to our invitation to join the workgroup, please encourage them to respond one way or the other, so we can fill our limited slots and make unused slots available to some other group.

Selection of Co-chairs:

- Per Jerad Bales, USGS is content to let Karen Metchis be the first Federal co-chair, on behalf of EPA. Karen had previously expressed interest in taking this role, though she was unable to join today’s teleconference. Wendy will contact Karen to confirm her interest.
- Judy Francis is interested in serving as the non-Federal co-chair but would like to know more about the time commitment that may be required. Wendy will set up a call with Judy and Karen Metchis to discuss time commitments.
- Wendy will email the draft work plan to the whole group. Comments on this draft should be sent to Judy Francis, Karen Metchis, and Wendy Norton.

- An observation from watching similar groups – it's very important that the non-Federal co-chair be an active and equal participant in the group, and not leave most of the leadership to EPA.
- Everyone on the workgroup needs to give some thought to how we can keep the ball rolling, get Federal agency action and buy-in, and get non-Federal agency action. We need to think hard about these issues if we want the group to be effective. We need active non-Federal participation, including staff-based participation.

Drafting a Work Plan, including deliverables planned for the first year:

- Wendy will email to the group the draft deliverables document, with an explanation that it's only a sampling of ideas that were offered early. Also include the web link to the Task Force's National Action Plan:
http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/microsites/ceq/2011_national_action_plan.pdf.

Other:

- The workgroup's website will go live today or tomorrow. Wendy will announce this to the group as soon as the site is live, and will offer to add new content to the site, as appropriate. Judy Francis sent Wendy the National Association of County Planners' climate change policy document, and the document is being uploaded to the site.
- Joe Lee asked for clarification of the depth and breadth of this workgroup's charge. He noted that previous discussions did not include mention of the fact that "information" is the focus of ACWI groups. We need to keep information in mind to keep us focused.
- Within the next few days, Wendy will send out a web-based poll, to determine everyone's availability so the next teleconference can be scheduled.

Attendees:

Peter Ruffier, National Association of Clean Water Agencies
 Carol Collier, American Water Resources Association
 Dave Carlton, Association of State Flood Plain Managers
 Ben Grumbles, Clean Water Alliance
 Judy Francis, National Association of County Planners
 Chris Hornback, National Association of Clean Water Agencies (standing in for Cynthia Finley)
 Brandon Kernan, Association of State Drinking Water Administrators
 Jerad Bales, USGS
 Bev Herzog, National Ground Water Association
 Mike Paque, Ground Water Protection Council
 Joe Lee, Ground Water Protection Council
 Mike Muse, EPA
 Chris Carlson, Forest Service
 Jeff Peterson, Council on Environmental Quality
 Dennis McCauley, North American Lake Management Society (alt)
 Adam Carpenter, American Water Works Association
 Wendy Norton, USGS