DRAFT
Meeting Minutes –
Water Resources Adaptation to Climate Change Workgroup (WRACCW) of the Advisory Committee on Water Information
October 25, 2013

Attendees

Jeff Peterson, Co-chair, EPA	Erica Brown, AMWA	Mike Block, NGWA
Adam Carpenter, AWWA	Jeanine Jones, WSWC	Nancy Beller-Simms, NCDC
Adrienne Antoine	Jeff Manning, NCDENR	Noel Golleon, NRCS
Ben Chou, NRDC	John Schmerfeld, FWS	Paul Fleming, WUCA
Carol Collier, DRBC & AWRA	Judy Francis, NCDENR	Paul Wiegand, NCASI
Chris Carlson, USFS	Levi Brekke, BOR	Wendy Norton, USGS & ACWI
Chris Weaver, NPS	Mary Ann Rozum, USDA	
Dave Carlton, ASFPM	Mary Musick, GWPC	

Action Items

- **ACTION – ALL:** Please review the draft agenda that was sent out along with the notice regarding today's call, and let Wendy and the co-chairs if you have suggestions to improve it.
- **ACTION – ALL:** Jeff Peterson asks that people send in any suggestions they may have for items to include in our work plan for 2014.

Approval of Meeting Notes

Notes from the previous meeting are posted on the ACWI website (http://acwi.gov/climate_wkg/minutes/index.html). Let Wendy Norton know if any changes are needed to these minutes.

Meeting Theme: Sea Level Rise Mapping

We have two presentations today, both dealing with the theme of sea level rise mapping:

- Chris Weaver; U.S. Global Change Research Program (slides available here: http://acwi.gov/climate_wkg/minutes/index.html)
- Dan Rizza; Climate Central (demonstration of Climate Central's "Surging Seas" website, which will provide users with a tools for use in sea-level-rise analyses)

Questions for Chris Weaver:

Question: When you're estimating storm surge, is there an estimated storm surge for the 100-year versus the 5-year? How are you coming up with these estimates? Answer: FEMA does their mapping and account for storm surge through modeling. We use linear superposition, sometimes called the "bathtub approach." We put the sea level data "on top" of storm surge and storm frequency data.

There's a little non-linearity in the way storm surge will go depending on the mean sea level you're using; but there is work that suggests the "bathtub approach" is a very good approximation in this part of the country. But in other regions, other tools may be needed.

Question: Can you say what other regions FEMA is deploying/refining this tool for? And also say something about risk-based framing? Answer: The West Coast site is SF Bay region where they're already mapping. There's also a Gulf Coast site. Regarding risk-based framing, we put guidance into the sea level tool website that helps with the analysis, depending on the level of risk the user can tolerate.

Questions for Dan Rizza:

Question: To what extent will users be able to pull up source data? Answer: Eventually we want people to be able to download GIS shape files, and we'll point people to the public datasets online that we have used. These capabilities may not be available at first, but they're planned.

Question: Will this be a stand-alone website, or hosted by Climate Central? Answer: It will be available at ClimateCentral.org.

Question: Is this something that you would like county planning depts., for example, to have links to on their web pages? Answer: Yes, that would be nice if they did that. The site will be free to use and open to the public.

Question: This is an awesome site. I'm wonder if there are ways to license the tool or enable local planners to upload some of their information, for inclusion in this tool? For instance, we have maps that locate our key assets and their exposure, so I can see us wanting to upload that data to your tool, to add functionality. Or perhaps people could be able to download your tool for their own planning purposes? Answer: It will be available for anyone to use. We're not going to launch with the capability of letting people upload information to the tool or download it to their own computers. We will probably have a user request form that people could use to submit additional information that may be available from local government organizations. We welcome all ideas and will be glad to talk about possible permutations after we launch the tool.

Question: I just saw the story today that Portland, Maine, estimated the cost of sea level rise to their city; have you thought about including the economic value of building stock that's exposed to sea level rise? Answer: Yes, we will be including general property values for each area/county. And I think we could plug in more economic data after the launch, if we're made aware of it.

Question: When is the date of the launch? Answer: October 29 for New Jersey and New York, and November 7 for Florida. We haven't set the dates for other States yet, but the launch for those will probably be 2014, perhaps in July or August.

Climate Workgroup Business

- Discussion of In-Person Meeting (see draft meeting agenda attached)
- Development of 2014 Workplan for the Workgroup
- Development of Comments on President's Climate Action Plan

Co-chairs recommend that we consider a date in January as a fallback date for our November meeting, given the delays caused by the shut-down. We expected our November meeting to include some follow-up from the President's Climate Action Plan, and the release of additional information has been delayed, so it may not be available in time for us to absorb and consider it carefully. Since that was an important next step in our activities, it may be prudent to postpone until the first or second week of January. EPA's Potomac Yards facility is ready for Jan 8-9 or Jan 9-10, or for most of the following week (though the middle of the following week is Jan 15, and we could be facing a second government shut-down starting Jan 16).

Numerous members agree that postponing till Jan makes sense, even though not all of them will be able to attend then. All agreed that a reschedule during January would be best scheduled for Jan 13-14 (Feds may need to conduct shut-down activities on Jan 15).

Note: GWPC has a big meeting the week of Jan 20, so we need to make sure we don't conflict with that.

ACTION – ALL: Please review the draft agenda that was sent out along with the notice regarding today's call, and let Wendy and the co-chairs if you have suggestions to improve it.

Jeff Peterson walked through the draft agenda for the face-to-face meeting and encouraged members to provide feedback so we can finalize the agenda by the time of our November call.

Question: When do we need to release a product? Is it in the 2014 work plan? To date, we've been building up our education; do we have to complete a product soon, and if so, when? Answer: The morning of the first day of the meeting, we'll discuss what our specific actions/products should be. We need to make sure we have specific information resulting from the President's Action Plan, and we certainly need to engage stakeholders.

Question: From WSWC or Western Governors Association, we're always concerned about erosion of basic data functions in the Federal government, and I didn't see that anywhere in this draft agenda. Answer: It is an important topic, and you'll see it on page 3 of the agenda in some of the breakout sessions. There are also actions proposed on this topic in the National Action Plan. So we'll definitely be discussing this issue at our meeting.

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

GWPC has a new report coming out for planners that will be available on the GWPC website, and Mary Musick can provide us with the link to the report when it's available.

Final Business

ACTION – ALL: Jeff Peterson asks that people send in any suggestions they may have for items to include in our work plan for 2014.