

AGENDA
Climate Change Adaptation Workgroup
of the
Advisory Committee on Water Information
December 6: 2:00 – 3:30

Call in Numbers:

Non-USGS locations: 1-855-547-8255 (toll free); access code: 60862

USGS staff at Headquarters - x4848

Other USGS offices/DOI locations - 703-648-4848

- I) **Introductions and Agenda Review**
- II) **Approval of Notes from Previous Meeting**
(http://acwi.gov/climate_wkg/minutes/index.html)
- III) **Review of Draft Workplan for the Workgroup** (Request for Comments by Jan. 11)
- IV) **Review of Workgroup Membership and Expectations of Members**
- V) **Workgroup Subcommittees**
 - Planning for In-Person Meeting of Workgroup: Ben Grumbles
 - Development of Key Materials for Workgroup: Carol Collier
 - Development of Webinars for Workgroup Members: Levi Brekke
- VI) **Round Robin: Reports on Activities: Climate and Water**

Workgroup members give a brief summary of an activity or project related to climate change and water; including

- Status of National Climate Assessment; water chapter
 - Extreme Weather Workshops by NOAA/ EPA
 - Climate and Water Legislation
 - Water Resource Foundation Report on Water and Climate
(<http://www.waterrf.org/PublicReportLibrary/4239.pdf>)
 - Report on Water and Climate in California (http://pacinst.org/reports/storage_to_retention/crwfs_full_report_nov_2012.pdf)
 - Tribal Climate Webcast <https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/478698930>
 - Other brief highlights?
- VII) **Adjourn**

**Minutes of the Advisory Committee on Water Information,
Water Resources Adaptation to Climate Change Workgroup
December 6, 2012**

Attendees:

Jeff Peterson, EPA	Kathy Jacobs, OSTP
Paul Freedman, WEF	Mark Crowell, FEMA
Adam Carpenter, AWWA	Marjorie McGuirk, NOAA/NCDC
Ben Grumbles, Clean Water America Alliance	Michael Block, NGWA
Carol Collier, AWRA	Nancy Anderson, CEQ
Chris Carlson, FS	Nancy Turyk, NALMS
Chris Hornback, NACWA	Natalie Roy, Clean Water Network
Craig Zamuda, DOE	Nathan Bracken, WSWC
Dave Carlton, ASFPM	Paul Fleming, Water Utility Climate Alliance
Diana Bowen, Coastal States Organization	Paul Gruber, NGWA
DRBC/ICWP DSC	Paul Wiegand, NCASI
Fay Augustyn, American Rivers	Peg Bostwick, Assn of State Wetland Managers
Jeff Manning, ACWA	Ron Hoffer, EPA
Joan Brunkard, CDC	Rolf Olson, USACE
John Schmerfeld, FWS	Steve Wolff, ICWP
John Wells, ACWI-SWRR	Wendy Norton, USGS
Karen Metchis, EPA	Joe Lee, GWPC
Katherine Baer, American Rivers	

Action Items

- Send in your work plan comments no later than January 7, and we'll send an updated version of the plan to you prior to the January meeting.

Meeting Summary

Jeff Peterson opened the meeting and asked if the notes from the previous call need any revisions. No revisions were offered.

Any comments or concerns regarding the 2013 draft work plan that was circulated?

- Our workgroup is in a unique position to ensure that there is implementation and action that align with existing climate programs. We can make a meaningful contribution to making sure that the Nation is on track with respect to climate adaptation.
- This plan gives a great opportunity for all the Feds and non-Fed stakeholders to take the next steps ... toward ACTION. Hearing the priorities of non-Fed organizations will be very important.

Peterson walked the group through the draft work plan and discussed plans for meeting schedules, an in-person meeting early in 2013, webinars, etc.

Carlson – I just have a broad, conceptual comment. ACWI's charter specifically talks about coordination of water information programs; this work plan specifically talks about policy. We might want to be careful that the terminology we use in this work plan is consistent with the charter terminology.

Peterson – I think we have been pretty consistent with the charter; and the Terms of Reference (TOR) for this group, which was adopted by ACWI, engages us on a wide range of topics. But we can certainly

do a cross-check to make sure we're on solid ground. *Freedman* – The work plan does draw from our TOR, but it's worth a look at this issue. We're not approving the work plan today are we? *Peterson* – no, we'll probably approve it at our face-to-face meeting. Today we're just looking for comments.

Turyk – When the work plan talks about informing and educating (via webinar, for example), who is the intended audience? It would be helpful to identify the audience specifically in the work plan. *Peterson* – Initially we may want to use the webinars to help the people who serve on this workgroup. *Turyk* – Anywhere in the work plan where we talk about providing information, it would be helpful to say to whom.

Fleming – Under section 4 where we discuss the inventory of key documents, it would help to augment that with an inventory of Federal programs related to climate adaptation, and what linkages exist among those programs.

It might also be helpful to identify key databases, in addition to key documents.

Kernan – It would be nice to know what climate change data is being used, and how.

Joe Lee – Can we include information from DHS/FEMA?

Is our task more focused on coordination or on being a clearinghouse for climate related information? We'll need to consider how deeply we dive into specific data on climate issues and draw some boundaries around what we think our activities should include.

Kernan – Another item to look at is water info that's being generated by agencies that are not considering climate change; for example, FEMA flood mapping.

We'll have to talk about sources of data and how those sources are integrated.

ACTION – please send us your work plan comments NLT January 7, and we'll send an updated version of the plan to you prior to the January meeting.

Review of workgroup membership and expectations of members

We have successfully achieved full membership. Thanks to everyone on the line who has joined this effort. The TOR for the workgroup says we can have 40 members, and we have met that quota. It's possible that some group may need to stop participating at some point; if that happens, we have other organizations waiting in the wings to take their place. Also keep in mind the fact that it's possible to have "observer" status on the workgroup.

We need workgroup participation from everyone. Thanks to those who have already volunteered to participate in or chair workgroups. Everyone should think about what specific areas they would like to work in, apart from just calling in to the full group teleconferences. Full participation by everyone is critical.

Workgroup Subcommittees

- **Planning for In-Person Meeting of Workgroup: Ben Grumbles**

We have tentatively chosen Feb 27-28 as the dates for our face-to-face meeting, and we hope to know by the first week of Jan whether we have approval to hold this meeting. The workgroup that plans for this meeting will need to set the agenda and invite speakers; Ben will be looking

for ideas for key speakers or presentations. If you want to participate on this group, speak up now or email Ben Grumbles, Jeff Peterson, or Paul Freedman.

Hoffer – This is the only Federal advisory committee on this issue, and it includes non-Feds, and that’s a powerful opportunity. One thing we need to look at is the status of the National Climate Assessment, which is extremely important. Newcomers should not think this is “just another workgroup.” We have a chance to really DO something.

- **Development of Key Materials for Workgroup: Carol Collier**

We are looking for committee members to help figure out the logistics and what database type to use, and then decide what types of documents we need to have in our library. Do we want an interactive website, or a bibliography section on our website, or some other framework for our library of materials. We could keep a running list of references on the website.

Question – You mentioned the categories of key documents, but what about the categories (water use) of the water resources themselves? *Answer* – Yes, for now we should assume that the freshwater sectors are all of interest to this workgroup. We may focus in on particular areas later, but right now we want to keep our scope broad.

- **Development of Webinars for Workgroup Members: Levi Brekke**

This group will organize 2-3 webinars for this workgroup; they will poll the group to find out what topics people are most interested in learning about. If people like this format, we can continue it; we can make a decision about this at our face-to-face meeting. The people on this workgroup will not be giving the webinars, but will determine the topics, based on input from the rest of us.

Round Robin: Reports on Activities: Climate and Water

Workgroup members give a brief summary of an activity or project related to climate change and water, including –

- **Status of National Climate Assessment; water chapter** – We have a huge initiative underway now, including a great deal of references and documentation, and explanations of how the conclusions in the report were reached. The document will become public mid January, and will then have a 3-month public comment period. There is a lot of discussion of water-related topics in the document. Includes an appendix on commonly asked questions about climate science. There is also a substantial chapter on water impacts, and a chapter on water-energy-land. **Reminder:** our February meeting will be during the public comment period on this document, so we’ll have a great opportunity to provide feedback as a workgroup.
- **Extreme Weather Workshops by NOAA/ EPA** – We’re convening a series of workshops around the country on extreme events to document lessons learned and look at what communities have done to respond to recent extreme events. We’ve done 3 workshops so far and have 3 to go. It will culminate in April in Washington, D.C., when we’ll review what we’ve learned. Shortly we’ll have 2-page fact sheets on the completed workshops, and there will be a longer synthesis document ready in June. *Karen Metchis* will send these documents to *Jeff Peterson* and *Wendy Norton* when they’re ready. The upcoming workshops are lower Colorado, lower Missouri, and the D.C. metro area.
- **Climate and Water Legislation** – Senator Cardin has introduced climate legislation (S. 3525) on wastewater and drinking water systems and the tasks they need to undertake, to prepare for

climate change. At a Nov 29 hearing, Senator Boxer said she was expecting to add new authority to a bill they're working on that would address extreme weather and disaster mitigation, expanding the role for the Corps of Engineers.

- **Water Resource Foundation Report on Water and Climate** (<http://www.waterrf.org/PublicReportLibrary/4239.pdf>) – This report looks at the impacts on utilities and potential changes to funding for policy and programs related to changing climate. There are specific recommendations in this report for needed changes.
- **Report on Water and Climate in California** (http://pacinst.org/reports/storage_to_retention/crwfs_full_report_nov_2012.pdf) – This report is a good example of coming to grips with the concept of retaining water on the land and managing water effectively. The California farming community was very involved in this report.
- **Tribal Climate Webcast** (<https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/478698930>) – This series of webinars is coming up on Dec 11 from 2-4pm, looking at the Gila River Community, the Choctaw Nation, and the Oneida Nation. Jeff Peterson will send information on this to anyone who is interested.
- **Other** – There is a national adaptation forum in the planning stages (it would be early next year); if you're interested in participating, search the web for "national adaptation forum."

Wolff – I recently saw something about another FAC being formed related to climate. *Peterson* – DOI has one being headed by Robin O'Malley related to climate *science*; it's in the formation stages. If you want more information on that, send me an email and I'll get you in touch with O'Malley.

We had an issue recently about whether FEMA had authority to deal with erosion risk in setting flood insurance rates. Meanwhile, FEMA has been directed to look at the "impacts of climate change on the National Flood Insurance Program;" our study found some problems with the statistical models used; there are interesting papers that came out of this effort. Now the study has morphed into "impacts of climate change and population growth on the National Flood Insurance Program." (See <http://ascelibrary.org/doi/abs/10.1061/%28ASCE%29WR.1943-5452.0000233>)

Does anyone want to add anything before we adjourn?

Natalie Roy – Next time (or sometime soon) can we have an update on the carbon tax from somebody who knows about this issue? *Peterson* – We'll see if we can fit that in somewhere.

Next meeting date will be announced shortly – the meeting will probably be the second week in January.

Adjourned.