

**ACWI Climate Workgroup
Teleconference 17 April 2013**

Attendees

Adam Carpenter, AWWA	Levi Brekke, BOR
Arpita Choudhury, Assoc. of Fish & Wildlife Agencies	M. Crowell, DHS
Brandon Kernen, ASDWA	Mark Schaffer, FWS
Brenda Hoppe, Oregon Public Health	Mary Musick, GWPC
Carol Collier, AWRA	Michael Block, NGWA
Chris Carlson, Forest Service	Mike Muse, EPA
Craig Zamuda, DOE	Nancy Jane Andrews, CEQ
Dierdre Mason, ASDWA	Nancy Turyk, NALMS
Ernie Wells, NOAA	Paul Freedman, WEF
Fay Augustyn, American Rivers	Paul Gruber, NGWA
Holly Padgett	Paul Wiegand, NCASI
Karen Metchis, EPA	Peg Bostwick, ASWM
Jeanine Jones, CA Dept. of Water Resources	Roger Griffis, NOAA
Jeff Manning, ACWA	Rolf Olsen, USACE
Jeff Peterson, EPA	Ron Hoffer, EPA
Jerad Bales, USGS	Scott Biernat, AMWA
John Schmerfeld, FWS	Wendy Norton, USGS
Judy Francis, NACP	

Action Items

- **ALL:** Anyone who wants to participate in the development of fact sheets on agency coordination activities (see bullet 1 under "Climate Workgroup Business" below) should email Jeff Peterson or Paul Freedman.
- **ALL:** If you have additional input for the database (see bullet 2 under "Climate Workgroup Business" below), send it to Carol Collier.
- **ALL:** If you have a suggestion for a speaker for the next webinar, or for a specific focus for this webinar, contact Levi Brekke (see bullet 3 under "Climate Workgroup Business" below).
- **ALL:** A blank template for the member biographies will be emailed to everyone on the workgroup; please fill it out and send it back (see bullet 4 under "Climate Workgroup Business" below).

Approval of Notes from Previous Meeting

The presentation from the previous meeting, along with supporting graphics, is available here: http://acwi.gov/climate_wkg/minutes/index.html (under the March 25 heading).

Climate Workgroup Business

- Paul Freedman recapped the late March webinar, then he summarized activities underway related to the development of fact sheets on agency coordination activities and summary of water elements of the National Climate Assessment. **ACTION:** Anyone who wants to participate in the development of these fact sheets should email Jeff Peterson or Paul Freedman.
- Discussed development of a bibliography of reference materials for the workgroup and an organizing framework for coordination of these materials that was prepared by Carol Collier. Carol thanked everyone for their input and briefed the group on future plans: the data in the spreadsheet provided prior to the meeting will be used to populate an Access database. **ACTION:** This information will be valuable to the workgroup members, but could also be useful to others; this is something we may want to discuss. If you have additional input for the database, please send it to Carol Collier. DOE noted that they have not yet responded to the call for information for this database because they want details about what criteria should be used to determine what belongs on this list and what does not. The answer is that we are looking for documents specifically related to linkages between climate change and water resources, especially those that have a national focus/application; discussion about DOE's contributions will be continued offline because there is an abundance of material related to the energy sector, and we need to be certain we choose the best materials without choosing too many.
- Levi Brekke led a discussion of planning for the next webinar. Next webinar will probably be in mid-May or late May and will focus on hydrologic extremes, with a focus on floods. We have two speakers in mind but haven't contacted them yet, so additional suggestions are welcome. **ACTION:** If you have a suggestion for a speaker or a specific focus for this webinar, contact Levi Brekke. We need to get the next webinar on the calendar as soon as possible. Ideally we will find a speaker who can speak about the commonalities and the differences between flood and drought events and how they related to climate adaptation; or perhaps we can have a two-part webinar, with one part focusing on floods and the other focusing on droughts. In the interest of time, everyone should give this topic a little more thought and let Levi know.
- The group discussed the sample biographies that were prepared by the co-chairs and the ACWI Exec Secretary, and talked about expanding this effort to include the full workgroup. These biographies would be for internal use among the workgroup members and will **not** be posted on the website. **ACTION:** A blank template for the member biographies will be emailed to everyone on the workgroup; please fill it out and send it back.

Presentation: Final Fish, Wildlife, and Plants Climate Change Adaptation Strategy – Roger Griffis, NOAA, and Mark Schaffer, FWS

- The presentation slides are available here: http://acwi.gov/climate_wkg/minutes/strategy_release_acwi_ap17_2013I.pdf
- Work began on the Fish, Wildlife, and Plants Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (FWPCCAS) in 2010, and there is a 5- to 10-year timeline for implementing it. The strategy is a framework for coordinated action aimed at reducing risks and impact of climate change on natural resources. Efforts included 15 Federal agencies and were co-led by FWS, NOAA, and the States, including Tribal interests.
- The national FWPCCAS is carefully linked and coordinated with other efforts by Federal, State, tribal, and non-governmental entities.
- Goals are to conserve and connect habitat, manage species and habitats, enhance management capacity, support adaptive management, increase knowledge and information, increase awareness and motivate action, and reduce non-climate stressors.
- Coordination among various sectors (fish, wildlife, plants) is essential because actions taken to mitigate issues in one sector may have a detrimental effect on other sectors. What we want to find, ultimately, are mitigation strategies that improve conditions across multiple sectors.
- More information is available at www.wildlifeadaptationstrategy.gov.
- *Question* – Was mitigation considered in this exercise, or was the focus on adaptation? *Answer* – We certainly acknowledge, in the strategy, the importance of coupling adaptation with mitigation, although adaptation was our specific charge; in terms of educating the public, we may not be carrying the mitigation message as strongly as we're carrying the adaptation message.

Overview of Army Corps of Engineers Climate Change and Water Activities – Rolf Olsen, USACE

- The presentation slides are available here: http://acwi.gov/climate_wkg/minutes/acwi-olsen-4-17-13.pdf
- Principles and Guidelines for Water Resources Management – These are the rules that govern how Federal agencies assess their water resource development projects and activities. In the past, these principles and guidelines were limited to four agencies: the Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation, Tennessee Valley Authority, and Natural Resources Conservation Service. The new principles and guidelines will apply to a wider range of Federal agencies and activities, and will emphasize more integrated approaches. (See <http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/ceq/initiatives/PandG/>)

- New Water Resources Tool Box – the COE's *National Report: Responding to National Water Resources Challenges* concluded that, "A Federal Support Toolbox of Federal authorities, programs, technical tools, and scientific and management information would facilitate Federal agencies to support water planning across the Nation."
(See <http://rsgisias.crrel.usace.army.mil/intro/f?p=689:1:0>)
- *National Action Plan* – several actions in the Plan relate directly to Interagency Water Resources Management (IWRM) efforts – including studies in West Maui watershed and Ohio River Basin, and work underway with States to review flood risk and drought management, as well as planning aimed at identifying "best practices" to help prepare for hydrologic extremes.

Round Robin Reports from Workgroup Members

Time ran out, so this portion of the agenda was minimal. See bullets below for items that were briefly discussed:

- Flood insurance rate maps for New Jersey, revised since Hurricane Sandy (though the revision was begun prior to the storm), will be released soon.
- AWRA's new report on IWRM case studies is available at <http://awra.org>.
- This year's NALMS conference – abstracts need to be submitted by May 17. For details, see <http://www.nalms.org/>.
- Presidential Council of Advisors on Science and Technology report on climate adaptation and energy
(http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/microsites/ostp/PCAST/pcast_energy_and_climate_3-22-13_final.pdf)
- New Climate Data Guide website (<http://climatedataguide.ucar.edu/>)
- *Water Efficiency and Conservation State Scorecard: Assessment of Laws and Policies*; (<http://www.allianceforwaterefficiency.org/final-scorecard.aspx>)
- Carpe Diem West report *New Visions. Smart Choices. Western Water Security in a Changing Climate* (<http://www.carpediemwest.org/newvisions-smartchoices>)
- Great Lakes Water Level Dashboard: <http://www.glerl.noaa.gov/data/now/wlevels/dbd/>