



Notes from ACWI Climate Change Workgroup Meeting 7 March 2013

Participants:

Aris Georgakakos
 Ben Chou
 Ben Grumbles
 Brandon Kernan
 Carol Collier
 Chris Carlson
 Cynthia Finley
 Deidre Mason
 Diana Bowen
 Ernie Wells
 Jeanine Jones
 Jeff Manning
 Jeff Peterson
 Joan Brunkard
 Katherine Baer
 Levi Brekke
 Marjorie McGuirk
 Mary Musick
 Matt Larsen
 Michael Block
 Mike Muse
 Nancy Jane Andrews
 Nancy Turyk
 Noel Gollehon
 Paul Fleming
 Paul Freedman
 Paul Wiegand
 Peg Bostwick
 Richard Raione
 Rolf Olsen
 Scott Biernat
 Sharon Alcalde
 Steve Wolff

Jeff Peterson opened the meeting by reviewing the agenda.

Paul Freedman informed the workgroup about the delay of the face-to-face meeting. The meeting is delayed due to a lengthened conference approval process within DOI, travel restrictions for the remainder of the fiscal year, and funding reductions caused by the sequestration. We may be able to have a meeting in the fall, but even that is not certain at this point. Members need to bear with us, as we work to figure out when the best time for rescheduling might be.

Jeff called roll (see participant list attached).

The Workgroup discussed how to approach providing comments on the draft *National Climate Assessment*. Earlier we thought we would have a face-to-face meeting where we could discuss the NCA and come up with consolidated comments; in the absence of that meeting, we could still put together comments, but we need to make sure there are others who will comment. Jeff will explore the Google comments format as a means of gathering input from on initial draft comments.

ACTION: People should give some thought to whether they want to comment on the Draft National Climate Assessment through this group, or let their comments be contributed through the review being done by their home agency/organization.

Carol Collier reviewed the work that has been done by a small group to develop of an organizing framework for coordinating climate activities. She has asked people to review a spreadsheet and send back comments/references. Please send comments back to Carol by March 22. Paul Freedman reiterated that this framework document is especially important because it will help us all in the long term.

Levi Brekke talked about plans for webinars for members of the Workgroup. The first one is scheduled for March 22: “Deciphering Alphabet Soup” – an overview of the work that various organizations are doing in the area of climate change adaptation. If any of the members have any questions about this particular topic they should email questions to Jeff, so we can be sure to address it in the webinar.

The Co-chairs noted that we could perhaps compensate for the lack of a face-to-face meeting by setting up an orientation or “facebook” type document where people could indicate the nature of their particular interest in the workgroup and in climate change issues generally. Jeff Peterson can have people at EPA assist with setting this up.

- How would we access that? On Facebook?
- It would not really be on Facebook; that was just an example. It would be a Word or PowerPoint document that would be available only to the workgroup members. It would not be posted on the website.
- Do you want pictures?
- Pictures would be great, though people don’t *have* to provide a photo.
- Rather than just compile this is a document, maybe we could feed these out to the workgroup members a couple at a time, so people are only sipping from the fire hose. If people received only a couple a week, they might be able to digest the info better. Or maybe we could do this verbally during our calls, asking a couple of people to give us info about themselves during each call.
- Jeff and Paul will be first up, as co-chairs, and maybe Wendy will join us. We’ll send out prototype pages with our information. If people like this approach, we’ll continue.

Jeff noted that we had planned to finalize the 2013 work plan during our face-to-face meeting that was originally scheduled for late February. Since the meeting has been postponed/cancelled, He wanted to make sure everyone is happy with the work plan the way it stands now. Are there any objections to making the workplan final and adopted? Someone asked for a change on page 3 regarding trying to meet some time during 2013. With that one change, the workplan is final and adopted.

Nancy Jane Andrews (CEQ) gave an update on the Water Resources Workgroup supporting CEQ/NOAA/OSTP Interagency Climate Change Adaptation Task Force. Two documents were emailed to the group along with the invitation to this teleconference: the 2012 document is a “highlights” of accomplishments document, and the 2013 document is a draft interagency workplan. These two documents are available on the CEQ website:

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/ceq/initiatives/adaptation>

Several people on the call offered observations and additional information regarding these documents and the activities related to them.

Joan Brunkard (CDC) offered to report on HAB monitoring during a future call.

Richard Raione told the group about the Bulletin 17b revisions that are being done by ACWI’s Subcommittee on Hydrology. This is definitely of interest to the Climate Change Workgroup.

ACTION: Nancy would like comments back on the 2013 draft workplan by March 21 (mail to Nancy_J_ANDREWS@ceq.eop.gov).

Levi Brekke gave an overview of Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) work on Climate Change; the presentation will be posted to the ACWI website.

- Early framing from USGS Circular 1331 (2009) – climate change is occurring, although the effect differ regionally; it is only one of many challenges facing water managers
- WaterSMART – Basin Study Program – helps implement portions of the Secure Water Act
- More information is available on the web: <http://www.usbr.gov/WaterSMART/index.cfm>
- Emerging activities include improving on analysis used to support the Secure Water Act report to Congress, and development of new climate change guidance
- Science and Technology program at Reclamation is designed to improve methods and tools for water and power management (<http://www.usbr.gov/research/climate>) – better knowledge, tools, models, and methods
- WW CRA hydrologic projections and streamflow projections are served on the web

Are there any questions for Levi?

- Question – what is the HUC level of the basin studies you’re using for climate change projections? Answer – it’s a range of HUC levels, from very small basins to very large basins, depending on what the stakeholders needed.
- Question – Do the hydrologic projections available at the Downscaled Climate archive include groundwater, for base flow? Answer – No they do not.
- Question – Is this ecologic model calibrated? Answer – The applications we received from U of Washington were developed and packaged by numerous students; so they were calibrated to different levels, but they all need work if the models are expected to provide good predictions.

Round Robin

Nancy Turyk (NALMS) – the RFP for the upcoming conference (October 2012 in San Diego) is open right now. Go to the NALMS website to get information about the abstract submittal process.

Matt Larsen (USGS) – on Feb 11 we launched Landsat 8, and we’re in the 90-day testing period right now. Everything is performing very well during the tests, and we expect public release of the first test images in a few weeks. Full operational status for the satellite is expected to be during May or June. If you want updates, just Google “LDCM.”

Jeff Peterson – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers just started their new water toolbox website (www.watertoolbox.us), and it has lots of good information and links.

There will be a “Champions of Change” event at the White House, featuring communities that are preparing to make themselves more resilient. Communities interested in joining this process should identify themselves by March 8.

Adjourned at 2:30 p.m.