

**Meeting Minutes –  
 Water Resources Adaptation to Climate Change Workgroup (WRACCW)  
 of the Advisory Committee on Water Information  
 February 6, 2014**

**Attendees**

Jeff Peterson, Co-chair, EPA	Tamara McCandless, FWS	Ernie Wells, NOAA
Paul Freedman, Co-chair, WEF	Chris Reimer, NGWA	Dave Fuller, NTWC
Brandon Kernen, ASDWA	Carol Collier, AWRA	Lew Rossman, EPA
Deirdre Mason, ASDWA	Dwane Young, EPA	Joe Gurrieri, USFS
Julie Kiang, USGS	Joan Brunkard, CDC	Jucilene Hoffman, NC DENR
Mark Crowell, FEMA	Troy Thompson, USFS	Patrick Tallarico, Enventive Inc.
Michael Block, NGWA	Peter Evans, ICWP	Paul Fleming, WUCA
Nathan Bracken, WSWC	Ben Chou, NRDC	Ron Hoffer, EPA
Peg Bostwick, ASWM	Dominique Dallas, CEQ	Gary Bowen, American Rivers
Rolf Olsen, COE	Patrick McCarthy, TNC	Chitra Kumar, OSTP
Sascha Petersen, ASAP	Rachael Novak, EPA	Noel Gollehon, USDA
Mary Musick, GWPC	Adam Carpenter, AWWA	Jeff Manning, ACWA
Erica Brown, AMWA	Nancy Beller-Simms, NOAA	Wendy Norton, USGS

**Action Items**

- **ACTION – All:** A few people have not yet indicated whether they plan to attend the Feb 19-20 meeting. If you have not done so, please do so ASAP.
- **ACTION – Freedman:** add Joe Lee to the list for the data/information group because he will be attending the Feb 19-20 meeting.
- **ACTION:** take Chitra Kumar off the data group. She will be on the capacity group.
- **ACTION – All:** If you have comments on the subgroup report-out format, let Jeff Peterson or Paul Freedman know.
- **ACTION – All:** Paul Freedman will send out a revised list of the subgroup members tomorrow, so if you need him to make any changes, please contact him ASAP.
- **ACTION – All:** The Draft 2013 Report of the Water Resources and Climate Change Workgroup was sent to the full workgroup on February 4. It will be submitted to the full ACWI later this winter/spring. We would like to agree on it in final form during the Feb 19-20 meeting, so let the co-chairs know if you have comments on the current draft, so that they can be incorporated prior to Feb 19.

## Introductions and Agenda Review

- The chair took the roll and reviewed the agenda.

## Approval of Meeting Notes

Notes from the January 9 meeting were emailed to the full workgroup on January 13 and are also available on the website ([http://acwi.gov/climate\\_wkg/minutes/index.html](http://acwi.gov/climate_wkg/minutes/index.html)). If you see any errors in this document, please notify Wendy Norton ([wenorton@usgs.gov](mailto:wenorton@usgs.gov)) so we can make necessary changes.

Paul Freedman asked if any workgroup members wished to offer comments or changes regarding the January 9 minutes; none were offered.

## Presentation: New Tool for Stormwater Management in a Changing Climate

Rachael Novak (EPA Water) and Lew Rossman (EPA ORD) present newly released tool of recognizing climate change in design of stormwater management measures (see: <http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/0/8BC5432A63AFA2E885257C70005E05B6>)

- The presentation slides are available here:  
[http://acwi.gov/climate\\_wkg/minutes/swc\\_swaq\\_mtg\\_12-19-13rev1-RN.pdf](http://acwi.gov/climate_wkg/minutes/swc_swaq_mtg_12-19-13rev1-RN.pdf)
- Question: Can you give us any insight on how extensively this tool is used already or what the plans are for the coming year? Answer: It's hard for us to tell who is using it and for what applications because we don't ask for registration info; people just download the tool and use it. But we do have contact with some State agencies that have linked to the tool on their websites, and some NGOs are interested in using it in their local projects.
- Question: Are there any commercial software out there that people might use for similar purposes that this tool is used? Answer: this is not a web-based application (it's a desktop application). There are a few other applications that are similar to this, but I think they're not as rigorous. The SLIM stormwater management model has been used a lot. But we think our application is more rigorous and produces more reliable results.
- Question: Is there a similar tool for looking at preservation of existing wetland areas? Especially urban settings? Answer: We don't really have a wetland-type practice included in the calculator, but you could probably use the full-scale SWIM model; that would require another level of user sophistication, however.
- Question: Could you talk about the land cover tab? Answer: It's a pretty rough characterization of land cover. It just asks what percent of the site you're dealing with is forested, meadow, lawn, desert, or impervious. Individual users are responsible for entering the land cover information.

## Initial Reports from Teams

- Co-chairs of teams organized to provide input to ACWI and to CEQ to support the process to implement President's Executive Order on Climate Change Adaptation provide initial reports and seek Workgroup input and suggestions:
  1. Water Data and Information
  2. Water Infrastructure Climate Vulnerability Assessment
  3. Water Use Efficiency/Conservation
  4. Integrated Water Resources Management
  5. Water/Climate Change Education/Capacity Building
- Discussion: Format for Team Reports
- Review and Discussion: First Draft: *Water Resources and Climate Change Workgroup 2013 Highlights and 2014 Workplan*
- On Jan 30 Paul Freedman sent a list of workgroup members and tasks to everyone. Some of the workgroups have already met via telephone. If any workgroup assignments need to be changed, let Jeff Peterson or Paul Freedman know.
- We have almost 50 people signed up to attend the Feb 19-20 meeting.
- **ACTION:** A few people have not yet indicated whether they plan to attend the Feb 19-20 meeting. If you have not done so, please do so ASAP.
- **Integrated Water Resource Management** – co-chaired by Carol Collier and Rolf Olsen – We've had one call, and we have an IWRM straw-man to use as a foundation for developing ideas. We have asked members to look at the *National Action Plan* and identify gaps and potential on-the-ground actions, as well as potential partner organizations. We still need to decide whether we want to meet again before Feb 19.
- **Comment:** your addition of identification of potential partner orgs is a valuable addition. All groups should feel free to add more components like this, if appropriate.
- **IWRM (cont.)** – Question: should we go beyond the NAP? Answer: start with the *National Action Plan* but feel free to go beyond it if your group identifies other issues that you think should be included in our report/recommendations. We're looking for creative ideas, so don't limit yourselves. Question: so we should assume that the recipients of our ideas are already familiar with the *National Action Plan* and know what's in it? Answer: Yes. Our report goes through CEQ to the Office of the President, and presumably they're already familiar with the contents of the *National Action Plan*.
- **Capacity Building** – co-chaired by Jeff Manning and Levi Brekke – we have met a couple of times and plan to meet once more. One thing we talked about at the beginning was setting a common definition for "capacity building." We identified five dimensions in capacity building that we can focus on, and these have been divvied up among the group members: education/training; environmental communities; ecological services; habitat value; identifying common capacity along with water resources needs. We are also working on identifying gaps.
- **Comment:** when I think of capacity building, I think of training, personnel, etc. All the groups might benefit from establishing common definitions and a clear definition of your scope.

- Comment: if people have thoughts about any of these topical areas after today's call ends, please forward them to the co-chairs.
- **Efficiency/Conservation** – co-chaired by Brandon Kernen and Veronica Blette – we have been communicating via email, identifying the scope of the task and asking group members for a materials review and a list of gaps/recommendations. We have compiled a list based on input from 4 of the 7 group members and will take a look at it next week to refine it. The greatest challenge will be choosing just a few things to focus on.
- **Infrastructure Vulnerability** – we had a conference call, but there were only three of us, so we sent info back to the full group, along with instructions.
- Comment: if you feel like you're not getting the participation your group needs, you can get some input from the rest of the group at our Feb 19-20 meeting. You should also feel free to bring any others (non-workgroup members) in to the process, if you feel they have something to contribute. We want this process to be open to everyone.
- **Data/Information** – co-chaired by Ron Hoffer and Aris Georgakakos – we have not yet met, but we have a number of individuals who are very knowledgeable in this topic, so we think we'll be in good shape when we do start. We're going to try to meet next week. If anyone else wants to contribute, please contact Ron or Aris, or Jeff Peterson and Paul Freedman.
- ACTION: add Joe Lee to the list for the data/information group because he will be attending the Feb 19-20 meeting.
- ACTION: take Chitra Kumar off the data group. She will be on the capacity group.
- ACTION: If you have comments on the subgroup report-out format, let Jeff Peterson or Paul Freedman know.
- ACTION: Paul Freedman will send out a revised list of the subgroup members tomorrow, so if you need him to make any changes, please contact him ASAP.
- Federal agency progress report and annual workplan are being combined into a single document, which we hope to share with this group soon. It will give some highlights of progress achieved during 2013 and identify actions the Federal agencies expect to take during the coming year. This document would give our group some information to build upon, so we're aiming to send it to you next week.

## Workgroup Business

- **Introduction of New Members**  
We have a number of new members joining the group: Patrick McCarthy (The Nature Conservancy), Gary Belan (American Rivers), Sascha Petersen (American Society of Adaptation Professionals), Peter Colohan (OSTP), Peter Evans (Interstate Council on Water Policy). Note: Chris Carlson is detailed to the Hill for a few months, so Troy Thompson is filling in for now. Dave Fuller (NTWC) is just joining us now and would be interested in any group where he is needed. Paul Freedman will send Dave and a few other people an email, once he figures out which groups need members.

- **Review and Discussion: Updated In-Person Meeting (see draft agenda)**  
 Jeff and Paul walked through the draft agenda for the in-person meeting. Paul talked about the Feb 20 panel discussion of non-profit and business perspectives. Jeff mentioned that we will also have reports from 10 Federal agencies (Feb 19); we only have 90 minutes for this, so our facilitator Patrick Tallarico offered some suggestions for how we might fit everyone in to such a small time slot (for example, group the presentations into mini-panel segments with a breaks in between, so people have time for one-on-one interaction).  
**ACTION:** When you do the next version of the agenda, it would be helpful to include web links so we can easily find the documents that are referenced in the agenda. (You can also get the documents at [http://acwi.gov/climate\\_wkg/index.html](http://acwi.gov/climate_wkg/index.html).)
- **Discussion of In-Person Meeting Logistics**
- **Review and Discussion: Draft 2013 Report of the Water Resources and Climate Change Workgroup to the full Advisory Committee on Water Information (see draft report)**  
**ACTION:** The Draft 2013 Report of the Water Resources and Climate Change Workgroup was sent to the full workgroup on February 4. It will be submitted to the full ACWI later this winter/spring. We would like to agree on it in final form during the Feb 19-20 meeting, so let the co-chairs know if you have comments on the current draft, so that they can be incorporated prior to Feb 19.

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

- NOAA Global Climate Analysis 2013 Web Site: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), *Global Analysis—Annual 2013*, National Climatic Data Center, Released 2014. <http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/sotc/global/2013/13> (NOTE: the year 2013 ties with 2003 as the fourth warmest year globally since records began in 1880.)
- The COMET Program publishes two new videos to help water resources practitioners use the [Climate and Hydrology Projections website](#) in planning for climate change impacts
  - [Preparing Hydro-climate Inputs for Climate Change in Water Resources Planning](#)
  - [http://www.meted.ucar.edu/training\\_module.php?id=1104](http://www.meted.ucar.edu/training_module.php?id=1104)
- WaterSense to Launch First-Ever H2Otel Challenge; Webinar to be held on February 13, 2014, from 2:00-3:00 p.m. Eastern  
<http://www.epa.gov/watersense/commercial/challenge.html>.
- U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) Report on Federal Efforts Under Way to Assess Water Infrastructure Vulnerabilities and Address Adaptation Challenges:  
[www.gao.gov/products/GAO-14-23](http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-14-23).
- Water Research Foundation Releases Research Report, Case Studies, and Tool on Preparing for Extreme Weather Events  
<http://www.waterrf.org/Pages/Projects.aspx?PID=4324>.

- EPA Climate Protection Partnerships Report:  
[http://www.energystar.gov/about/sites/default/uploads/files/2012\\_AnnualReport\\_Final.pdf?3cd5-e266](http://www.energystar.gov/about/sites/default/uploads/files/2012_AnnualReport_Final.pdf?3cd5-e266)
- U.S. Geological Survey Climate Projection Portal Available for Use  
<http://cida.usgs.gov/climate/derivative/>.
- Peter Evans is working on an April 1 meeting where lots of State water officials will come to Washington to learn how the Federal government is preparing to support others who have to take climate change into account as they execute their responsibilities. If you have any ideas that could help in the development of this program, please contact Peter ([phe@riverswork.com](mailto:phe@riverswork.com)). The draft program is available at [icpw.org](http://icpw.org).

## **Adjourn**

Next meeting will be our face-to-face session on February 19-20.