FINAL AGENDA
Meeting of the Climate Change and Water Resources Workgroup of the Advisory Committee on Water Information (ACWI)
January 10-11, 2017
Crowne Plaza Dulles in Herndon, Virginia (Washington, D.C. area)

OBJECTIVES OF MEETING

- Consider key policy challenges related to climate change and water resources including:
  1. Promoting State Water Resources Planning for Climate Resilience
  2. Defining Incentives and Support for Corporate Water Resilience
  4. Promoting Climate Resilience of New Federal Water Infrastructure Investments
  5. Improving Planning and Financing of Natural Infrastructure for Climate Resilience

- Develop recommendations for the new Administration concerning key actions that Federal agencies should take to address these and other challenges for improving water resources management in a changing climate.

- Review existing Federal agency plans and priorities for climate change adaptation for water resources, including the White House “Climate Opportunities” report and the interagency report on climate and water resources (i.e.; “Looking Forward” report).

- Agree on process for providing recommendations to full Advisory Committee on Water Information and conduct other Workgroup business.

- Inform Workgroup members about Workgroup mission and climate change interests and activities of member organizations and nonmembers.
TUESDAY JANUARY 10

8:30  REGISTRATION OPENS

9:00  WELCOME and OPENING REMARKS
Co-chairs Paul Freedman; Water Environment Federation and Jeff Peterson; US Environmental Protection Agency

9:10  WORKGROUP INTRODUCTIONS
Each Workgroup member will be asked to give a short introduction that includes:
- Name and organization you represent
- One of your organization’s most significant climate change adaptation activities or accomplishments

10:00 PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION: Looking Forward: Priorities for Managing Freshwater Resources in a Changing Climate
White House Council on Environmental Quality; Charles Kovatch; Deputy Associate Director for Water

10:30  BREAK

10:45  POLICY CHALLENGE 1: PROMOTING STATE WATER RESOURCE PLANNING FOR CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENCE

ABSTRACT: State agencies play a central role in water resources management and some states have developed water resources management plans with strong climate adaptation elements while others have not. What incentives or practices should the Federal government adopt to promote wider development of climate resilient water management plans by States?

PANEL:
- Association of State Drinking Water Administrators; Brandon Kernen
- Groundwater Protection Council; Marty Link; Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality
- Western States Water Council; Jeanine Jones; California Department of Water Resources

Moderator; Association of Clean Water Administrators; Jeff Manning; North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality

12:00  NETWORKING LUNCH (Lunches on site for a nominal fee or Bring Your Own)
POLICY CHALLENGE 2: IDENTIFY FEDERAL INCENTIVES AND OTHER SUPPORT TO STRENGTHEN WATER ELEMENTS OF CORPORATE SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE PLANS

ABSTRACT: Corporate sustainability programs have the potential to improve water use by the private sector and promote more climate resilient investments related to water. What programs, incentives, or support can the Federal government undertake to strengthen corporate water sustainability and encourage corporate adoption of water sustainability programs and practices?

PANEL:
- World Resources Institute; Paul Reig; Associate; Water Program and Business Center
- Pacific Institute/UN CEO Water Mandate; Jason Morrison; President and Corporate Sustainability Program Director
- Coca-Cola; Jon Radtke; Water Resource Sustainability Manager

Moderator; Kathryn Buckner; President; Council of Great Lakes Industries

2:30 BREAK

2:45 POLICY CHALLENGE 3: PROVIDE SUPPORT AND CREATE INCENTIVES FOR LOCAL FLOOD REDUCTION

ABSTRACT: Flooding is the cause of significant loss of life and property across the country and climate change is likely to increase flooding in river systems and coastal areas. What should Federal agencies do to support or promote development of local and state plans, practices, or measures that will reduce the harm caused by increased flooding?

PANEL:
- Association of State Floodplain Managers; John McShane; Environmental Scientist
- American Water Resources Association: Carol Collier; Senior Advisor for Watershed Management and Policy
- Natural Resources Defense Council; Rob Moore; Senior Policy Analyst, Water Program

Moderator; American Society of Civil Engineers; Mitch Heineman; CDM Smith

4:00 BREAK
4:15 POLICY CHALLENGE 4: DEFINE PRIORITIES AND CRITERIA FOR CLIMATE RESILIENT FEDERAL WATER INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS

ABSTRACT: A new Administration may consider a major investment in infrastructure, including upgrading of water infrastructure. What policies, priorities, and criteria might the Federal government adopt to make these new investments as climate resilient as possible? What other kinds of support should the Federal government undertake to encourage this?

PANEL:
- Water Utility Climate Alliance; Allen Cohn; New York City Department of Environmental Protection
- National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA); Kristina Surfus; Manager, Legislative Affairs
- Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies; Erica Brown; Chief Strategy and Sustainability Officer

Moderator: US Water Alliance; Emily Feenstra; Deputy Director

5:30 END OF DAY ONE; No host bar; dinner on your own

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 11

8:30 COFFEE AND NETWORKING

9:00 DAY ONE SUMMARY AND DAY 2 REMARKS: Paul Freedman; Co-chair; ACWI Climate Change Workgroup

9:15 POLICY CHALLENGE 5: FINANCING INVESTMENTS IN NATURAL INFRASTRUCTURE FOR CLIMATE RESILIENCE

ABSTRACT: Building the adaptive capacity of water resources to a changing climate will require investing in the natural infrastructure needed to strengthen watershed resilience to flooding and drought and help fish, animals, and plants adapt to changing climatic conditions. What should the Federal government do to promote planning and financing for these natural infrastructure investments?

PANEL:

Examples of natural infrastructure include:
- dune systems providing storm surge buffers;
- wetlands to build flood and drought resilience;
- corridors that allow fish, animals, and plants to migrate as the climate changes; and
- conventional infrastructure that allows for continuity of corridors across obstacles such as highways (e.g., a tunnel under a highway or fish passage/obstacle removal).
• The Nature Conservancy; James Hague; Senior Water Policy Advisor
• Association of State Wetland Managers; Marla Stelk; Policy Analyst
• US Army Corps of Engineers; Rachel Grandpre; Physical Scientist, Institute for Water Resources

Moderator; National Wildlife Federation; Jan Goldman-Carter; Director, Water Resources Program

10:30  BREAK

10:45  POLICY CHALLENGE REPORTS AND WORKGROUP DISCUSSION

1. Promoting Climate Resilience of New Federal Water Infrastructure Investments
2. Defining Incentives and Support for Corporate Water Resilience
4. Promoting State Water Resources Planning for Climate Resilience
5. Improving Planning and Financing of Natural Infrastructure for Climate Resilience

ABSTRACT: Each moderator provides a ten minute summary of the policy challenge discussion and identifies key ideas or recommendations to be developed in the coming weeks; workgroup discussion.

12:00  WORKING LUNCH (Lunches on site for a nominal fee or Bring Your Own)

1:00  ACWI CLIMATE WORKGROUP MANAGEMENT (and summary reports of breakouts if applicable)

ABSTRACT: ACWI Climate Workgroup Co-chairs Paul Freedman and Jeff Peterson lead a discussion of Workgroup goals, activities, and operations for 2017.

• Discussion of Process for Reporting Meeting Results to Full ACWI
• Discussion and Approval: 2016 Workgroup Annual Report to full ACWI
• Discussion and Approval: 2017 Workplan to Full ACWI
• Election of Federal and Non-Federal Co-chairs for the Workgroup
• Other Business Items

2:30  ADJOURN