

**Meeting Minutes –  
Water Resources Adaptation to Climate Change Workgroup (WRACCW) of the Advisory  
Committee on Water Information  
December 5, 2013**

**Attendees**

Jeff Peterson, Co-chair, EPA	Brandon Kernen, ASDWA	Levi Brekke, BOR
Paul Freedman, Co-chair, WEF	Paul Wiegand, NCASI	Mike Muse, EPA
Jini Mohanty, EPA	Rolf Olsen, COE	Erica Brown, AMWA
Mary Musick, GWPC	Paul Fleming, WUCA	Cynthia Finley, NACWA
Melissa McCoy, ACWA	Dierdre Mason, ASDWA	John Schmerfeld, FWS
Michael Block, NGWA	Wendy Norton, USGS	Nancy Turyk, NALMS
Nathan Bracken, WSWC	Carol Collier, AWRA	Craig Zamuda, DOE
Peg Bostwick, ASWM	Noel Gollehon, NRCS	Chitra Kumar, CEQ
Chris Carlson, USFS	Judy Francis, NACP	Mike Muse, EPA

**Action Items**

- **ACTION** – We need to figure out the best way to keep our reference database up to date, since the DRBC staff who have been maintaining it will not be able to continue doing so. This will be worked out offline with the co-chairs and Wendy Norton.

**Introductions and Agenda Review**

Jeff Peterson took roll and reviewed the agenda.

**Approval of Meeting Notes**

Notes from the previous meeting were emailed to the group on October 30. No one has offered edits to these minutes, so we will go ahead and put them on the website. But if you see any errors, let Wendy Norton know so we can make necessary changes.

**Meeting Theme: New Executive Order on Climate Change Preparedness**

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2013/11/01/executive-order-preparing-united-states-impacts-climate-change>

- Review of Key Elements of Executive Order Related to Water (Chitra Kumar, White House Council on Environmental Quality)
  - Overview of executive order was provided by Chitra Kumar: Section 1, rationale; Section 2, modernization of Federal programs to support climate-resilient investments; Section 3, managing lands and waters for climate preparedness and resilience; Section 4, providing information, tools, and data for climate change;

Section 5, Federal agency planning (sustainability and adaptation planning); Section 6, lays out a structure for a new climate preparedness and resiliency council comprising about 20 Federal agencies who would give guidance to CEQ/OSTP; Section 7, sets up a local leaders task force to advise the preparedness and resiliency council.

- Federal council outlined in Section 5 is developing a priority list that recognizes work already done by various groups in the area of climate adaptation, including adaptation implementation plans. This would take the form of a "top ten" list of priority actions for the White House to focus on. This list will be developed within 9 months of the release of the Order (end of July 2014). The ACWI WRACCW will have an opportunity to provide input before the April meeting so the Federal council will have our recommendations.
  - Question: How are we going to make sure this is seamless across the many working groups, so there's a synergy instead of duplication? Answer: That's a fair question, and CEQ is trying to iron it out; the White House will make sure the information is shared across all these groups, but the people from the agencies who sit on these various groups also need to make sure they're talking to each other. Comment: having the chairs of these various groups sit down together frequently would be one possible solution. Question: Is this something we would put in our 2014 workplan, or is that a question to be determined at our face-to-face meeting? Answer: That's actually the next item on our agenda for today.
- Proposed Process for Input to Natural Resources Assessment (Section 3 of Executive Order) – Organization of 5 teams to review progress and draft recommendations for the key recommendations in the *National Action Plan*:
    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

Note: Federal and non-Federal co-chairs are sought for each Team.

- Our (WRACCW) meeting is scheduled for February 19-20, 2014, so we're going to start working on this soon (see the five teams listed immediately above). These groups would develop recommendations that would be compiled into a report comprising our collective input to the *National Action Plan* recommendations. These groups will begin work after January 1, 2014, and then we will discuss the groups' recommendations in-depth at our February WRACCW meeting.
- We would like people to be assigned to these five topical areas as soon as possible, so the WRACCW co-chairs will send email to the whole group (maybe next week), asking everyone which groups they are most interested in (and which individuals

are interested in serving as a Federal or non-Federal co-chair for one of these five groups).

- This process provides an excellent opportunity for us to offer input on the *National Action Plan*. We are not looking for an exhaustive list of recommendations. The topical areas are highly targeted, and the recommendations should address the most obvious, highest priority issues.
- Question: What is the timeline for having the groups submit their recommendations to the larger WRACCW? Answer: December the workgroups meet; January they develop recommendations; early February we discuss recommendations on the phone with the full WRACCW; February 19-20 we come to consensus among the full WRACCW during our face-to-face meeting; March we formalize and clean up our recommendations and submit them to CEQ, so they can be used at the April meeting of the State/local/Tribal group outlined in Section 6. **NOTE: before the recommendations are submitted to CEQ, they will need to be shown to and endorsed by the full ACWI, which is WRACCW's parent committee; this can be done via email but would require 1-2 weeks.**
- Comment: Can you provide guidance on whether the groups should also address Section 2, regarding possible removal of barriers to investments in climate resiliency? Answer: Yes, it would be wise to think about recommendations for that group as well, in addition to the recommendations for natural resources generally. Comment: We can certainly include recommendations in one section that relate to a different section.
- Shortly you'll be receiving a solicitation asking you to join/chair one of the groups; if you are interested, please immediately email Jeff Peterson or Paul Freedman.

### **Climate Workgroup Business**

- Discussion of In-Person Meeting (see draft meeting agenda attached)
- Development of 2014 Workplan for the Interagency Water Resources Workgroup supporting the new Interagency Council on Climate Preparedness and Resilience (see Section 6 of the Executive Order)
- Development of 2014 Workplan for the ACWI Climate Change Workgroup
  - Jeff Peterson reviewed the draft agenda for the February face-to-face meeting.
  - Question: At the Feb meeting, would we adopt the 2014 workplan? Answer: it should be fully written by then, and we'll solicit final comments at the Feb meeting and hold a vote to finalize it. Comment: We may want to consider the "Panel: Snapshots of federal agency actions for water resources adaptation to climate change" prior to adopting the workplan, so we might save final vote on finalizing the workplan until the second day of the meeting.
  - Comment: We also will try to find a facilitator for the Feb meeting; Jeff Peterson has resources at EPA that might help with this.
  - The co-chairs hope to share a draft of the 2014 workplan during our January teleconference, so that we can be ready to adopt it at the Feb meeting.

## Round Robin Reports from Workgroup Members (a brief highlight of your organizations activities related to climate change and water)

- California Releases Water Action Plan:  
<http://www.freep.com/article/J1/20131031/NEWS07/310310028/Plan-addresses-California-s-water-issues>
- California's Water-Energy-Climate Nexus: energy and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Embedded in Water  
<http://www.theclimateregistry.org/downloads/2013/10/California-Water-Energy-Climate-Nexus.pdf>
- EPA Releases Draft Adaptation Plans: <http://epa.gov/climatechange/impacts-adaptation/fed-programs/EPA-impl-plans.html>
- EPA Office of Water Climate Draft Climate Change Adaptation Implementation Plan  
<http://epa.gov/climatechange/Downloads/impacts-adaptation/office-of-water-plan.pdf>
- EPA Releases Report on Economic Importance of Water:  
<http://water.epa.gov/action/importanceofwater/index.cfm>
- Bureau of Reclamation Releases Climate Change Literature Synthesis Report:  
<http://www.usbr.gov/newsroom/newsrelease/detail.cfm?RecordID=45024>.
- NOAA and Sea Grant Release Report on Cost-Efficient Climate Adaptation Best Practices in North Atlantic Communities: <http://seagrant.uconn.edu/CEANA/>
- Columbia University's Center for Climate Change Law Publishes Handbook on Legal Tools to Limit Risks of Climate Change for Coastal Communities:  
[http://www.law.columbia.edu/media\\_inquiries/news\\_events/2013/october2013/managed-retreat-handbook](http://www.law.columbia.edu/media_inquiries/news_events/2013/october2013/managed-retreat-handbook).
- American Meteorological Society Journal Releases Study on Climate Change Sensitivity Assessment and Adaptation Planning for Public Water Supply:  
<http://journals.ametsoc.org/doi/abs/10.1175/2012EI000501.1>
- Georgetown Climate Center List of State and Local Climate Adaptation Plans:  
<http://www.georgetownclimate.org/adaptation/state-and-local-plans>
- Bureau of Reclamation Technical Memo: Literature Synthesis on Climate Change Implications for Water and Environmental Resources  
<http://www.usbr.gov/climate/docs/ClimateChangeLiteratureSynthesis3.pdf>
- New USGS Climate Website: *In the coming weeks, USGS will launch an innovative, new climate website showing county-by-county maps and information of historical and 21st century projections of temperature and precipitation. USGS scientists used data from 31 phase 5 Coupled Model Intercomparison Project (CMIP5) and Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) climate models and created a user-friendly interface to view the climate information from downscaled NASA datasets. The information will be of use to land and water managers and of interest to the general public.*

- Question: Does anyone know the timeline for release of the USGS Climate website? Answer: No, but Steve Hostetler (swhostet@usgs.gov) is probably best technical contact regarding this project.
- Question: Are there any other items people wish to share, in addition to the items listed immediately above? (Note, this is not intended to be a comprehensive list.)  
Question: Should these references be added to the reference database? Answer: Yes, that would be great!
- ACTION: We need to figure out the best way to keep our reference database up to date, since the DRBC staff who have been maintaining it will not be able to continue doing so.

## **Adjourn**